



Griffin News

September 2019 Edition



NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM ÉCOLE GLENBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL
"TOGETHER WE SUCCEED — ENSEMBLE ON RÉUSSIT"



Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As I write this, it is only seven o'clock and it is already getting dark. I guess that means that the first month of school is almost done! The great thing is that we still have lots of time ahead. As usual, we have some new staff members this year. Hopefully you will get a chance to meet them at the up and coming PAC sponsored "Welcome Back BBQ" on Wednesday Sept. 25. Joining us this year in resource are Ms. Dewar, Mrs. Truong and Mrs. Somerford. Ms. Larkin has a 6/7 class on the third floor and Mr. Francois has a grade 8 class in Portable 1. Mr. Dayrit is making sure lots of good sounds continue to come out of the band room, and our new counselor Mrs. Sasakura makes sure lots of positive thoughts continue to come out of the counseling area.

As a staff, we greatly appreciate your patience and support as the students settle into their new classes and routines. Our school goal again this year is to focus on Mindfulness and to help everyone in the building develop skills to support themselves, others and their environment on a daily basis.

We have a number of activities coming up in the next few weeks. First, as I mentioned earlier, we have the Welcome Back BBQ. This will be held on the basketball courts outside the door near the gym. Come out to this PAC event, have a hot dog and put a face to some of the school staff names that you hear. Next week we will have our annual Terry Fox run. Last year the students raised over \$5000.00 to support cancer research and we plan on reaching that same level again this year. I know the PAC will be looking for volunteers to help with both the BBQ and the Terry Fox run so it would be great to have you out to help.

At the end of the month we will be recognizing Orange shirt week. We will start the week by having presenters speak to the students about the residential school experience and its impact on Indigenous people. We will finish the week with a presentation of The Raven's Story.

I realize that I put this in the newsletter at the beginning of every year, but as it is about the safety of our students I will put it in again. In an effort to keep things as safe as possible for the students, if you are driving your child to school dropping them off half a block away is helpful. Blocking traffic to let your child out, who then cuts across the street instead of using the crosswalk can cause dangerous situations for both your child and others. Thank you for your help with this issue.

I am looking forward to a great year, and I hope to see you at PAC meetings, events, and around the school.

Mr. Chris Evans, *Principal*

Address: 701 Park Crescent, New Westminster, BC V3L 5V4

Phone: 604-517-5940

Principal: cevans@sd40.bc.ca Vice-Principal: ttrieu@sd40.bc.ca Office: glenbrook@sd40.bc.ca

Need-to-Know

This is a reminder to all parents that Glenbrook is a Nut Aware school! Please be advised that we have students among us with severe, sometimes anaphylactic allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. We ask that you please provide your child with peanut & nut-free alternatives for their snacks and lunches to help keep their classmates safe!



IMPORTANT: School Cash Online

As you may know, the school district has moved to an online system called School Cash that allows parents & guardians to pay for items such as field trips, sports teams, fundraising, etc. **Registering for School Cash Online is mandatory throughout the school district, as permission forms for Walking Field Trips, Google Suite, and the Fruit & Veggie program MUST be filled out and signed through this system by Wednesday September 18th. Students will not be welcome to use Chromebooks or attend walking field trips until these forms have been completed.** All those who have not signed up yet have received an email— please register if you haven't already, and don't hesitate to let the office know if you encounter any problems—we are happy to help you!

Lates, Absences, & Appointments

If you are aware your child is going to be absent or late to school, please call 604-517-5935. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer your call. It's also a great idea to notify the office of your child's absences and appointments even if you have already let the teacher know - sometimes they are very busy and don't have time to pass the message on!

Our teachers begin taking attendance after the 8:40 morning bell - if your student arrives after this time, please have them check in at the office so we know they are present. If your student is marked absent in their first morning or first afternoon class and has not already arrived late or been reported absent by a parent, the office will call home to check in on them.

If you need to pick your child up during class time, please try to make them aware of their appointment beforehand if possible, and ask them to be ready and waiting at the office 5 minutes before pickup - this is greatly appreciated, as it helps to minimize interruptions to important class time.

We are a Closed Campus!

Our students are sometimes tempted to take a walk over to the mall for a special treat during the school day. In the interest of safety and security, students are to remain on campus for the duration of the school day. Going to MacDon-ald's, Safeway, Subway, Starbucks, or other stores is not permitted unless a parent or guardian picks up their child and accompanies them. **If a student forgot to bring a lunch to school, they must call home to get one, or their parent must pick them up to take them out for lunch.**

All students have been made aware of this policy; if they choose to leave campus on their own to purchase food from one of the local establishments, their parents will be contacted.

Finally, it has been brought to the administration's attention that in the past some students are making and/or receiving *Skip The Dishes* and other similar outside food orders during lunch hour. **This is a notice to all students and parents that École Glenbrook Middle School does not permit food delivery from 3rd party services, as it means that students may end up interacting with strangers without the knowledge or supervision of responsible adults. This is an issue of safety that affects all students, and we thank you for your help and consideration in this matter.**

Safety to and from School

It is important that we continually stress the importance of using crosswalks, sidewalks, and overpasses, and frequently remind students about following safe traffic and road rules. Students should be cautious and fully aware of their surroundings—they should avoid using their cellphones and listening to loud music.

There is a crossing guard at McBride & 8th Ave who will assist students from the Chevron station corner over to the Justice Institute corner. Students can then proceed to the overpass for safe crossing to EGMS. When going home, students are asked to use the overpass and then cross at the same corner. We also ask that parents take extra care when dropping off and picking up your children from school:



- Please drive slowly on Park Crescent and Glenbrook North
 - Watch for pedestrians
 - Don't block the crosswalk
- Please park in legal, designated areas on the street

Important Dates, Terry Fox, Lost & Found

Important Dates:

Monday September 16 - PAC meeting, 7 pm at Glenbrook

Tuesday September 17 - Fuel Up! Parent Tasting & Info Night, 6 to 9 pm at Glenbrook

Wednesday September 18 - School Cash Online permission forms due

Wednesday September 18 - Student Photo Day

Monday September 23 - Non-Instructional Day (no school for students!)

Tuesday September 24 - New lunch program begins

Wednesday September 25 - Welcome Back BBQ, 5:30 pm at Glenbrook

Thursday September 26 - Terry Fox Run

September 30 to October 4th - Orange Shirt week

Wednesday October 2 - Collaboration day for staff, 11:45 early dismissal

Wednesday & Thursday, October 9 & 10 - Student-Led conferences, 12:10 early dismissal

Monday October 14 - Thanksgiving statutory holiday - NO SCHOOL!

Wednesday & Thursday, October 16 & 17 - Grade 6 Immunizations

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 22 & 23 - PAC Family Photo Night

Friday October 25 - Provincial Pro-D Day (no school for students!)



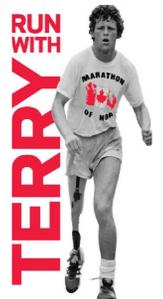
Lost and Found

Has your child misplaced any items of clothing, school supplies, water bottles, shoes, or anything else? Just from the first day of school, we already have a quite a number of items here in the lost and found located near the school office.

We strongly urge students to stop by and check it out regularly - they may be reunited with their missing belongings! **If it is an item of higher value, such as a phone, an iPod, glasses, keys, or jewelry, they may also wish to check with the office, as these sometimes get turned in to the secretaries for safekeeping.**

Terry Fox

It's September, which means it's time for our annual Terry Fox Campaign! This Sunday is the National Terry Fox Run, where communities all around Canada and the World will be holding their Terry Fox Runs to commemorate Terry. Glenbrook will be honouring Terry Fox's legacy on September 26th (10:15 – 12:10), the National Terry Fox Run Day! This past Friday, we kicked off our Terry Fox Fundraising campaign! Team Terry was busy getting packages ready for students. Pledge forms will go home today, and our school online website is ready for online donations! Click here: [EGMS Terry Fox Fundraising Page](#). Last year, we raised over \$5700! **This year, our goal is to raise \$6830, a pledge of \$10 from each Griffin! All donations over \$20 will receive an official tax receipt.** We will keep you posted on some of the fun challenges that will go with reaching our goal!



Parent volunteers are needed for the run - please email Ms. Trieu at tttrieu@sd40.bc.ca

Team Terry thanks you for your support!

NEW: Fuel Up! Lunch Program

As some of you may know, the New Westminster School District has launched a new school lunch program aiming to make available food programs to all of our schools so that ". . . *no child is hungry and every child eats healthy.*" (Board motion, June 2017). The school district has partnered with Ready Maid Meals to provide parents with the option to order a healthy and nutritious lunch on a daily, weekly, monthly or occasional basis.

This program was piloted in three of our district schools in 2018/2019 and is now ready to expand to the remainder of our elementary and middle schools. Lunch options will now be available for ordering at your child's school. More information can be found at: <https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/fuel-up/overview/>

Parents will be able to log in online to our secure portal to choose menu options for their child(ren) the week before the start of service at their school. For instructions on how to register for the program, please visit this link: <https://newwestschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FINAL-Creating-Your-Fuel-Up-Account.pdf>

The district also has a subsidy program for families who may be unable to purchase a meal for their students. A confidential application for subsidy, and instructions for how to access the subsidy form is also available on the website. <https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/fuel-up/subsidies/>

Questions and comments regarding this program can be directed to: Fuelup@sd40.bc.ca

As more information regarding this new lunch program becomes available, emails will be sent home to parents. Parents who are not able to make it to the September 17th information night will also have the opportunity to learn more about the program and menu options at our September 25th Welcome Back BBQ - Ready Maid Meals will be in attendance, and parents will have the chance to try some of the new nutritious items and ask questions. **We also ask all parents to note that under this new program, all lunch orders must be placed at least 48 hours in advance of delivery - this means that during our transition to exclusively online ordering, both students and parents should be extra mindful about making sure that students come to school prepared with lunch and snacks if an order has not been placed, as our old hot lunch program is no longer available.**



We also ask all parents to note that under this new program, all lunch orders must be placed at least 48 hours in advance of delivery - this means that during our transition to exclusively online ordering, both students and parents should be extra mindful about making sure that students come to school prepared with lunch and snacks if an order has not been placed, as our old hot lunch program is no longer available.

We look forward to a successful launch, and to providing healthy and nutritious lunch options for our students here at Glenbrook!

Canadian Parents for French

Bonjour and welcome to a new school year! Thanks to all the families who came out to our Back to School swim at Moody Park on September 2nd.

Canadian Parents for French - New Westminster promotes French Language learning in our school district, in French Immersion (both Early and Late) and Core French. We help the district facilitate cultural experiences in French for all students and provide resources to help parents help their students in their language journey. For more information about CPF, please visit: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/>

2019 Annual General Meeting - Monday, September 30th @ 7pm in the Library at Ecole Qayqayt. Come out and see what CPF is all about and how you can help support students in our district. Any new to EFI (kindergarten or Grade 1) and/or LFI (Grade 6) parents who attend this meeting will receive a FREE 1-membership to CPF (a \$25 value).

Membership Drive - if you would like to become a member of CPF, we are hosting our annual membership drive and if you join **before October 31st**, you will be entered to win some amazing prizes. More info can be found here: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/membership-drive/>

Parent Survival Night - Tuesday, October 15th @ 7 pm in the Library at Ecole Glenbrook. Save the Date! Parents are welcome to come and learn some survival skills to help support your student in their learning when you don't speak French!

If you have any questions or want more information, please email cpfnewwest@gmail.com.

Youth Programs, Sports, & Orange Shirt Day

New West Youth Programs

The City Of New Westminster Youth Services provides affordable afterschool programs, events and groups for youth at Glenbrook Middle School. Most of their programs are drop-in programs, and are included in the Youth Services Membership. This membership is \$17 / year and can be purchased in person with Mason Mellor, the GMS youth worker, or in person, over the phone, or online through New Westminster website or Recreation Centre.

Mondays: Leaders in Training (LIT), 3:15 to 5:15 pm in Glenbrook drama room

Tuesdays: Open Gym @ Centennial Community Center, 3-4 pm

Wednesdays: Youth Drop In, 3 to 5:30 pm (drop-ins begin Sept. 25th)

Fridays: Youth Drop In, 6:30 to 9 pm (drop-ins begin Sept. 25th)

Special Events:

Youth Skate Jam-Free Event (ages 11-18)

Friday September 20, 4 pm to 7 pm at Queens Park Arena

There will be a free BBQ, DJs on site, art activities, and prize giveaways!

Membership Party

Friday September 27th, 3 pm to 9 pm in the Glenbrook Gym

For more information on Youth Programs and events, please contact East End youth Worker Mason Mellor:

604-834-2007, mmellor@newwestcity.ca

newwestyouth.ca

Glenbrook Sports

Our Grade 8 volleyball season is about to launch - please keep an eye out for announcements and emails home regarding tryouts, teams, and upcoming events!

Grade 7 volleyball will begin in November; we are hoping to have a grade 6 team as well, but this is yet to be confirmed. More information will follow.

Mr. Blatherwick will be coaching cross-country teams for all grades this year; if any Grade 8 students are interested in participating, please see Mr. Blatherwick in room 111 to sign up before Tuesday, September 25. Grade 6 & 7 students should sign up with him by Tuesday October 1.

For all other questions about extracurricular sports programming, please email Athletic Director Adam Alvaro at aalvaro@sd40.bc.ca



ORANGE SHIRT DAY: September 30

The Province of British Columbia has proclaimed September 30 to be Orange Shirt Day—a day to honour the Indigenous children who survived residential schools, and to remember those who didn't. Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake, B.C. in 2013 where, at a commemoration event at a local residential school, a story was told about a young female student named Phyllis who had her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day at the school. The orange shirt is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and families due to residential schools.

Since it began in 2013, the phrase "Every Child Matters" has been used as part of the movement to recognize the value of every child and for communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. Learn more at www.angeshirtday.org



All New Westminster schools will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day. Students are encouraged to wear orange that day. There will be activities and lessons in the school that will foster students' understanding of the impact of residential schools. This is just one of many actions that New Westminster Schools will be undertaking as part of the school district's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

As part of a school-wide initiative to reduce waste & respect the environment, the office will no longer be giving out plastic cutlery to students who forget theirs - please bring utensils from home, or ask a friend to borrow theirs and wash them before use!

Glenbrook Parents Advisory Council



A Message From Your Parents Advisory Council



Hello parents, and welcome back to another school year!
If you have always wondered "What is a PAC", please click the link below for more information and join us at a meeting.

<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/members/pac-dpac/what-is-a-pac>

The 2019-2020 EGMS PAC executive council includes 4 returning parents and 4 new-to-the school parents. We are happy to be working together, and we invite and encourage new or returning members to join us on the executive - we have a number of Member-at-Large positions available, and we look forward to meeting as many EGMS parents as possible!

All parents are invited to attend our first PAC meeting on Monday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the school library. Whether you are new to Glenbrook or returning for another year, we believe the input of everyone at meetings is important, welcomed, and encouraged.

If you are unable to attend, but would like more information, updates, and / or future PAC minutes and agendas, or if you have questions and would like to be added to our email list, please email the PAC at: egmspac@gmail.com.

Our first event is coming up quickly! Mark your calendars for the Welcome Back BBQ on WED, September 25th. This will run from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. We will be at the back of the school near the basketball courts. Please note that if it is raining on the night of the BBQ, we will move inside. Come for the opportunity to meet the teachers, check out the first floor of the school, enjoy some sample foods and socialize with the Glenbrook community. Purchase a hot dog, drink, chips and enjoy a treat. See poster below for more info.

If you are able to volunteer at the BBQ, please see link below and sign up.

<https://volunteersignup.org/LKC3L>



PAC Meeting Dates:

October 21st
November 18th
January 20th
February 24th
April 20th
May 25th

All PAC meetings are held in the school library at 7:00 pm

Grad Committee

Calling Grade 8 parents! Our Grade 8 Grad Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 24th, 2019 at 7 pm in the school Library. If you are interested in planning or volunteering at Grad, please attend this meeting. If you cannot attend but would like to help, please let us know at egmspac@gmail.com

Student Clubs and Activities

- **Team E Band** - takes place on Mondays at lunch in the Band room
- **Environmental Club** - takes place on Tuesdays at lunch in room 303
- **Drawing Club** - begins September 23, takes place Mondays at lunch in the Art room. Do you want to turn off your brain's chitter-chatter and train your hand to follow what the eye sees? Do you feel like you could be this generation's Da Vinci, but you would like some guidance and practice? Or, do you just love to doodle and want to doodle even more? Then join us in drawing club! To sign up, simply show up Monday in the Art room during lunch on or before September 23 (our first session) - if you are interested, signing up is recommended, as spaces are limited! Please bring your own pencils and erasers.
 - **Chess Club** - takes place on Mondays & Wednesdays, at lunch in room 316
- **Drop In & Draw** - takes place on Wednesdays at lunch in room 208. Students can come and draw, or do other art in a relaxed setting with Mme. Sprangers!
 - **GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance)** - takes place Tuesdays at lunch in the Art Room
- **Leadership Club** - takes place on Tuesdays, alternating between lunch in the multipurpose room and after school in the drama room
- **Yearbook Club** - begins September 25, takes place on Wednesdays in the Art Room. Have a say on this year's yearbook by being a part of the Yearbook Club! We meet every Wednesday during lunch. What theme will we have this year? What fun things will we add inside? How will the cover be chosen? YOU DECIDE! When we start designing the yearbook, we will sometimes also meet after lunch, so please keep that in mind. If you decide to be a part of Yearbook Club, participation is mandatory, so make sure not to miss any meetings!
 - **Peer Tutoring** - To Be Announced, will begin once teacher availability has been confirmed
 - **Knitting Club** - begins September 26, takes place Thursdays at lunch in room 320
- **Indigenous Club (aka "Sherry's Group")** - takes place on Tuesdays & Thursdays at lunch in the computer lab. For students of First Nations descent.
- **Middle Eastern Dance Club** - begins September 26, takes place on Thursdays at lunch in the Drama room. Come and shake off the cobwebs as part of this fun club! You will learn several basic steps that are used in many different styles of Middle Eastern dance: figure eights, half-moons, and snake arms, oh my! We will use canes, scarves, and more. Once basic steps are established, we will work through a choreography together! Signing up is required; please sign up with Mrs. Jurgensen.
- **The Glenbrook Gazette** - To Be Announced, club will begin meeting mid-October. For the school year, we are looking for students who love art, writing, photography and design to help put together a 2 to 3 page spread for each monthly issue of our newsletter that both celebrates our students' achievements and creativity, and showcases life at Glenbrook from *your* unique perspectives. Your contributions could take the form of a journalistic article, a poem, an advice column, an art piece, perhaps some photos (with teacher permission, of course!), or you could help with editing, layout and page design. I would like to include the first issue in the November newsletter, and we would have 8 issues total this year, November through June.

Our specific meeting days and times are yet to be determined, but if this is something you are interested in being involved in, please come see me at the office and put your name on a list so that I can get in touch with you when we are ready to start meeting. If you or your parents have any questions, you can stop by the office and talk to me, or email me, Ms. Jull, at kjull@sd40.bc.ca. I look forward to learning about your brilliant ideas!
- **Baking Club** - takes place after school on the second-to-last Thursday of every month in room 132, and the last Thursday of every month in the Home Ec. Room. The first Baking Meeting will be on SEPTEMBER 19 at 3:10PM in Room 132, and the first Baking Day will be on SEPTEMBER 26 at 3:10PM in Room 104. Students must be present at the Baking Meeting to participate on Baking Day.
 - **Best Buddies Club** - beginning in October 2019, dates to be announced.