

Grand Forks Secondary School

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

FEBRUARY 2025

Principal's Message

Now well into the new year, students are settling into their new courses for semester 2. To maximize learning, I encourage all students to communicate regularly with your new teachers, so you are properly prepared, well organized, and getting any extra help you need to be successful.

Thank you to all the many staff and community members for volunteering to be on the feedback panels for the presentation of our grad's Capstone presentations this past month.

Your voice matters! 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 **February 24** at 6:00. Please [join us online](#) if you can't attend in person.

Our basketball teams have been very busy on the road and at home. Read about our season on page 5.

Course selections for 2025-2026 begins on March 3, GFSS is holding meetings for students (at school) and parents to learn about the course offerings. Parents, please join us [online](#).

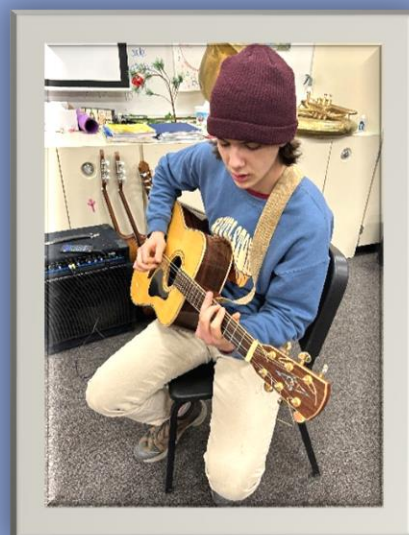
GFSS says goodbye for now to staff member, Sandra Cheverie (Education Assistant). All of us have been lucky to have you light up our lives and learn alongside you. Thank you for your service to our students.

This month, we are excited to welcome back Jeana de Wynter-Wilkie, as Child/Youth Care Worker (CYCW) and Sara Tomashewsky as Education Assistant (EA).

At GFSS we believe in pro-active communication. School is complex and your support and ideas are important. We are always happy to meet and discuss your thoughts. 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 GFSS learning.

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal



[link to previous weekly principal's reports and monthly newsletters](#)

Important Dates

- Feb 6, lunch Talent Show Auditions (auditorium)
 - Feb 17 School closed for BC Family Day
 - Feb 19, 7:00p [Parent Course Information Meeting \(join virtually\)](#)
 - Feb 20, A-blk Student Course Information Meetings (auditorium)
 - Feb 20, lunch Staff v Students Basketball game (gym)
 - Feb 24, 6:00p PAC Meeting (in the Bistro or [join virtually](#))
 - Feb 25, 1:40p Whole school assembly (guest Jack Thomas and Perley gr. 7s)
 - Feb 26, 8:30a Math Contest
 - Feb 26, 6:30p School dance: Masquerade (gym)
 - Mar 3, 8:30 District Science Fair (gym)
 - Mar 3 Course selection sheets can be brought to the office
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How can students to improve our Grand Forks community?

This question drives a special project for students at Grand Forks Secondary School (GFSS). This January, grade 10 students at GFSS are currently engaged with the Community Betterment Initiative as part of the Career and Life Education Course led by teachers Natalie Lewis and Jessica Erixon.

The inquiry project has students working in small teams with community mentors: Zak Eburne-Stoodley (City Councillor & business owner), David Reid (Director of

Operations, SD 51), Sherri Carriere (Child/Youth Care Worker), Christine Thompson (City Councillor), Everett Baker (Mayor of Grand Forks), Scott Stewart (retired SD 51 administrator), Bob Carriere (retired Manager Pipeline Control Centre), and Tom Eccleston (Principal of GFSS and Walker Development Centre).

Some examples of the students' research for services and business proposals include enhanced transportation to Phoenix Mountain, volunteer support network for seniors in Greenwood and Christina Lake, a solar powered arcade, a drive-in theatre, a greenhouse, a fishing club, and a special extension of programming at the public library.

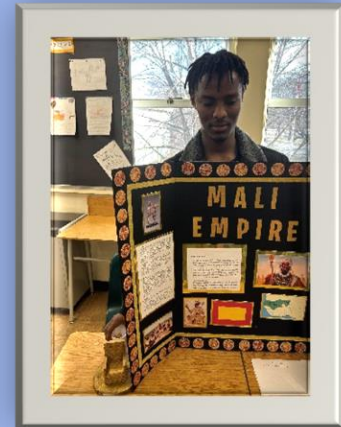
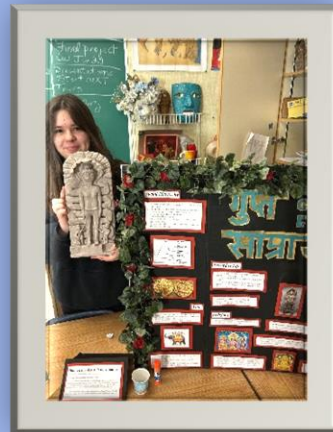
Strengthening students' agency through community connections is an important part of the GFSS school plan to promote career success for our graduates.



Grand Forks Secondary School

Social Studies

Grade 12 students in the course, Comparative Cultures, showcased their research projects to grade 8s this week. Each student highlighted a different historical civilization from different lands around the world. When students share their knowledge in a supportive environment, it helps solidify their understanding and motivates others to also share their learning in a positive way.



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.

Variety Show

In January, our dramatic arts program hosted a variety show for the community. They displayed some of their talents such as singing, dancing, reciting scenes, and even a magic show.

Look for more information on future presentations in our next newsletter including an upcoming musical performed by the senior drama class next semester.



Law 12

Ms. Matheson's Law 12 class ventured out for a full day of learning to both the Okanagan Correctional Centre and the Penticton Law Courts. Students had opportunities to ask questions, see our justice system "in action," and learn about career opportunities. It was a full day!



Student Learning Survey 2024-2025

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to GFSS. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in our school and provides a district and provincial perspective.

This month, the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 10-12, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the entire Province.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>.

Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and select Grand Forks Secondary. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 2, 2025 and if you have any questions, please contact us.

Athletics update

The Basketball season is well underway here at GFSS! We have 6 teams competing this season - our Gr. 8 Boys and Girls, our Junior Boys and Girls and our Senior Boys and Girls.

All our teams are growing and learning and having some fun along the way. They are displaying great sportsmanship and a drive for success, which as coaches and a school community we appreciate. Thank you, coaches: Hailey Stuart, Scott Stewart, Riley Friesen, Brittany Chersinoff, Jason Hayashi, Kate DeVries, and Kylee Espenhain.

Recently our Gr. 8 Boys participated in the SHSS tournament and went 3 for 3 for the weekend, and our Senior Girls placed second at the KRSS tournament in Creston! Our Gr 8 girls had an awesome weekend in Castlegar, and our Senior Boys played some hard-fought battles in Creston.

February is sure shaping up to be another busy month for our teams with tons of games and tournaments. So, make sure, if you haven't done so already, please follow our [GFSS Athletics Facebook page](#), where you will find all the upcoming basketball info! Let's go Wolves!





Are you made for

Trades?

FEBRUARY 21, 2025

Join us at Silver King Campus, Nelson. This is for Grade 10-12 students who want to learn more about Trades.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

Talk to your school counselor as pre-registration is required.

Deadline is February 7, 2025





SD51 SCIENCE FAIR 2025

MARCH 3RD GFSS IN THE GYM 9AM - 12PM

MARCH 5TH AT BCSS IN THE GYM 9AM - 12PM

JUDGING IS FROM 9AM-11AM BOTH DAYS

OPEN HOUSE IS FROM 11-12PM BOTH DAYS

SCIENCE FAIR SHIRT REGISTRATION DUE BY JANUARY 30TH 2025

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/2WM3KR3HUM](https://forms.office.com/r/2WM3KR3HUM)



How to register

Science Fair Registration (please register no later than 2 weeks prior to the event)
Please use the following link to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/2qVX4XuMhh>



Who can register

Grade 2 to 12
Individuals/pairs are welcome (same grade preferably). Students will be judged at the higher grade if there is a team with two grade levels.



After School Club

At Hutton from 3:30pm - 4:30pm every Monday starting on January 13th in the Hub.

At Perley from 3:30pm - 4:30pm every Wednesday starting on January 22nd in the music room.

At CLES from 3:30pm - 4:30pm every Thursday starting on January 16th in the music room.

CONTACT US

Peter Scott
District Principal of
Innovation and Technology

250-442-7010
Peter.Scott@sd51.bc.ca

Your Voice Matters!

Are you between 12–18 years old?



Take our online survey to share your thoughts about sharing private pictures or videos without permission.

Anonymous:

No one will know your answers.

Fast:

It takes about 10 minutes.

The government of British Columbia offers services to help people whose private pictures or videos were shared without their permission.

We want to know if young people find these services helpful and identify ways they could be improved in the future.

Scan the QR code to start!



Survey weblink:
tinyurl.com/56pst5cx

For more information, please visit:
TakeBackYourImages.gov.bc.ca



January 8, 2025



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

Dear Parents and Guardians/Caregivers,

The Student Learning Survey (SLS) has been administered every year in B.C. public schools since 2001. Prior to 2016-17 it was known as the Student Satisfaction Survey. The SLS provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. The SLS is the only source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents, guardians/caregivers, and school staff. Schools and districts use the SLS to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting, and in providing individual students personalized support.

The parent and guardian/caregiver survey is now available online and is available in 18 different languages. The survey will be available until Friday, May 2nd, and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Your responses are voluntary and anonymous, and your child will not be identified as a result of your participation in the survey. Any personal or identifying information will be deleted before results are stored. Data will be stored and accessible only within Canada.

To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access at home, work, or school.
2. Go to www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm
3. Click on the Parents icon for Direct (logon-free) Access
 - District: the name of your child's district
 - School: the name of your child's school
 - Language: the language of your choice
4. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question and click "NEXT".
5. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".
6. Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.

Please contact the web survey provider (AWIS) if you have technical difficulties; call toll free: 1-866-558- 5339 or email support@awinfosys.com. If you have questions about the survey, you can email EDUC.ReportingUnit@gov.bc.ca

We greatly appreciate your input and thank-you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emilie Sia".

Emilie Sia
Senior Economist, Research, Analytics and Engagement (RAE)
Governance and Analytics Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Emilie.Sia@gov.bc.ca



FREE TRY CURLING EVENT!



 **SATURDAY - FEB 15**

 **10 am - 2 pm**

 **GRAND FORKS CURLING CLUB**

**AGE
9-16**

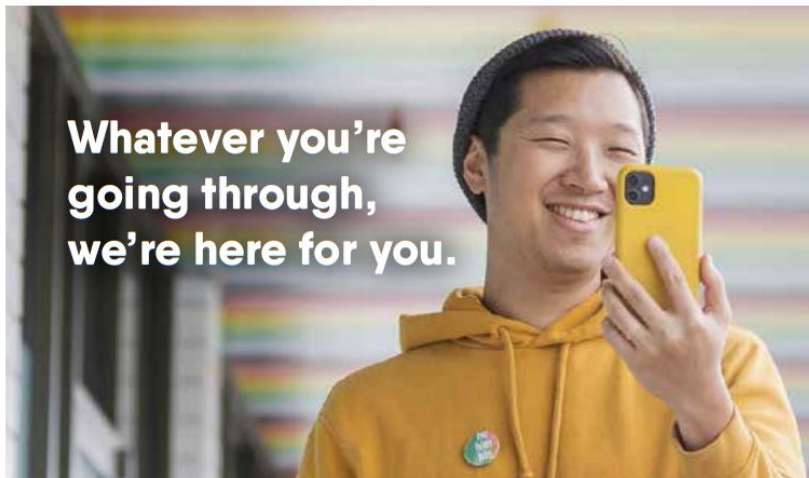


Register online

REGISTER HERE: <https://bc.curling.io/en/products/8930-girls-rock-grand-forks-2025>

HARNESSING THE POWER OF SPORT AND FEMALE ROLE MODELS





Whatever you're going through, we're here for you.

"I never realized how easy it was to access support through an app on my phone. I accessed Foundry's app from the comfort of my bedroom and spoke with a counsellor the same day. I left my session with resources and a follow-up appointment with a primary care provider. For the first time in a long time, I feel hopeful."

- Youth accessing Foundry Virtual BC services.

Foundry Virtual BC

We offer free drop-in and scheduled counselling & peer support, substance use services, groups, primary care and employment services for young people ages 12-24 across British Columbia.

All services are free and confidential, no referrals are needed. We offer video, audio and chat options.

Drop-in services: Access same-day counselling and peer support.

Scheduled appointments: Book counselling, peer support and other virtual services in advance.

Group sessions: Connect with peers, learn coping strategies and life skills.

Primary Care: Speak with a nurse practitioner about substance use concerns, sexual health, medication, gender affirming care or other medical/health-related concerns.

Employment services: Explore employment opportunities, educational/certification programs or discuss other job or school-related options.



Download the app or use in a browser

Hours: 7 days/week
1:00pm-9:00pm

Drop-in hours: Tues-Thurs
2:00pm-6:00pm

• F O U N D R Y •

To learn more, please call 1-833-308-6379, email online@foundrybc.ca or visit www.foundrybc.ca/virtual



“I finally feel like I’m not alone. I feel heard, and supported when I speak with a family peer supporter because they “get it” and I don’t have to feel ashamed or alone in my struggles with my child. It is so freeing to speak with someone here. Thank you.”

Foundry Virtual BC Supports for Caregivers

Support for your youth and for you

Foundry offers free drop-in and scheduled counselling & peer support, substance use services, groups, Medical Services (Physical and Sexual Healthcare) and employment services for young people ages 12-24 across British Columbia.

In addition to support for young people, caregivers of youth ages 12-24 can also access counselling, family peer support, and groups for caregivers.

All services offered are free and confidential. We offer video, audio, and chat options. No referrals are required.

“Supporting a loved one can be challenging– you don’t have to go through it alone”

– Foundry Family Peer Supporter

To register and make an appointment, download the Foundry BC app.

To learn more call 1-833-308-6379, email online@foundrybc.ca or visit www.foundrybc.ca/virtual

Hours: 7 days/week
1:00pm–9:00pm



· F O U N D R Y ·

Boundary Métis Community Association
Invite you to join our spirited competition at our

VOYAGEUR GAMES FESTIVAL

Feb 8th – 10am
Greenwood Ball Field
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Be a competitor or a spectator at this FREE all day event!

Bonfire ● Prizes ● Food ● Beverage


10:00	Registration for King/Queen (age 16+) & Families
10:15	Opening Prayers and Land Acknowledgement / Drumming
10:45	Competition / Games Begin
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Competition / Games Resume
TBD	Announcement of Winners
TBD	Closing Prayer/ Drumming

Show us your Capotes!

King and Queen trapper events are about keeping culture alive and are hosted in the spirit of competition. These events feature a variety of different activities that showcase skills used on Métis trap lines. To name a few of the possible competitions; fire starting, log toss, axe throw, sack haul, snow snake, ring toss, spear throwing, etc.

****Games and game details to be announced!**

To register and for more information, contact
boundarymetiscommunity@gmail.com or
Jo @ 250-666-0284





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The BOUNDARY MÉTIS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is looking for VOLUNTEERS to help with our upcoming events and programs. As we are expanding our programs, we are finding that we need more assistance making them a success.

Our volunteer needs are typically for setup and takedown at events and occasionally additional help needed for games and activities throughout the day. We welcome any help our community members are able to give only as often as you feel comfortable giving it.

Please add your name to our volunteer list!

E-mail us at boundarymetiscommunity@gmail.com

Or call

250-666-0284



**** This is also a great way for graduates to gain volunteer hours.**



Wilgress Lake

Ice Fishing Derby

Sat & Sun, February 15 & 16, 2025

EVERYONE WELCOME – All Ages

FISHING DERBY—pre-register Fresh Tracks, GF

Registration (at lake) 8am—cash only

\$10 individual or \$20 family

FISHING PRIZE CATEGORIES

Adult & Youth Girl/Youth Boy

1st, 2nd, 3rd prize

SNOW SCULPTING CONTEST

Individual & Family —no entry fees

1st, 2nd, 3rd prize

LOVE OF FISHING GIFT BASKET DRAW

Fishing registration enters you in draw

50/50 DRAW

**Fundraiser for
Supporting
Youth in the
Boundary**

Outdoor Games

**Hot Dogs, Chili,
Beverages
by donation**

More Info:

Jim Walker

250-442-7385

Becki Walker

250-442-6113

Brought to
you by
Boundary
Métis
Community
Association



SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION: MENTAL HEALTH & DECISION-MAKING

A **COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR** FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CAREGIVERS

Join leading **adolescent Clinical Psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson** for an online event that aims to help parents, guardians and caregivers gain a **deeper understanding** of substance use prevention and learn **practical tools** for supporting youth mental health.



Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Learn the factors that contribute to youth mental health/substance use
- 👏 Understand the skills that youth need to overcome these needs
- 🧠 Acquire practical tools for empowering your child and youth to make positive choices
- 🤝 Increase your ability to support your own mental health

Time: 6-7:30pm PST

Date: 20th, 25th, 26th Feb 2025

REGISTER NOW

Scan the QR
Code to Register



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education and Child Care