



Griffin News

JANUARY 2020

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

Principal's Message

With the many challenges associated with the use of social media for middle school students, we thought that the article below would be a useful and hopefully helpful guide for parents and guardians on how to help our children navigate the world of social media. Although we do agree that there are many positive and productive uses of social media, we are becoming increasingly concerned about how some of our students are interacting with each other on these platforms. We are also concerned about some of the activities that students are engaging in while using social media.

Our school takes several pro-active measures to educate our students on the appropriate use of social media including lessons through the Physical and Health Education Curriculum (PHE), social media guest speakers, classroom discussions, school district messages sent home to parents, etc. Despite this, we are finding more and more that the negative interactions that occur before and after school and on weekends among students filters into our school when the students meet up again. For our school's efforts to have an impact on students, the reality is it is what happens outside of school that really solidifies what students are learning at school. The onus is on families to monitor their children's use of social media to help them navigate a digital world that is often not monitored by adults who can give them guidance.

We will certainly deal with the fallout from the negative interactions that occur outside of school hours that filter into our school when it affects kids' relationships with each other and ultimately their learning. We will also continue to educate our students on how their use of social media leaves a digital imprint about themselves that can have positive or negative consequences later in life. However, we know that without parents monitoring their children's use of social media, our efforts will often have a limited impact. If you don't know what your kids are up to on their devices, we encourage you to start up an open and honest dialogue with them. What are the basic social media rules for middle schoolers? Adapted from "Common Sense Media" (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/social-media/what-are-the-basic-social-media-rules-for-middle-schoolers>)

The reality is that most kids start developing online relationships around the age of 8, usually through virtual worlds such as Club Penguin. By age 10, they've progressed to multiplayer games and sharing their digital creations and homemade videos on sites such as YouTube. By age 13, millions of kids have created accounts on social-networking sites such as Instagram.

Here are the essential safety and responsibility guidelines for middle schoolers:

□ Follow the rules. Many social sites have an age minimum of 13 for both legal and safety/privacy reasons. Encourage kids to stick with age-appropriate sites.

- Tell your kids to think before they post. Remind them that everything can be seen by a vast, invisible audience (otherwise known as friends-of-friends-of-friends). Each family will have different rules, but, for middle school kids, it's a good idea for parents to have access to what their kids are doing online, at least at first, to be sure that what's being posted is appropriate. Parents can help keep kids from doing something they'll regret later.

- Make sure kids set their privacy settings. Privacy settings aren't foolproof, but they can be helpful. Take the time to learn about default settings and how to change privacy settings on your kids' favorite sites, and teach your kids how to control their privacy.

- Kindness counts. Lots of sites have anonymous applications such as "bathroom walls" or "honesty boxes" that allow users to tell their friends what they think of them. Rule of thumb: If your kids wouldn't say it to someone's face, they shouldn't post it.

This was a message that was sent out by a colleague named Andrew Graham. I felt that it was a good message and have copied it with his permission.

Wishing you many sunny and warm days ahead!

Mr. Chris Evans, Principal

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Reminders and Other Important Info

VERY IMPORTANT : NON-RETURNING STUDENTS

Dear parents, as we move into the new year, our administration already has an eye towards next year's enrollment numbers. It is of great help to us for parents who know their child will be enrolled at another school/will not be returning to Glenbrook to please let the school know as soon as possible by filling out the *Leaving School* form attached to this email.

PLEASE READ THE BELOW GUIDELINES CAREFULLY:

If you live within the New Westminster district & your child is simply moving on from Grade 8 at Glenbrook to attend high school at NWSS, please note that you do not need to fill out the form.

If your currently grade 8 child is moving out of the New Westminster school district to attend another high school, please fill out the form.

If you live within the Glenbrook catchment and your currently grade 6 or 7 child will be moving to another school within the New West district, or out of the New West district, please fill out the form.

If you have any questions about whether you should fill out this form, or any other questions, please don't hesitate to call the office at 604-517-5940. Thank you!

Important Dates



Monday January 20th — Glenbrook PAC Meeting, 7 pm

Thursday January 23rd — District PAC Meeting at Herbert Spencer

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Tuesday February 4th — Collaboration Day, dismissal at 11:45 am

Fridays January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st — Cypress Ski & Snowboard Club

Thursday February 13th — Entrepreneurial Fair, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Friday February 14th — Non-Instructional Day, no school for students!

Monday February 17th — Family Day, NO SCHOOL!



Yearbooks

The 2019/2020 Glenbrook Yearbooks will only be available at the advance \$35.00 price until the end of day on January 17th. After that, they will go up to the regular \$40.00 price! Get yours now on School Cash Online, or get it personalized by ordering directly through jostens.ca!

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Glenbrook Parents Advisory Council

Lost and Found

Has your child misplaced any items of clothing, school supplies, water bottles, shoes, or anything else? At the end of December, just before the holiday break we ended up having to donate several bags worth of unclaimed personal items from the Lost & Found to charity.

In the new year, we strongly urge students and parents to stop by and check out the collection regularly - your child may be reunited with their missing belonging! **If it is an item of higher value, such as keys, a phone, a compass card, glasses, or jewelry, they may also check with the office, as those generally get turned in to the secretaries for safekeeping.**

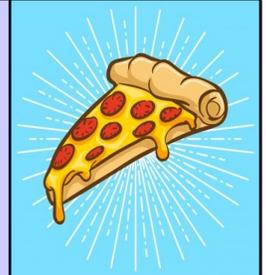
Glenbrook Parents Advisory Council

Fun Lunch coming soon!

The EGMS PAC is working to put together a monthly Fun Lunch.

Please watch your emails for upcoming dates, and remember these kinds of events are available to our students if enough parent volunteers sign up.

More information to follow!



The Glenbrook Entrepreneurial Fair will be coming up on February 13th 2020, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Students can book a half table or a full table to sell their unique products or services. Thank you to the students who have already signed up! If you would still like to be included, please book your table as soon as possible. Registration deadline is: February 8th. Please see attachment for registration form, fee, and more information.

The EGMS PAC welcomes everyone to be a part of this parent organization and thanks all who have volunteered to help with the Welcome BBQ, photo night, spirit wear, staff appreciation lunch, Christmas hampers, meetings and more! We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and events in 2020. Our next PAC meeting is January 20th at 7:00pm in the school Library. We will be discussing the Entrepreneurial Fair, Hot lunch ideas and more - we'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Our February 24th meeting will feature Guest Speaker Karen Janzen who will speak on the topic of Vaping. Mark your calendars.

The SD40 DPAC (District Parents Advisory Council) also invites you to come out and participate in their monthly meetings. This fall we've learned so much, including updates at the new high school, the expansion for QEE, the purchase of property in Sapperton for a new school build (in the 10 year plan) and so much more. Guest speakers have included the Superintendent of Schools - Karim Hachlaf, Directors of Learning - Quirina Gamblen and Bruce Cunnings, NRPD Constable Michelle White, CPF Rep - Sloane Drennan as well as various School Board Trustees. Our next meeting, also featuring guest speaker Karen Janzen will be on Thursday, January 23rd at Herbert Spencer Elementary School at 7:00pm. Check out our facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/dpacnw> or join us on twitter at <https://twitter.com/DpacNew> to keep up to date!

Finally, that PAC would like to remind you that the district's next **Parents' Night Out** event, *Managing Stress and Anxiety in Children and Youth*, is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Justice Institute. Dr. Linda Uyeda, a family physician whose medical expertise includes neuroscience, parenting, trauma and attachment, works at Fraser Health Youth clinics and the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital. Dr. Uyeda will explore the causes of stress as well as prevention and healing techniques. Please see the attached flyer, and register for this event at the following link: <https://pno-stress.eventbrite.ca>

Thank you!

Thank You!

Our whole Glenbrook staff would like to sincerely thank our Glenbrook parents & community for their generous donations to the staff appreciation lunch that was held in December. We are always thankful for your continued support & appreciation!

We'd also like to thank those parents & students who so thoughtfully and unexpectedly gave gifts, cards, and kind words to the office staff & the rest of the Glenbrook team during the holiday season—it is so wonderful to be warmly thought of, and please know that the sentiments are returned in kind!

Inclement Weather Policy

Re: Snow Days

In preparation for the possibility of severe weather conditions, we would like to remind parents/guardians that all schools in the New Westminster School District will do their best remain OPEN, if at all possible, during inclement weather, including snowfalls.

In rare instances where a school closure is warranted, the decision will be made by 6:30 a.m. at the latest and will be announced over the radio stations CKNW AM 980 and CBC AM 690. Phone calls and emails may also be made to parents and guardians who are part of our SchoolMessenger System. Further, school and district websites will be updated accordingly.

Student safety is our priority and we ask that if a parent/guardian feels that a child cannot travel safely to school then they should make alternate arrangements for their child. Student absences due to unsafe travel to school during inclement weather conditions will be excused. We also encourage parents/guardians to make advance alternate plans in the event of an unexpected school closure.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please speak with your school principal.

2020 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education

Nominations for the 2020 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education are now open! The BC government is once again proud to recognize the enormous contributions of British Columbia's exceptional teachers, administrators, and support staff who are vital to the cultural, economic, and social well-being of the province. These awards recognize all outstanding education professionals who have made exceptional contributions to benefit their school, their students, and their communities.

The awards are open to all education professionals within the BC K-12 public, independent, or First Nations School Systems. There are several different categories in which educational staff can be recognized (you can read more about them in the letter attached to this email), and nominations are welcomed from all BC citizens, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, and community organizations. The deadline to submit nominations is April 30, 2020.

Additional information on these awards can be found at: www.gov.bc.ca/excellenceineducation