

Grand Forks Secondary School

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

June 2025

Principal's Message

Dear students and families,

As we move into the final stretch of the school year, I find myself filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude. This has been a year of growth, creativity, and connection. In these final weeks, that spirit is more alive than ever in our classrooms and hallways.

Whether it's the brilliant performances in Little Shop of Horrors, the incredible real-world work of our skilled trades students building for our local fire department, or the creative preparations underway for graduation, our students have consistently shown what's possible when passion meets purpose.

We've seen our school community come together through art. Students are transforming our walls and spaces into symbols of identity and hope. We've cheered on our athletes through a full, exciting year of sports, and soon students gather to honour student excellence at our annual Lupine Awards and Scholarship Event, where we celebrate not just achievement, but kindness, leadership, and heart.

Additionally, in just a few weeks GFSS will again come together to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day. This celebration holds deep meaning for our country, as we continue learning how to walk forward in truth and reconciliation. We're honoured to learn from Indigenous voices in our community and to create space for culture, story, and shared understanding.

All of this is what makes our school more than a place of learning. GFSS is a thriving **community**, where students are seen, supported, and inspired to contribute in meaningful ways.

To our families: thank you. Your support, encouragement, and partnership are the foundation of our students' success. As we look toward the celebrations ahead let's take time to appreciate all we've accomplished together.

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal



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

Important Dates

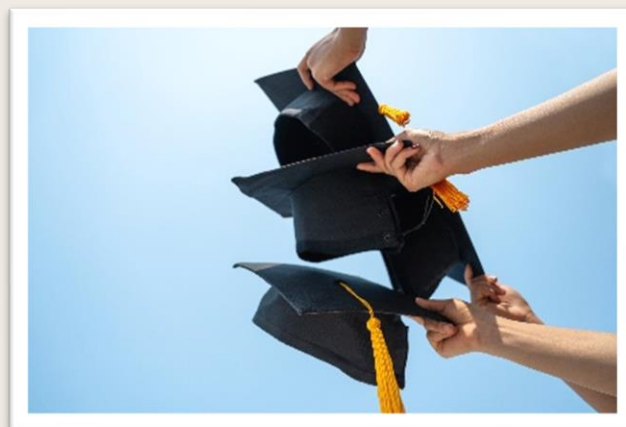
- Jun 2, 1:30 Core-competencies Self-assessment
- Jun 2-5 Literacy 12 and Numeracy 10 assessment
- Jun 5, 11:17 Lupine Awards
- June 5-8 Drama Production: *Little Shop of Horrors*
- Jun 2 Elem. guests for Drama Production: *Finding Nemo Jr.* (11:30 & 1:30)
- Jun 2-5 Literacy 12 and Numeracy 10 assessment
- Jun 4, 12:42 Indigenous Grad Luncheon (bistro)
- Jun 4, 1:00 Gr 6-7 guests for Drama Production: *Little Shop of Horrors*
- Jun 5 Final Grad List posted
- Jun 5, 11:17 Lupine Awards (gym)
- Jun 7 Boundary Pride Event (SAGA, Gyro Park 10:30- 1:00)
- Jun 9-10 Grade 7 visits to GFSS with Senior Peer Counsellors
- Jun 10, 7:00 Scholarship Celebration
- Jun 11, 2:30 Over the Top (field)
- Jun 12, 2:00 Grad Rehearsal
- Jun 14, 3:00 Grad Ceremony (starts)
- Jun 16-19 Grade 8 visits to Elementary Schools
- Jun 17, 12:42 National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration (outside)
- Jun 23 Assessment Day 1, A & B (8:17-3:30)
- Jun 24 Assessment Day 2, C & D (8:17-3:30)
- Jun 25-26 [Completion Days](#) (students by appointment only)
- Jun 27 Administration Day (no students)

Check out our [online calendar](#) for all these and future dates.

Countdown to Graduation: Celebrating Our Grads of 2025

With just a few weeks to go, the energy is high, and the emotions are real: our Grade 12s are getting ready to cross the stage! This year, we're proud to celebrate a cohort more than 100 students — each with their own journey, dreams, and next steps. Whether headed to university, trades, travel, or work, our GFSS graduates carry with them the values, friendships, and memories shaped in our hallways.

We are grateful to the teacher sponsors (Ms. Erixon, Ms. Stuart, Ms. Webster), the grad executive, and every parent of a grad for your effort in making this a memorable year for our students.



“Little Shop of Horrors” set to WOW the Crowd

Our drama students are taking a big leap this spring with their spectacular production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, and what a show it will be! From set design to vocals, every aspect of the performance has taken months of dedication, creativity, and teamwork. The cast and crew are bringing this quirky cult classic to life with flair and heart. We expect standing ovations and plenty of proud tears from families and staff alike. A special thanks to our drama teacher (Mr.



DeWynter-Wilkie), our backstage volunteers, and the student-led tech team for making this production a truly unforgettable experience.

Get your first choice of seating. Pre-Sale tickets are available for \$10 at A&W or the office at GFSS. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door by donation.

Youth Council Representative

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.

We know young people have a unique and valuable perspective and are interested in adding their voice to the growth of our community. We are pleased to announce that GFSS students, Sara Paul (YCR-



Primary) and Copper Rooke (Alternate) have been warmly welcomed by Mayor Baker and City Council for the 2025-2026 year. Thank you students, for your leadership in this role.

Real Skills, Real Impact: Trades Students Build for First Responders

Learning met service last week as our skilled trades students partnered with the local fire department to construct training walls and structures for emergency response drills.

Under the guidance of teacher, Mr. Thielmann, our students applied their carpentry and design skills in a real-world setting. The results were both impressive and meaningful. It's hands-on learning at its best: building community resilience while building bright futures.



Art in Bloom: Students Brighten the School with Creative Touches

You may have noticed a few new splashes of colour and inspiration around our building — that's thanks to our student-led beautification projects! From murals and planter boxes to uplifting window displays, our visual arts students have transformed everyday spaces into points of pride.

These projects not only beautify the school but reflect student voice, identity, and creativity. A huge thank you to our art teacher (Ms. Doyle) and student-artists who made these installations possible and making our school feel more joyful.



Please enjoy these photos and be sure to come visit us soon; we'd be happy to show you around to see all the beautiful creations our students have been working on.



Celebrate the Circle of Courage

A highlight to our year was the Circle of Courage Celebration with our all own GFSS and East District students grades 6 through 9 at Dr. D. A. Perley Elementary. This event marked a culmination of our community circles talks with Indigenous themed activities, student speeches, songs, and snacks.

We want to send a special shout out to District Indigenous Elder-in-Residence Joanie Holmes and the Boundary School District's Indigenous Education team along with our GFSS grade 8 & 9 teachers for their help facilitating the afternoon.

Limlæmt (thank you)



Honouring Culture and Connection: National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration Ahead



We're looking forward to a special celebration on **June 21st** as our school community comes together to honour **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada and right here in the Boundary.

Plans are underway for a school-wide gathering that will include storytelling, music, art, and shared learning led by Indigenous voices. Students will have the chance to participate in hands-on activities, engage in meaningful reflection, and deepen their understanding of

Indigenous histories and contemporary realities.

We're grateful to our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, school and community partners who help guide this day and share their teachings with us. GFSS continues Canada's journey toward reconciliation through days like this—grounded in respect, relationships, and learning.



Game On: A Year of Heart and Hustle in Athletics

As the school year winds down, we're reflecting with pride on an incredible year in athletics. From the first kickoff in soccer to the final tee-off in golf, our student athletes brought passion, perseverance, and sportsmanship to every match and meet.

All year, teams in basketball, volleyball, swimming, ultimate frisbee, and mountain biking all gave us something to cheer for, and we couldn't be prouder.



A heartfelt thank you to our Athletic Director, Riley Friesen and the team of coaches, volunteers, and families who supported and sacrificed for our students—rain or shine, home or away. Go Wolves!

We want to bring special attention to how proud we are to celebrate the achievements of our Ultimate Frisbee teams on the provincial stage!

Our Senior team brought home silver in the AA division at the BC School Sports Provincial Championship, showcasing skill, spirit, and teamwork. Meanwhile, our Junior team claimed an impressive 3rd place finish at the BC High School Junior Championship (Tier 1)—a remarkable feat given they competed against top teams from across all school sizes, from A to AAAA. Congratulations to both teams for their outstanding seasons and for representing our school with pride!



Heavy Machines, Big Learning: A Special Visit

This spring, our students got a hands-on look at the power and precision of modern forestry thanks to a special visit from **Inland Truck and Equipment** and **Lime Creek Logging**. These community partners brought in a mobile **Tigercat Operator Simulator**, giving students the rare chance at GFSS to experience the technology behind today's forest industry.

Their team let us know they were grateful to come to GFSS and interact with our students. In special recognition of his aptitude and inquisitive nature, student Alex Having stood out to them and was presented with a diecast Tigercat LX830E Feller Buncher.



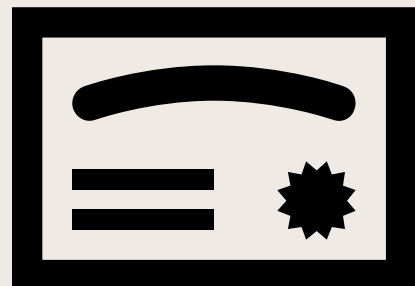
From learning about machine operation to gaining insight into forestry careers, students were engaged, curious, and full of questions. It was an unforgettable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world applications — and maybe even inspire a few future operators.

Partnerships like these enrich our students' learning and open pathways they may not have considered before. We are very grateful for sharing their time, equipment, and expertise.

The Lupine Awards: Honouring Excellence, Effort, and Heart


This year's Lupine Awards ceremony will be a heartfelt celebration of what makes our students exceptional — not just for academic or athletic success, but for leadership, creativity, kindness, and community spirit. These awards reflect the values we hold dear, and every recipient was nominated for making a positive difference in our school.

Congratulations to all the nominees and recipients and thank you for inspiring us all to grow and excel.



GRAND FORKS SECONDARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



TICKETS
ARE
AVAILABLE
IN THE
HIGHSCHOOL
AND
A&W

"FEED ME, SEYMOUR!"

JUNE 5, 6 AT 7PM
JUNE 7, 8 AT 2PM

COME TO GRAND FORKS SECONDARY SCHOOL
AND SEE OUR FAMOUS AUDREY TWO



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

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

250-666-0284

BOUNDARY PRIDE

music!
food!
fun!

tie-
dye,
story
time,
crafts!

Sat. June 7th
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Gyro Park, Grand Forks

Please
Bring
your own
seat



2025 CAMP IS HAPPENING



IN CRESTON, BC



JULY 11TH - 13TH, 2025



APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE



KOOTENAYIGNITE.CA



UNTIL JUNE 15TH, 2025



[FACEBOOK.COM/
KOOTENAYIGNITE](https://FACEBOOK.COM/KOOTENAYIGNITE)



KOOTENAYIGNITE@GMAIL.COM



[INSTAGRAM.COM/
KOOTENAYIGNITE](https://INSTAGRAM.COM/KOOTENAYIGNITE)



"Do it! It's fun and hands-on. You meet amazing, nice people who feel like family."

"You learn so many more things, you feel immersed in the culture. I did enjoy it."

"I enjoyed having the elder's presence at SSP. I learned so much and have a different perspective on so many things."

"You learn so many more things, you feel immersed in the culture. I did enjoy it."



UBC SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

IS BACK FOR SUMMER 2025!

What is UBC Summer Science Program?

The UBC Summer Science Program is a one-week camp for Indigenous students in grades 8-11, held on the beautiful traditional Musqueam territory in Vancouver. Taking place primarily at the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, this exciting, Indigenous-led program offers students the chance to explore post-secondary pathways and land-based learning while participating in cultural workshops like drum-making, medicine bag crafting, and more. Join us this summer for an unforgettable experience where you'll have the opportunity to connect with Elders, explore the UBC campus, make lifelong friends, learn about university, and meet inspiring Indigenous role models!

Where: UBC Vancouver (Musqueam Territory)

Who/When: **Week 1: August 3rd - August 9th**
(For students going into Grades 11 & 12 in the fall)

Week 2: August 10th - August 16th
(For students going into Grades 9 & 10 in the fall)

SCAN ME



Application deadline June 15th, 2025
For more information: <https://bit.ly/UBCSP>
Got Questions? Email: summer.science@ubc.ca

Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters who have made the Summer Science Program possible:



Stem Cell Network



Réseau de Cellules Souches



NSERC
CRSNG



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



First Nations House of Learning



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Centre for Excellence in
Indigenous Health