

GAETZ BROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

School E-mail: gbjhs@hrce.ca

School Web site: <http://www.gbj.hrce.ca>

Phone: 827-4666 Fax: 827-5430

Safe Arrival: 827-4666 Press '1'

SCHOOL CANCELLATION: 464-4636

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear GBJH Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members;

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year. I am pleased to be returning to GBJHS as Principal for a third year. I have had the chance to meet staff, new students, and some parents and I appreciate the welcome and warmth that has been shown to me time here. As your principal, I feel it is my responsibility to ensure that all students and staff are working in a safe, inviting, and accepting learning environment.

Communication is key to our success and we have an open door policy here at GBJH and invite you to contact the teachers and administration if you have any questions or concerns. We have made a commitment to get back to you within two days. Please take the time to visit our website and familiarize yourself with it as we plan to use this as our main vehicle of communication for homework. I also like using the PowerSchool messaging system to inform you of what is happening at school. There is a new system that allows parents to unsubscribe for certain numbers or email distributions. This feature is found on the Parent Portal.

Please drop by our main office and we can give you the information for the parent portal if you have not already created an account. I find it a useful tool for support my own children at school.

As a junior high administration team, Ms McKay and I believe that we have two main purposes. One of which is academics. A fundamental purpose is learning and our number one goal is to improve student achievement in a learning environment that fosters respect for self and others. Therefore, we hold high expectations for all students and staff. All of our students are expected to meet or exceed grade level outcomes in all their subjects. All students are expected to come to class prepared, to make learning their focus, and always try their best. If students need support in meeting these expectations, we are here to help. Staff at GBJH are dedicated to ensuring students receive the support they need to learn, whether it is support in a subject area, organizational skills, or everyday support and advice in navigating life as a teenager.

The other main purpose is providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff. Ms. McKay and I spent time holding grade level assemblies where we outlined our expectations to students since, as a staff, we believe that student's learn best when everyone knows about the school's expectations and procedures. The main points of the presentation focused on respect for ourselves as individuals, respect for others, and respect for the learning environment. Please take the time to visit our website and familiarize yourself with our Code of Conduct. This document outlines our school's expectations on topics ranging from the use of cell phones to expectations for dress and lunchtime procedures. If we all work together, we will

succeed in making GBJH a school where students feel safe, take pride in their success, and feel confident in their abilities to learn and try new things. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact us and we will make one available.

An effective atmosphere for learning is fostered by a strong web of support involving parents, guardians, staff and students in a continuous exchange of information. Our door is always open and I encourage you to speak with us if you have questions about your child's learning, their progress, resources we have available to support students, or anything else related to their experience in school. I assure you, both your child and their teachers will appreciate your involvement. Let's not wait for problems or concerns; we can prevent them if the lines of communication are open. We all have the same goal and together we can make learning an enjoyable process.

Extra-curricular activities and athletics are an important part of student life. We plan to run a minimum of 6 competitive teams this year for both males and females. Prior to the try-outs for each sport, we will be offering weekly skill building clinics available to all students. These clinics will be held on Wednesday's afterschool and (funding permitting) we will be providing a late bus for student transportation home. Hopefully, this will give more students a chance to participate in our athletic and extra-curricular programs.

In closing, I would like to invite you to our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. At that time, along with getting to meet your child's teachers and getting an overview of their program and assessment strategies, we will show you how to access PowerSchool. PowerSchool offers parents / guardians and students real time access to student's grades, assignments, and attendance. If you are not currently taking advantage of this effective communication tool, please stop into the computer lab to register.

I wish you all a safe and happy weekend, especially as we prepare for the upcoming weather system.

David Reed

****Please keep this newsletter for future reference****

COMMUNICATION!!!! **Stay Informed and Involved!**

At GBJH we truly value all parent / guardian involvement in their child's learning and school functions / activities. Communication is a high priority between staff and the homes of our students. We provide many opportunities for this to occur including on-line access to the parent and student portals in PowerSchool, regular school reporting periods, curriculum night, parent/teacher interviews, teacher email, school website, and newsletters. We also have automatic phone messaging, where phone calls are made to all of our families about major upcoming events like curriculum night, report cards being sent home, etc.; and of course don't forget to follow us on twitter at gbjh@gbjhs

Our school website is the main communication site where students and parents/guardians will find daily announcements, school policies, links to PowerSchool, teacher websites and teacher contact information (email and phone). www.gbj.hrce.ca

THE CODE OF CONDUCT & POSITIVE, EFFECTIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS (PEBS)

The goal of our code of conduct is to help increase student achievement by providing all students with a safe learning environment. At GBJH we use the PEBS model to teach and reinforce our expectations for students.

Positive, Effective Behavior Supports (PEBS) is a program designed to enhance the provincial, regional and school based code of conduct. The idea behind PEBS is to promote a proactive school wide approach to positive discipline that is based on the premise that desirable behavior should be taught and reinforced.

Last year we saw the benefits of our PEBS program, therefore, we will be concentrating our efforts on teaching these school wide expectations and procedures will be reviewed throughout the year as is needed.

To review our Matrix and our CODE of CONDUCT, please see our website.

MATH HELP

Math extra help will be during some lunch hours. Listen to the morning announcements for designated times. Your math teachers will encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity



STUDENT SERVICES (Guidance Dept.) INFO

I would like to welcome all new and returning students and their families to Gaetz Brook Junior High School. As Guidance Counsellor at GBJH, I assist students who have personal, family, educational or social concerns they wish to discuss. Please feel free email Ms. Hodgson NHodgson@hrce.ca or call 902-827-4666 ext. 4 should you have any concerns about your child. Please encourage your child to stop by our Guidance office for a visit if he/she feels they may have concerns throughout the year.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Are you interested in volunteering your time at GBJH ? If so, we could use your help! We need volunteers for a variety of activities including fundraising, the breakfast program, school dances, field trips etc. If you have time available and are interested, please let us know via email at jtrider@hrce.ca or call us at 827-4666.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The School Advisory Council is a legal body of parents, students, staff, and community members elected to advise the Principal on issues concerning improved student learning at our school. The SAC is intended to give parents and the community a greater say in what is going on at school; from policies, to extra-curricular programs, fundraising and more. Staffs, students, parents and the community at large are represented on the SAC, working together with the school administration to provide advice, guidance and support, helping to make Gaetz Brook the best school it can be. Meeting dates and times will be published on our website and observers are welcome. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact us at 827-4666 for more information.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

On Thursday, September 19th, Gaetz Brook Junior High will be hosting a Curriculum Night from **6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**. The evening will begin with a brief presentation from Mr. Reed in the gymnasium. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and get an overview of their program and the assessment strategies for each course. Please note, this is not an evening to discuss individual child assessment.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

The Administrative office hours at Gaetz Brook Junior High School are from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday to Friday. If you require connecting with a staff member directly, please ensure you call 827-4666 and dial their extension. Teacher/Staff email addresses and extension numbers are available on our school website.

STUDENT FEES – 2019/2020

Student fees should now all have been paid in full (\$25.00) for this school year. This \$25.00 covers locker and lock rental, leadership council, and field trips. **Please Note....**It is school policy that all locks must be **actual school locks** whereas they can be accessible by administration via master key. This will help defer the costs of having to have locks cut off if necessary. For anyone who has not yet paid their child's student fees, we ask you to please do so. If payment is a financial hardship on your family please call the principal at 827-466 and he will be more than happy to make arrangements.

SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM (SIP)

For the past 20 years, the School Insurance Program has provided basic student accident insurance to Nova Scotia public school students for school hours and activities at no cost to students, parents or schools. Part of the service offered is a Gold plan that parents can purchase for a nominal fee of \$13.50. This plan provides 24/7 coverage beyond school hours as well as some enhancements to the Basic plan. Please visit their website for more information at: www.sip.ca.

SCHOOL BUS INQUIRIES

Any questions or inquiries relating to school busses should be directed to Stock Transportation at 481-8400. Please note that parents and guardians have access to all their children's busing information through their new on-line communication's tool, BusPlanner at: <https://hrce.mybusplanner.ca/>

To access specific information regarding your child's transportation, you are required to create an account.



SCENT SENSITIVITY, PEANUT/NUT ALLERGIES

Our school continues to be sensitive to the allergies of our student and staff population. Just a reminder to students to please refrain from wearing scented deodorants, colognes and perfumes (especially AXE and TAG) to school. We'd ask parents to please provide your child with a stick or roll-on deodorant as aerosols end up being sprayed and have caused headaches and distress to staff and students alike. Some of our students and teachers have very severe allergies which can result in loss of breath if coming in contact with particular scents. In some cases, they may require an immediate Epi-pen injection. This is a very serious matter and we ask all students to treat it seriously.

As well, we ask that since a few of our students are allergic to **peanuts/nuts/sunflower seeds and Kiwi**, we ask that you please avoid sending those particular foods (and other foods containing a trace of those products) to the school.

GBJH LIBRARY

Library hours this year are Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 am – 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm-3:00 pm. iPads and netbooks are available for use in the library during these times. Students are allowed to sign-out two books at a time, for a two week loan period. After the initial two weeks they may renew as needed.



CAFETERIA SERVICE

Cafeteria services are offered daily for all students during the lunch hours. If any students wish to bring in money to start a tab in the cafeteria, they may do so. Money can be given to the cafeteria staff and each purchase will be deducted accordingly. **Opening date for Cafeteria services will be Monday, September 9th.**

GBJH PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome back bears! Hope you kept up on your fitness and are ready to get back into the swing of things on the field! First up in class is soccer followed by football. Stay tuned to announcements for upcoming tryout dates and times for sports teams if you want to get involved. Sign up for intramurals as they will begin next week, so make sure you get your name on the list!

Looking forward to a good year!

PE Department



UPCOMING EVENTS:

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE 2019-20

Public Health Services will be offering immunization to Grade 7 students for the 2019/2020 year. Consent and information packages will be sent home with your child. Please ensure that your child returns their consent form as soon as possible. Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast and to wear short sleeves on the clinic day.

School clinic dates will be held: October 1, 2019
April 6, 2020

If you have any questions please contact Connie Campbell, Youth Health Coordinator at 889-4025 ext: 770-1103 or a member of the immunization team at 481-481-5845.

STUDENT PHOTOS

Individual student photos and class photos will be taken on Tuesday, September 17th. Retakes will be: September 26th!



NOURISH YOUR ROOTS

Nourish Your Roots is a farm-to-school fundraiser created and facilitated by Nourish Nova Scotia to help schools support their own healthy eating programs and initiatives.

Students sell boxes of fresh produce from local farms to their family and the greater community. Farmers are paid fairly, families enjoy fresh local harvest and have the opportunity to try new foods. It's a win-win-win for farmers, schools and families! GBJH is partnered with Noggins Corner Farm in 2019!

Each Nourish Your Roots box contains an assortment of 8-10 fresh Nova Scotian grown items including a variety of root vegetables and maybe some fruit and/or herbs.

Box contents vary across the province and by year, depending on who your school's farm partners are. All of your produce will be grown with care, with recipes available to help you enjoy every bite!

Students will be selling NYR boxes from Sept 9th – Sept 20th. We hope you take the opportunity support both GBJH and local farmers during this campaign!!

ANNUAL TERRY FOX WALK

Students and staff of GBJH are proud to be taking part in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, October 11th. This year marks the 41st anniversary of Terry's Run for the Cure. Within the next few weeks we will ask all students to donate at least a toonie with the hope of raising \$1000.00 which will be donated by GBJH to cancer research. Staff and community members are welcome and encouraged to participate

TIM HORTON'S CAMP

Grade 8 students have an opportunity to attend Tim Horton's Camp September 23rd – 25th!! Forms have already gone home with students in June.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:



DATES TO REMEMBER

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please support the GBJH Safe Arrival Program by phoning the school if your child is going to be absent or late arriving for class. **Please note our Safe Arrival number is 827-4666 ext. 1** and the line is available 24 hours a day. The messages are listened to by the administrative staff and recorded in the main office each morning.

END OF THE DAY DISMISSAL

For safety reasons, bus students will be dismissed **before** walkers and students who are being picked up. Buses must leave the school premises before any students leave the school. Thank you for your cooperation.



STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEIR LEGAL PARENT/GUARDIAN

In order to ensure student safety, students who wish to be picked up by someone other than their legal guardian are required to have their legal guardian provide the office with written permission by note or you can email: jtrider@hrce.ca

We ask that all notes and emails be submitted to the office by **12:15pm**. Thanks for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students at GBJH.

****Please keep this newsletter for future reference****



Sept. 9 th	Nourish Your Roots fundraiser starts!
Sept. 12 th	Anti-Bullying Day – Wear Pink!
Sept 17 th	Student Photos
Sept 19 th	Meet & Greet Curriculum Night 6:30-7:30
Sept 20 th	Last day for selling Nourish Your Roots
Sept. 23 rd	All Nourish Your Roots orders are due
Sept 23-25 th	Tim Horton's Camp for Grade 8 students
Sept 26 th	Photo Re-takes
Sept 27 th	PD Day – No Classes
Oct 1 st	Grade 7 Immunization Clinics
Oct 1 st	SAC meeting 6-8pm (Library)
Oct 11 th	Terry Fox Run/Walk
Oct 14 th	Thanksgiving Day (No School)
Oct 25 th	Provincial Conference Day (No Classes)
Nov 11 th	Remembrance Day (No School)
Nov 12 th	SAC meeting 6-8pm (Library)
Nov. 21 st	Report Cards go Home
Nov 22 nd	Assess & Evaluation Day (No classes)
Nov 27 th	Parent/Teacher Visitation 6:00-8:00 pm
Nov 28 th	AM - PD Day (No classes)
Nov 28 th	Parent/Teacher Visitation 1:00-3:00 pm
Dec 10 th	Band Concert
Dec 20 th	Last Day of Classes – Christmas Break
Jan 6 th	Schools Reopen
Jan 14 th	SAC meeting 6-8pm (Library)
Feb 17 th	Heritage Day (No School)
Mar 2 nd	Band Concert
Mar 3 rd	SAC meeting 6-8 (Library)
Mar 16-20	March Break (No School)
Mar 25 th	Assessment & Eval Day (No Classes)
Apr 2 nd	AM - PD Day (No Classes)
Apr 2 nd	Parent/Teacher Visitation 1:00-3:00 pm
Apr 2 nd	Parent/Teacher Visitation 6:00-8:00 pm
Apr 6 th	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic
Apr 9 th	Report Cards go Home
Apr 10 th	Good Friday (No Classes)
Apr 13 th	Easter Monday (No Classes)
May 15 th	PD Day (No Classes)
May 18 th	Victoria Day (No School)
June 29 th	Assess & Eval Day (No Classes)
June 30 th	Last Day of School

HAVE A WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR!!

COMMUNITY EVENT:

Did you know that children, teens and young adults who participate in activism learn real-life social skills such as teamwork, planning, and communication which prepare them for the future? Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society invites you and your family to attend the 13th Annual Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Bike Tour/Walk/Run. Pick the route and event which best suits you and your family, while making a difference for those 92% who will not survive their diagnosis.

Date: Saturday, September 28th, 2019

Location: Porters Lake Provincial Park

Swag: Medals, food and beverages and live entertainment

Contact: 1-877-212-9582 / craigscouse.ca / info@craigscouse.ca