

Grand Forks Secondary School

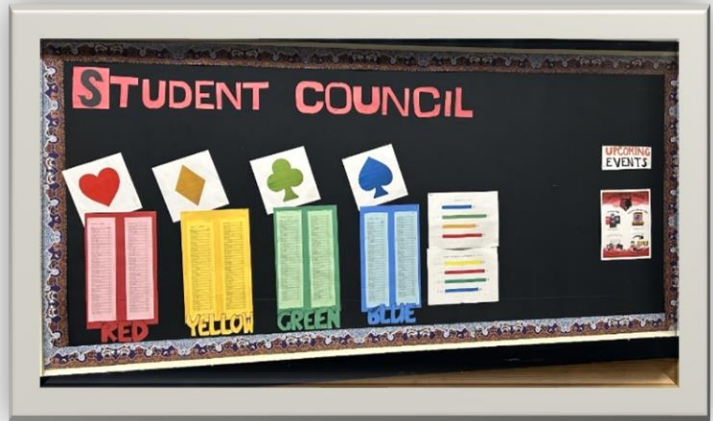
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Principal: T. Eccleston | Vice Principal: J. Dowswell

JANUARY 2025

Principal's Message

Welcome to 2025 and welcome back to GFSS. With optimism, we anticipate a positive and powerful year of learning.

There was plenty of fun at GFSS last December with decorating, dress up days, daily activities, and dancing too! A big shout out to [student council](#) for promoting eight spirit days to help our school keep its spirits bright. It's not too late to pay the \$20 student council fee at the office. It helps cover the costs of all the fun activities we do at school. Please let us know if you need financial assistance.



Our Dec 17th Passion Day was a big hit with diverse and surprising activities all about the school and community. Check out the photos on pages 5-7.

I would like to remind everyone that the parent advisory council (PAC) meets the 3rd Monday of every month (in the bistro). All parents/caregivers of GFSS students are welcome. The next meeting is **January 20** at 6:00. Please [join us online](#) if you can't attend in person.

Our first semester concludes in the next few weeks. Students, please check in with your teachers to learn and understand what your final activities and assessments will look like.

I'd like to send a special reminder to our Grads to continue to work on your CLC requirements, so they are completed well and on time. Good luck on your Capstone presentations!



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 weekly principal's reports and monthly newsletters](#)

Important Dates

- Jan 6 School resumes
- Jan 9, 1:30p Core Competency Self-assessments (homerooms)
- Jan 13-16 Capstone Presentations (grade 12, various times)
- Jan 14, 12:30 Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment
- Jan 15, 12:30 Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
- Jan 17, 7:00p Drama: Variety Show
- Jan 20, 6:00p PAC Meeting (in the Bistro or [join virtually](#))
- Jan 22 Assessment Day 1 A & B (8:17-3:30)
- Jan 23 Assessment Day 2 C & D (8:17-3:30)
- Jan 27-28 Completion Days
- Jan 29 Learning Launch: Semester 2 Begins (8:17-3:30)



This year, join an extra-curricular activity

GFSS is lucky to have dedicated educators and community members that give their time and talents to volunteer to sponsor 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!

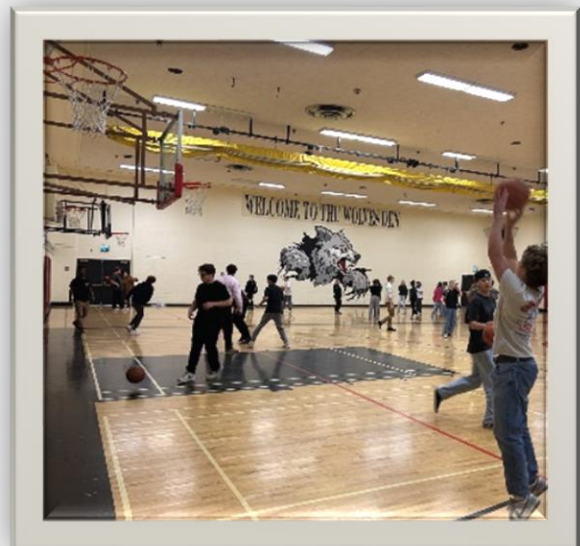
Clubs are always happy to welcome new members. A full listing of our ECAs can be found by checking out the [ECA directory](#) on our website.

Students can also check out the student council board for information on what is going on about the school.

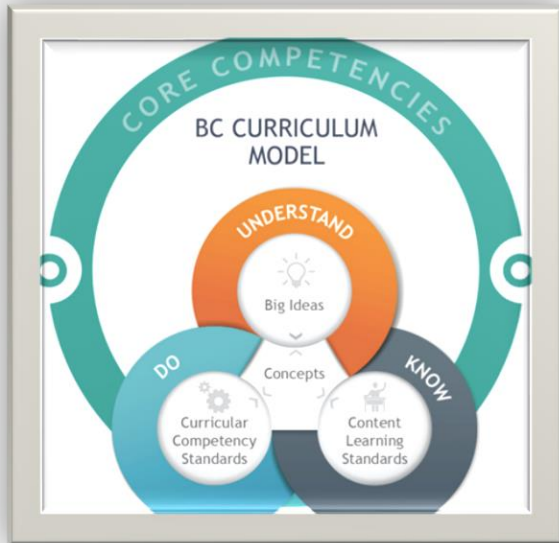
Did you know...

Every day at lunch nearly one hundred students take to the gym floor to practice their athletic skills. Working in about 8 different zones, you can find small groups of students practicing basketball free throws, playing 3-on-3, bumping and setting volleyballs in a circle or even sometimes practicing their badminton.

At GFSS, we value the social and health benefits of sports and thank our noon-hour supervisors for making this opportunity a reality for our students.



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.

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

Hannah Bartlett receives the Governor General's Academic Medal

The staff of Grand Forks Secondary School are pleased to announce that Hannah Bartlett (grad 2024), was presented with the Governor General's Academic Medal at our winter assembly.

The medal and accompanying certificate are awarded annually to the student who graduates with the highest average. The award is intended to encourage academic excellence and is considered the most prestigious award a graduate can receive in Canada.

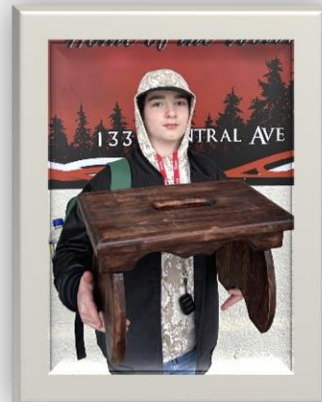
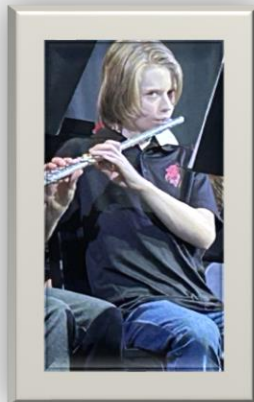
While at GFSS, Hannah was an engaging and active member of the school population. She excelled academically and was an enthusiastic member of the Band program right through Grade 12. Hannah was a member of the GFSS Curling team for five years. Hannah skipped the curling team and represented Grand Forks in the BC Winter games.

Hannah is currently studying Biomedical Engineering at the University of Victoria and is active on the varsity curling team. All of us at GFSS wish her success in all her future studies and career.



GFSS students shine in the fine and practical arts

This December GFSS students celebrated and showcased artistic success at the Celebration of Learning: Arts Gala. In the final week of school more than a hundred works of art were featured in the bistro and on the stage at GFSS. First, we appreciated the interesting and inventive creations in visual art, wood, and metal shop that decorated our bistro. Then, the GFSS concert bands took the auditorium stage to bring us holiday favorites. The culinary arts class offered treats at intermission. Finally, we topped the night off with the senior drama club's comedy production, "10 ways to survive the Zombie Apocalypse". A special thank you GFSS staff for volunteering and organizing the event.



These are the people in our neighbourhood...





Grand Forks Secondary School

