

Grand Forks Secondary School

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Principal: T. Eccleston | Vice Principal: J. Dowswell

DECEMBER 2024

Principal's Message

Winter can be wonderful. Yes, it is colder and at times a little damp, but at GFSS we are working hard to brighten our days with engaging learning activities and fun activities that make our public school a great place to be! Every day we have an open gym (attended by 100+ students) and popular service and craft club meetings throughout the school. In addition to the powerful learning in classrooms these extracurricular activities keep our spirits up and are creating a community of growth that enjoys being with each other.

We have now completed a very enjoyable fall sports season. It has been great to see our students enjoying healthy competition and socializing in a positive way. Please see page 4 for athletic news and be sure to check our Athletics [Facebook page](#) for details about the winter season.

In addition to providing advice and being the voice of our students, our [Student Council](#) is organizing several spirit days between December 9 through December 19. I encourage all students to check the bulletin board for information about the events and join in the fun.

The GFSS Global Citizenship Club has launched their campaign for the Boundary Food Bank. A-block classes welcome donations of non-perishables and cash. Donations will be accepted for the next three weeks. To create a buzz, we are coupling the campaign with school team points. Students will earn team points and increase their chances of securing the prized (and yummy) pre-Christmas treat for their A-block class. Click [here to learn which food bank items](#) are most needed!

Make sure to circle Dec 18th on your calendar for the [Celebration of Learning: Arts Gala](#). Full details are on page 4.

Also, thank you to parents and other members of the community who hosted our students for "Take Your Kid to Work day." Check out photos on page 6.



At GFSS we believe in pro-active communication. We are always happy to meet and discuss your concerns. Please reach out to your teachers and administration team if you have questions or concerns. Information can also be found on our website, gfss.sd51.bc.ca.

Let's work together to keep our school community learning.

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal

[link to previous monthly newsletters](#)

[link to weekly principal's reports](#)

Important Dates

- Dec 5-8, 18th [Drama production](#)
 - Dec 10 Write for Rights (lunch)
 - Dec 12, 6:30 Band Movie Night
 - Dec 18, 6:00 [Celebration of Learning: Arts Gala](#)
 - Dec 19 Last Day before break (concert + passion day + invitational hockey game)
 - Jan 6 School resumes
 - Jan 20, 6:00 PAC Meeting (in the Bistro or [join virtually](#))
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What clubs and athletics are at GFSS?



We are fortunate to have dozens of educators and community members that give their time and talents to enhance our student's years while at high school.

We are proud to offer dozens of extra-curricular activities (ECAs) that cover a wide range of interests (sports, clubs). Warhammer, student council, SAGA, yearbook, global citizenship, mindfulness, mountain bikes and more!

Clubs will welcome new members at any time. A full listing can be found by checking out the [ECA directory](#) on our website.

Feeding Futures

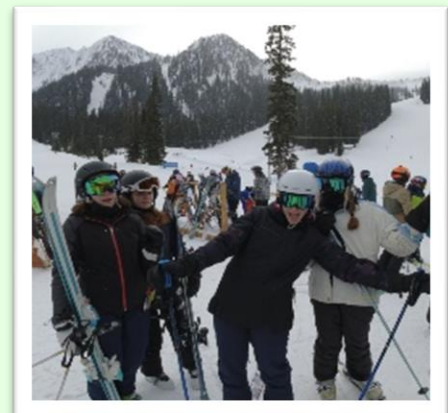
The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care has allocated \$71.5 million to school districts across the province to make sure that all students are fed and ready to learn.

At GFSS we are pleased to welcome all students to the Bistro before school and during the lunch break for a nutritious, free bite to eat. We are also grateful for the efforts of our Food Services team, Rhonda, Sherri, and Julie for preparing the food and happily welcoming all our students.



For Snow Lovers

The highly anticipated GFSS Ski and Board club overnight ski trip is coming up this January! On January 17th & 18th, we will be shredding up Big White Resorts' legendary powder and immense terrain options! Our club endeavors to provide Grand Forks youth with the unique experience of exploring the many world-class Ski Resorts that Southern BC has to offer. Stay tuned for our February day trip plans to Phoenix and Red Mountain!



Indigenous Education

At GFSS, we recognize that an important step in Reconciliation in our country is embedding elements of **First Peoples Principles of Learning** into the daily educational life of our students.

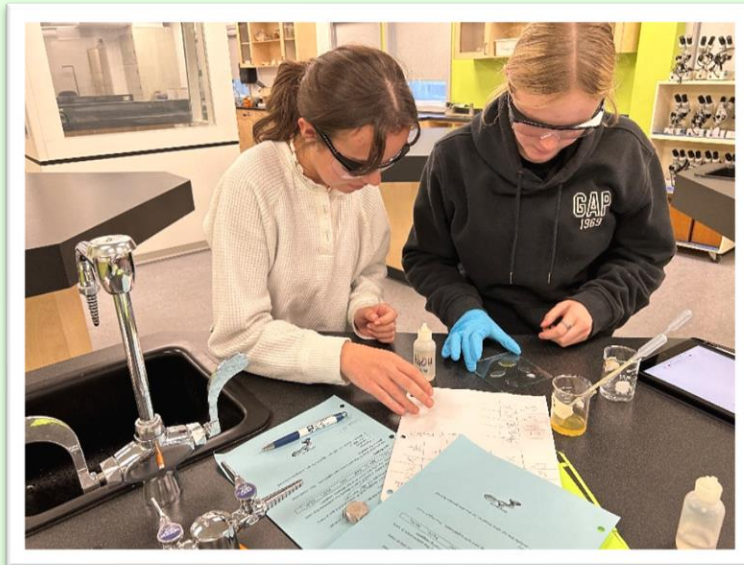


This past month, with the guidance of Elder-in-Residence, Joanie Holmes, our students learned pine needle weaving. We also

continued our conversations about the Circle of Courage with students in Grade 8 and 9. Indigenous Educational Assistant, Ms. Phelps has been leading Indigenous drumming circles every week for any student in the school to join and learn from the experience.



What are the Core Competencies?



The Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to engage in for deep, lifelong learning. Along with literacy and numeracy foundations, they are central to British Columbia's K-12 curriculum and assessment system and directly support students in their growth as educated citizens.

Students develop Core Competencies at home as well as at school, making parent/guardian support for students' growing awareness, understanding, and

development of the Core Competencies crucial. Parents/guardians will likely already have some understanding of their students' development in Communication, Thinking, Personal and Social.

Formal school tasks and activities often look different from the more informal tasks students are involved in at home. While both contexts are valuable, parents/guardians can expect that a student's use of the Core Competencies may look very different in these two contexts.

This January, GFSS students will continue self-reflection and personal assessment of their development of the core competencies. Click here to [learn more about the Core Competencies](#) and goal setting.

Celebrating Learning: Arts Gala

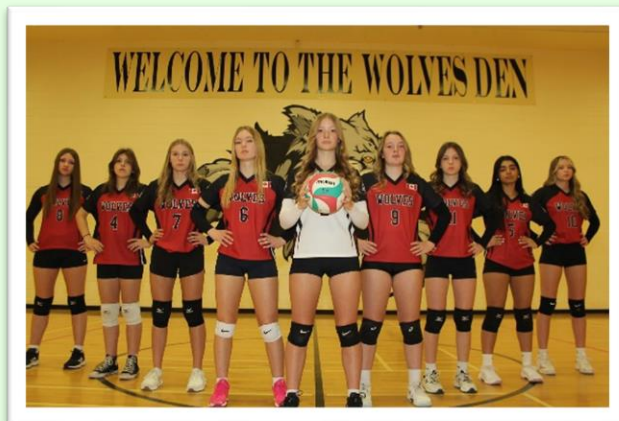
At GFSS we welcome the opportunity to celebrate student success because it motivates further success. Please join us on Dec 18 to see and hear what our fine arts and practical arts students have been up to this fall. Our doors open at 6:00 for you to wander our gallery of visual art in the bistro.



These creations are from students in art, wood, and metal shop. At 6:30, the concert band will take the stage to bring you holiday favorites in the auditorium. There will be an intermission where the catering class will offer low-cost treats. The senior drama club's comedy production, "10 ways to survive the Zombie Apocalypse" begins at 7:00. The cost for the band and drama performances is suggested at \$10 or by any donation amount to recover production costs.



Athletics news



Our fall season of Wolves Athletics was one for the books! GFSS had over 120 student-athletes join our volleyball and swimming programs this year. Our swimming team had an incredible showing at the BC School Sports Provincial Championships, not only becoming the Provincial Champions in Mixed Medley Relay but also breaking the provincial record not once, but twice!

Our volleyball teams all had super successful

seasons, dedicating countless hours and time to really strive for excellence on their individual teams, become amazing leaders to our younger Wolves and displayed impeccable sportsmanship across the Kootenays and Okanagan.

The GFSS community would love to thank our volunteer coaches for their dedication to our student-athletes - without you, our athletics programs would not be as successful as they are today!

Now as Fall changes into Winter, our Winter sports season is upon us - with that comes Curling and Basketball. Practices are already underway, and games start this week! Please keep an eye on our new GFSS Athletics Facebook page for any and all updates on our Teams.



PAC

The GFSS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is here to ensure parents and caregivers have an organized voice in their child's education. PAC offers an opportunity to be involved in the student experience (e.g., by providing funding for some extracurricular activities, field trips, clubs); while providing parents with a place to voice concerns and issues and receive direct feedback from the school administration and School Board Trustees. Join the [PAC Facebook page!](#)



PAC meets the 3rd Monday of every month (in the bistro). All parents/caregivers are welcome. The next meeting is **January 20** at 6:00. Please [join us online](#) if you can't attend in person.

Graduates



The grad class of 2025 held their annual Christmas Craft Fair on November 23rd, and it was a great success! The grad class would like to extend a special thank you to Erinne Allen, Amanda Laflamme, and Tracey MacGregor for all their hard work in putting this event together and ensuring it ran smoothly! Additionally, they would like to thank all parents who volunteered their time in setting up, running, and tear down of the craft fair.

For students who are looking for an opportunity to get grad hours, the grads have agreed to giftwrap gifts at the Pines Bible Camp Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 14th. There is a sign-up sheet in the grad lounge! The next grad-parent meeting will be on Monday, January 20th. At this meeting, the grads will be reporting on the location of prom and who their caterer will be.

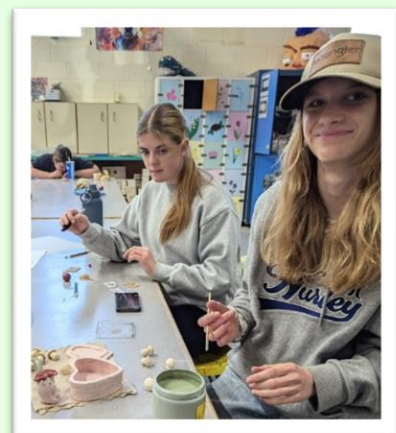
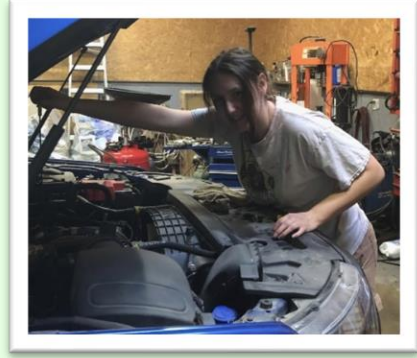
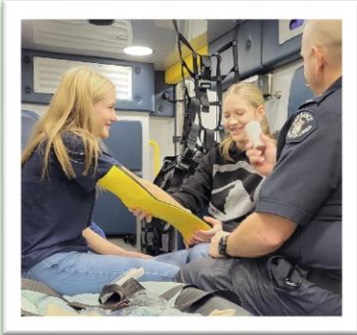
A bouquet for...

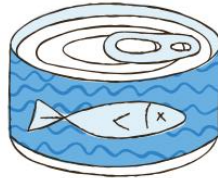
To Emma-June who, as a teacher- candidate from the University of Victoria who completes (this week) her teaching practicum at GFSS with Teachers, Ms. Farahmand and Ms. Doyle.

It has been a great pleasure to have Ms. June teach and work with our GFSS students for the past couple of months. We are grateful for the expertise and enthusiasm you have brought to our Foods and Art classes along with our student clubs too! We all wish you a career full of successes and fulfillment.



'Take your kid to work' and active learning at GFSS





FOOD DRIVE



Support those in need this holiday season
!!Win house points for your contribution!!
The class who brings the most will win a holiday
treat!

NOV 26- DEC 12

Bring **non-perishable** and **unexpired** donations
or cash to your **A** block class.



THINGS YOU CAN DONATE:

- Canned fruits, veggies, meats
- Canned soup and pasta sauce
- Juice
- Condiments
- Milk (evaporated/powdered)
- Jam, syrup, honey
- Cereal
- Pasta



GFSS PRESENTS

10 WAYS TO

SURVIVE THE

ZOMBIE

APOCALYPSE

WRITTEN BY

DON ZOLDAS

December 5th & 6th at 7pm

December 7th & 8th at 2pm

**December 18th GFSS arts
galla doors open at 6 show
starts at 7**

All tickets by donation

GFSS Band Class Presents:

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Join us at GFSS for a fun and festive movie night!
Admission is by donation with proceeds going
towards the GFSS Band Trip.

Bake sale and
concession available

DECEMBER 12
The Grinch
(live action)

Doors open at 6PM
Movie begins at
6:30PM



Dec 18th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING: ARTS GALA



6:00 - Displays of artwork, metal and
woodwork in the Bistro

6:30 - Band performance
intermission - catering class treats

7:00 - Senior Drama performance

The Arts gallery portion is free, and the combo-
performances are \$10 or by donation



Outer Space Staff Safari Hunt

Can you find
all 36?

