

# Grand Forks Secondary School

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

**May 2025**

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

You are likely aware that this past month, we have been collecting perspectives and beliefs about education from students, staff, and parents. Your feedback will help GFSS focus on relevant student needs as we plan and deliver the excellent and personalized learning services for our young people.

In April, GFSS said thank you and farewell to Education Assistant, Ms. Padmoroff and now welcome Ms. Peterson to our Inclusive Education Team. We also are pleased to welcome EA practicum student, Ms. Horkoff from May 5-Jun 12.

We are closing in on the homestretch. Now into May, this month GFSS recognizes Red Dress Day and the Moose Hide Campaign – See page 3 for more information. Mid-month we hold a school dance and closer to the end of May, we are holding an assembly for grade 10-12 students to learn more about the importance of road safety. Check our extra-curricular activities update on page 4.

Our grade 8 choir had their first public performances. Students had a chance to practice democracy in the Student Vote. Check out the feature on page 5.



I acknowledge the major challenges in the past few weeks. We want you to know that all of us at GFSS will continue to place the well-being and safety of our students and staff first and foremost each and every day. Thank you for taking care of one another in the coming days and weeks.

Let's work together to keep GFSS strong.

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal

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

## Important Dates

- May 1, 12:42 Lip Sync Competition (auditorium)
- May 1, 1:30 Student Forum (Lewis's, Gr. 10s)
- May 3 PAC Silent Auction (Save-on Foods, 10a-3p)
- May 5 Red Dress Day
- May 5, 6:00 Gr 7 parents' meeting (Bistro)
- May 8 Written Learning Updates distributed
- May 14, 6:00 School Dance: EDM Rave (doors close at 7:00 unless pre-arranged)
- May 15 Moosehide Campaign
- May 21 District/Authority Scholarship presentations (3:45-8:00)
- May 26, 8:25 ICBC [Road Safety Speaker](#), Ted Swan (auditorium, gr 10-12)
- May 26, 6:00 PAC Meeting (bistro)
- May 29, 1:30 Circle of Courage Talking Circle Celebration (8s & 9s)
- Jun 2, 1:30 Core-competencies Self-assessment
- Jun 2-5 Literacy 12 and Numeracy 10 assessment
- Jun 5, TBA Lupine Awards
- June 5-8 Drama Production: *Little Shop of Horrors*
- Check out our [online calendar](#) for all these and future dates.

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## An opportunity for student voice and community leadership

We know young people have a unique and valuable perspective and are interested in adding their voice to the growth of our community. In alignment with [our school mission](#) to support our student towards a confident future, a new partnership between The City of Grand Forks and School District 51 has seen the creation of the position of Youth Council Representative to City Council.



Committed students who reside in the Grand Forks area and are currently in grades 9, 10, or 11 are welcome to apply to be the Youth Council Representative to City Council for 2025-2026. Could it be you? View the application to [learn more about the role, responsibilities, and requirements of the position](#). Applications are to be submitted to the GFSS school office before May 9<sup>th</sup>. Make students' voice heard!

## Red Dresses: What's It All About?



Have you seen red dresses around? They're a symbol for Red Dress Day, which is on May 5th. This day is about remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S). Did you know that Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people are much more likely to face violence and go missing than other people?

Why red dresses? For many Indigenous people, red is a powerful colour that means life and strength. The empty dresses represent the women, girls, and Two-Spirit people who are missing and are missed by

their families. Red Dress Day started as an art project by an Indigenous artist named Jaime Black. She hung red dresses to show how many people have gone missing.

At GFSS, we recognize Red Dress Day to understand why this is happening and how it harms communities. It also gives us time and space to remember the MMIWG2S and support their families. Lastly, it promotes change with the hope of making our community safer for Indigenous people.

## What's the Moose Hide Campaign?

Have you ever seen someone wearing a small moose hide pin? That pin is a sign of the Moose Hide Campaign. It's a movement started by Indigenous men in British Columbia to end violence against women and children. Why moose hide? In Indigenous cultures, the moose is a strong and respected animal and the hide is worn as a promise – a personal commitment by men and boys to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in their lives and to work to end violence.



The Moose Hide Campaign at GFSS on May 15 is about encouraging men and boys to speak out against violence and be part of the solution. It is a chance for our students to show respect and build healthy relationships to honour women and children. The Moose Hide Campaign brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to create safer communities for everyone. Wearing a moose hide pin is a way to show your support and commitment. It's a small symbol with a big message: violence against women and children needs to stop. You might see people wearing them at school or in the community – it's a way to start important conversations.



## Extra-curriculars activities (ECAs) and athletics shine

One of the great things about GFSS is the large offerings of ECAs! There is always so many options here; there is something for everyone. ECAs in action right now are: Mountain biking, Student Council, Warhammer, E-sports, Mindfulness, Yearbook, Drama, Announcements Crew, Sexuality and Gender Alliance, and Indigenous. Check out the [directory](#) on our website for more information.

Spring sports at GFSS are well underway and this short season is always our busiest! Our athletics department would like to send a huge shout out to our amazing volunteer coaches, parent volunteers and all the support we receive near and far!

Ultimate Update: It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the 2025 Ultimate season! Between our 3 teams, we've played 35 games so far and we're excited about attending the Valhalla Invitational tournament in Burnaby this weekend.

The coaches are loving the energy from all three of our teams this year; everyone is exceeding expectations in their effort and enthusiasm. Our senior team has created their own Instagram socials complete with player profiles and MVP highlights. Our junior teams have crafted dozens of custom clips to celebrate their teammates and their opponents' successes and have been giving them out at all of our events. We've been lucky to have a lot of parents traveling with us this season- love the excitement on the sidelines! Ultimate spirit is high at GFSS and we're looking forward to the second half of the season!

- May 3/4- Valhalla Invitational
- May 14- Vernon Playday
- May 22/23- BCAA Senior Provincials
- May 24/25- BC High School Championships



Golf Update: The golf team is in full force. They have competed in play days at Christina Lake, Creston, and Balfour. Upcoming play days are happening at Birchbank and Kettle River and the Zone Championships May 21/22 at Creston.

Sr Girls Soccer Update: Our Senior Girls Soccer team has had a busy and incredible start to their season! This young team is making waves in the Kootenays! They've started their season off with 2 wins vs BCSS and a great showing at the Southern Okanagan Secondary Tournament this past weekend. The girls head to Nakusp this weekend which will really test their skill against teams in our zone, but they're continuing to grow and come together as a team, which will only make them that much stronger! After the Nakusp tournament the team will prepare for their zone championships, again, in Nakusp where they will play for a berth to Provincials!

Our Wolves are Hungry this season!!!!

## Why Practice Voting is a Big Deal!

Ever wonder what it's like to vote in a real election? Well, GFSS students had their chance a student vote! A student vote was a simulated election at GFSS the time of a the real (federal) election. Students learned about the different candidates their parties and then cast their own ballot, just like adults do.

The student vote was a hands-on way to understand how elections happen and why voting is a key part of our democratic society. It gave students a chance to think about the issues that matter to them and who'd they choose to see in leadership.

GFSS heard great discussions in classrooms and hallways about important topics and diverse viewpoints. By participating, student had a fantastic opportunity to develop into an informed and engaged citizen.



## Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre

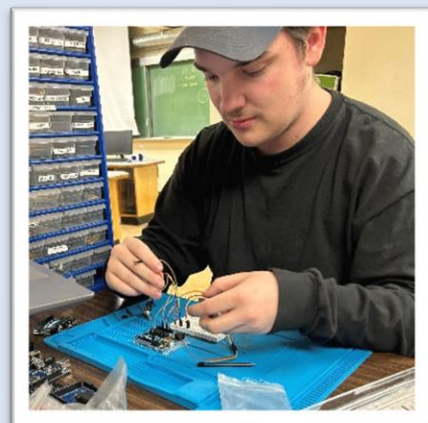
On April 15th, our BC First Peoples 11/12 class had the opportunity to travel to Osoyoos with their Teacher, Ms Stuart to learn at the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centr. Students wereoined by GFSS Indigenous Education Assistant (Ms Phelps) and SD51 District Indigenous Elder-in-Residence (Joanie Homes). Students took part in a guided tour of the grounds, where they explored a traditional pit house, viewed artifacts, and learned about the cultural significance of the land.

Some highlights included an interactive teepee experience about the importance of salmon, a short film focusing on wolves, culture, and family, and a close-up look at some of the desert's native snakes. It was a rich and meaningful day of learning that deepened students' understanding of Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and connection to the land.





These are the people in our neighbourhood...





## What else is happening at GFSS?



# **Student voice MATTERS**



## **Be our representative!**

***Be the Youth Council Representative  
for **GRAND FORKS** City Council***

**Help shape the future of Grand Forks.**

**Apply before May 9<sup>th</sup>**



**Applications are in the office**

**...current grade 9, 10, or 11s only**





**EDM**  
ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC

**RAVE**

**6-9PM**  
**MAY 14 2025**  
GFSS GYM

**FREE DOOR PRIZES**  
**(ENTRY WITH TICKET**  
**PURCHASE)**

**ADMISSION \$2 OR**  
**FREE WITH FOOD**  
**DONATION**

The poster features a black background with vibrant neon elements. On the left, a realistic monkey is shown in a dynamic pose, reaching towards a large, glowing disco ball in the center. To the right of the disco ball is a large, outlined star that glows with yellow and blue light. The text 'EDM' is in large, bold, orange letters at the top left, with 'ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC' in smaller orange letters below it. The word 'RAVE' is in large, bold, pink letters on the right side. The event details '6-9PM', 'MAY 14 2025', and 'GFSS GYM' are in white text at the top right. At the bottom, two promotional messages are displayed in white and green text: 'FREE DOOR PRIZES (ENTRY WITH TICKET PURCHASE)' on the left and 'ADMISSION \$2 OR FREE WITH FOOD DONATION' on the right. The background is decorated with neon green and pink concentric circles on the left and a purple grid pattern at the bottom.



**HEY, YOU!**

**Yearbooks are on sale now!**

**\$40**

**SEE MRS. STEINBACH TO RESERVE ONE NOW**



GFSS PAC is supporting Canadian Companies through their fundraisers!

## GFSS PAC April Fundraisers

Money's raised in these fundraisers will go to financially support PAC's contributions to future GFSS PAC Scholarships and other funding requests received that are not eligible for the Gaming Grant funds. Fundraisers Start April 8, 2025.

For further information please email [evers.chantel@gmail.com](mailto:evers.chantel@gmail.com)

### Mitchells Soup Co

<https://raise.mitchellssoupco.com/gfsspac/gfsspacs25?a=17&at=1743701747743&as=k>



### Tru Earth

<https://tru-earth.sjv.io/gfsspac>

### Brightraiser.com

<https://brightraiser.com/campaign/2025040361271>



April 26th, 2025

### Silent Auction Fundraiser



10am-2pm



# *Hey, Students!*

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS?

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

Boundary Métis Community Association  
is offering an opportunity to help with  
projects and events in the

community while  
completing volunteer  
hours required for high  
school graduation,  
bursaries and scholarships.

Contact us today for  
more information!



**[boundarymetiscommunity@gmail.com](mailto:boundarymetiscommunity@gmail.com)**

**250-666-0284**



# PARENT INFO SESSION



**With Selkirk College  
Student Recruiters**

**May 7, 2025, 7-8 pm, Online**



## **Learn About Selkirk College**

Parents, guardians and supporters of high school students are welcome to join us for a Parent Info Session—future students are welcome too! Email [hello@selkirk.ca](mailto:hello@selkirk.ca) with questions!



[selkirk.ca/events/parent-info-session](https://selkirk.ca/events/parent-info-session)

# CREATING A SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION PLAN

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

Join leading adolescent **Clinical Psychologist** Dr. Hayley Watson, as she helps you create a **personalized step-by-step plan** for implementing **substance use prevention skills** in your home. Dr. Watson will focus on specific steps you can take to ensure that **you and your family are supported** as you teach substance use prevention skills to your child/youth.



## Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Learn the skills that will help prevent your child and youth from using substances
- 👤 Navigate the challenges that arise while teaching these skills to your child/youth
- 🧠 Create a step-by-step plan for implementing substance use prevention strategies
- 💖 Increase your ability to support yourself and your child/youth at the same time

**Time:** 6-7:30pm PST *(includes Q&A!)*  
**Date:** April 29th, May 7th and 8th 2025

Scan the QR  
Code to Register



**REGISTER NOW**

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



# Business Open House & Job Fair

Friday - May 23, 2025  
10:00am - 2:00pm

Join us to network,  
connect, and discover the  
resources you need to  
grow.



## Job Seekers

Get your resume ready - we will  
have several large employers on  
site ready to hire!



Space available for  
employers & business services!



Want to be a part of the event?  
Contact us today!

WorkBC  
Centre

[info@boundarycf.com](mailto:info@boundarycf.com)