

Grand Forks Secondary School

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

February 2026

Principal's Message

As we turn the page to a new semester, we're reminded that fresh starts matter. New courses, new goals, and new opportunities give our students the chance to reflect, reset, and re-engage. A new semester opens the door to new possibilities. We encourage students to step into this second half of the year with curiosity, commitment, and confidence.

I want to take a moment to recognize our basketball teams, who continue to represent our school with strong teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Our student-athletes are showing what it means to support one another, persevere, and play with pride at home and on the road. Thank you as well to our coaches and families for the time and care you invest in these programs.

Regular attendance remains one of the most important factors in student success. Being present, mentally and physically, allows our youth to stay connected to learning, build strong routines, and maintain relationships with peers and teachers. We appreciate families' ongoing support in helping students attend consistently and arrive ready to learn.

Our growing positive school culture continues to be one of our greatest strengths. Each day at GFSS, we see students and staff contributing to a school environment grounded in our values of respect, responsibility, and connection. Culture is built through everyday interactions, expectations, and shared values. Thank you for being part of that collective effort!

Finally, a reminder that our **Parent Advisory Council** meeting will take place this **Monday at 6:00 p.m.** PAC plays an important role in supporting our school community, and all parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. We value your voice and partnership.



As we move forward into the semester, our focus remains on learning, connection, and growth.

Thank you for your continued support.

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal



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

Grand Forks Secondary School

Important Dates

- Feb 2 PAC Meeting (6pm, Bistro, or [online](#))
- Feb 11 Summary of Learning Reports distributed in homeroom
- Feb 19 YDI Survey (gr. 11s)
- Feb 20 School in Session
- Feb 23 Grade Assemblies: Course Selection Information
- Feb 23 Parent Course Selection Information Evening (7pm, [online](#))
- Feb 24 Student Learning Survey (grs. 10 & 12)
- Feb 25 Waterloo Math Contest (gr. 9-11)

Student Council: How is it going at GFSS?

*Written by Student Trustee, **Alexis O.***

GFSS's sportsmanship and competitive excellence has paid off tremendously throughout the fall season! As it comes to an end, we encourage students to attend the all-day open gym for fun sports, games, and activities.

GFSS is known for its plentiful number of extracurricular activities this includes many sports, yearbook, Student Council, Warhammer, Global Citizenship, and much more. Student Council has held interactive spirit days between the 8th and 18th of December to spread holiday cheer! Global Citizenship members baked delicious goods to sell and raise money for the boundary food bank.

As January concludes, GFSS works towards a positive and supportive work environment for the students! Remember to always work hard and reach for the stars. Go Wolves!

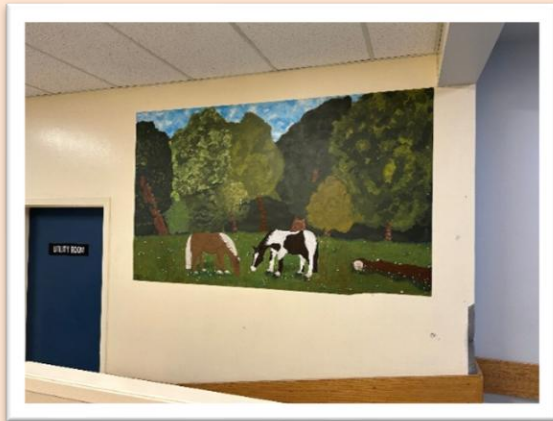


[Student Council](#) meets every Tuesday at lunch in the Art Room. All students are welcome.

Grand Forks Secondary School

A beautiful school

Over the past several months, our school has been transforming through student-made visual art and. What were once plain hallways reflect student voice, creativity, and identity. To date, twelve original large-scale murals pieces have been installed, each contributing to a warmer, more welcoming environment.



These works are so much more than decoration. When students see their ideas and perspectives represented in the physical space of the school, it strengthens their sense of connection and belonging. In this, our school is becoming one where students are shaping the place.



We invite families and community members to take time to notice and experience this growing collection when visiting the school. Each piece tells a story and adds to a shared sense of who we are at GFSS.

Thank you to Art Teacher, Kristen Doyle, for leading this ongoing work. More student art is already in development, and we look forward to continuing to build a school environment that reflects the creativity, diversity, and the voice of our students.



Recognizing excellence in STEM Education

We are proud to share that GFSS Science Teacher, Nicole Fraser, has been nominated for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in STEM. This national recognition celebrates exceptional educators who inspire curiosity, innovation, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics all while demonstrating a deep care for individual student well-being.

For the past 20 years, Ms. Fraser has been an outstanding educator at GFSS. Her work consistently reflects our shared commitment to achievement and growth. She challenges students to think deeply, engage in hands-on learning, and continually push their potential forward. Just as importantly, she creates learning environments where students feel supported to take risks, ask questions, and grow as learners.

We congratulate Nicole on this well-deserved nomination and thank her for her long-standing dedication to our students and to excellence in Science and Math education at GFSS.



Basketball season in motion

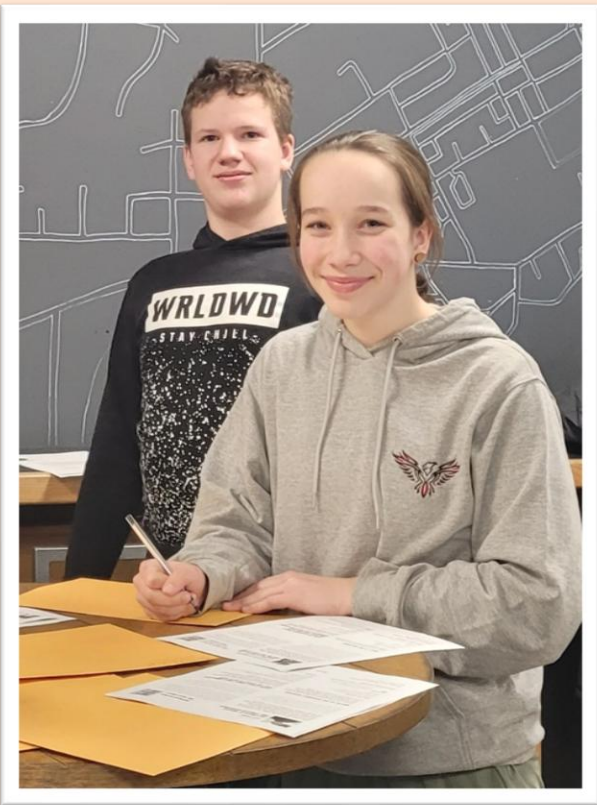
Our basketball season is well underway, and it's been energizing to see our Wolves: Grade 8, junior, and senior girls' and boys' teams, competing with commitment, sportsmanship, and pride. With regular practices and weekend tournaments and travel, our student-athletes are showing real dedication to their teams and to one another.

Thank you to our families and students who cheer from the bleachers and on the road. We are especially grateful to our coaches: **Riley, Megan, Jordyn, Jason, Bodhi, Scott, Brandon, Brittany, and Lindsay**, for the time, care, and expertise they give to help students grow both on and off the court.

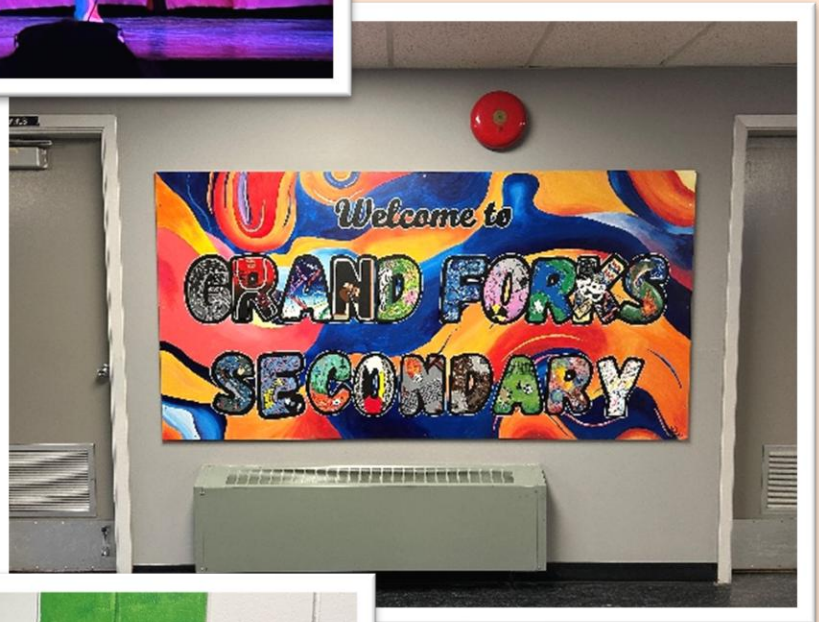
For schedules, scores, and highlights, we encourage you to follow our [Athletics Facebook page](#); it's the best place to stay connected to what's happening with GFSS sports teams.



It's happening here!



Grand Forks Secondary School





Dear students and families of Grand Forks Secondary School,

We've recently begun our second semester of the 2025-2026 school year, and we are looking forward to a semester of learning, student engagement, and terrific curricular and extracurricular opportunities. As part of our school's growth plan, we are emphasizing the importance of attendance as a cornerstone of student success.

Consistent school attendance is essential to this success, academically, socially, and emotionally. When students attend class every day, they are more likely to understand and retain key concepts, develop positive relationships, build critical thinking and social skills, and feel a stronger sense of connection and community with their peers.

We need your help with this. If a student is ill or has an appointment, please notify the office either directly (250-442-8285) or through the 24-attendance line (250-442-0954). Accurate attendance records ensure that we can account for student safety in case of emergencies and communicate with families about student whereabouts, especially during critical incidents.

The GFSS educational program requires students to attend all classes unless excused for illness or appointments. Regular attendance reinforces time management and growing responsibilities, engagement, and helps prepare students for the expectations of post-secondary education or the workplace. It also aligns with our school's values of **connection, achievement, purpose, creativity and accountability** and forms the foundation for student success.

Extended absences can have a significant effect on course completion and progress, especially in academic courses. They can also compound student stress and anxiety if they are trying to catch up to their peers after being away for days or weeks. If your child is planning to be away for more than four consecutive days, please complete the **Notification of Extended Absence** form, which is available in the central office. This form helps the school, and your child's teachers, plan for the extended absence and ensure continued learning progress and achievement of academic goals.

Attendance is a shared responsibility between school staff, students, and home. If you're facing challenges related to attendance, or have any questions, please reach out anytime - we're all here to help your child achieve their goals.

Let's keep the momentum from Semester 1 going in Semester 2. See you in class!

Sincerely,

Jon Dowswell
Vice Principal



A science fair poster with a dark blue background. At the top, there are three illustrations: a pink atom with a red nucleus and yellow/blue electrons on the left; a magnifying glass in the center; and a purple planet with orange rings and yellow/orange electrons on the right. The title 'Science Fair' is in large, colorful, 3D letters. Below the title, there are two dates: 'GFSS - March 10th 9am -12pm' and 'BCSS - March 18th 9am - 12pm'. To the left of these dates is a molecular structure diagram, and to the right is a grey atom diagram. Below the dates, it says 'Open to the public from 11am-12pm only' and 'Register Here' with a URL. Further down, it says 'Grade 2-12 are welcome to participate in Science Fair'. Below that, it says 'Shirt Size Registration by February 5th 2026' with another URL. At the bottom, it says 'After school Science Club: Hutton 3:30pm - 4:30pm' and 'Resource:' with a URL. On the bottom left is an illustration of a flask with purple liquid, and on the bottom right is a colorful spiral galaxy.

School District 51

Science Fair

GFSS - March 10th 9am -12pm
BCSS - March 18th 9am - 12pm


Open to the public from 11am-12pm only
Register Here
<https://forms.office.com/r/9EtFOIzwL3>


Grade 2-12 are welcome to participate
in Science Fair


Shirt Size Registration by February 5th 2026
<https://forms.office.com/r/8Z1FeiVNwQ>

After school Science Club:
Hutton 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Resource:
<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>









THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Office of the Vice-President
UBC Health


GOING RURAL 2026

OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL HEALTHCARE




Tuesday, January 27th






4:30 - 8:00 PM PST



Virtual via Gather Town




FREE Drop-In Event


- ✓ Hear from rural students in health programs
- ✓ Learn pathways to medicine, nursing, pharmacy & more
- ✓ Meet admissions reps & get tips for applying

4:30 PM	Attendee Check-In
5:00 PM	What's it like to work in rural healthcare? <i>Experiences from Students on Rural Rotations</i>
6:00 PM	Program Info Session + Exhibitor Booths
7:00 PM	Education Pathways and Advice for <i>Students Interested in Rural Healthcare Careers</i>

LEARN MORE
& REGISTER:



ementoringbc.com/event



· F O U N D R Y ·
KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

free
BOWLING

Come hang out and get your best
bowling game on!
Snacks provided (come early for pizza)



**YOUTH 12-24
CAREGIVERS
& FAMILIES**

FEB 1ST, 2-5 PM

Pinheads Bowling | 7227 2 St, Grand Forks, BC VoH
1Ho

· FOUNDRY ·
KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

**FREE
GAMES**

**@ THE BOARD ROOM
CAFE**

for youth 12-24

FEB 2ND

3:30-5:30PM

Board Game Cafe | 353
Market Ave, Grand Forks, BC
VOH 1H0

SNACKS PROVIDED

Selkirk College's Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) at BCCRR



WED FEBRUARY 11TH

5 PM - 6:30 PM

**BOUNDARY CHILDCARE
RESOURCE & REFERRAL**

162 72ND AVE GRAND FORKS

Learn about pathways to completing
Early Childhood Care and Education
in your home community.

Come meet with Selkirk College
instructors to learn about
completion your ECCE credential or
Advanced Certificate in Inclusive
Practices or Infant Toddler
Education.

Refreshments will be provided.

