

North Glenmore Gator Gazette



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November 2015

SOARING FROM OUR SUMMIT

On Oct. 9th, we held our first-ever whole-school community Summit. In the morning, parents, staff and community members engaged in rich discussion around what it is that we value the most for the children in our care. After many conversations, the room filled with more than 80 participants came up with just three strengths/themes that we identified as caring about the most:

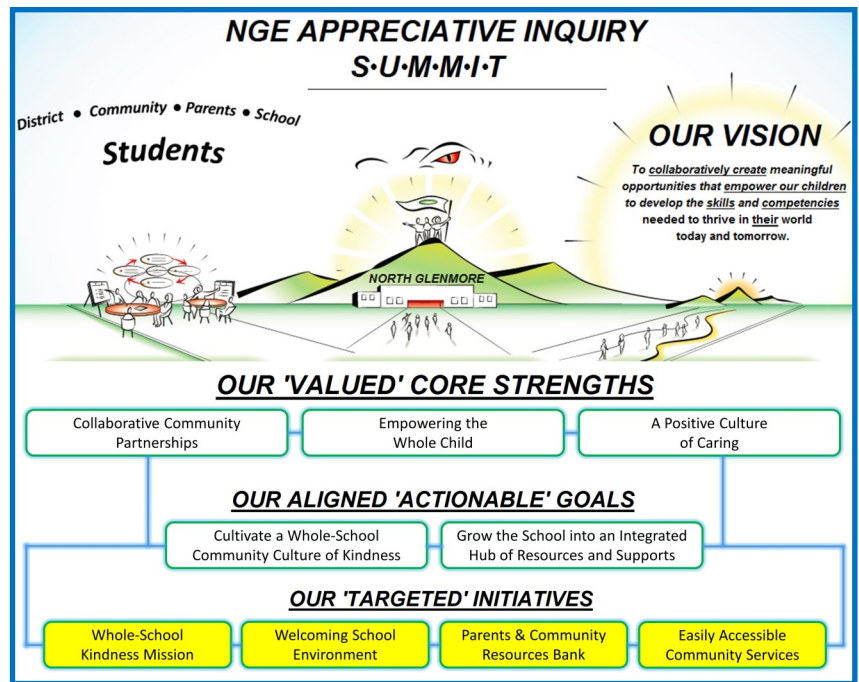
- 1) our **Community Collaborative Partnerships**
- 2) our **Positive Culture of Caring**
- 3) our work in **Empowering the Whole Child**

Using these three major themes, the entire Summit spent the afternoon planning ways that we could grow these strengths even stronger. As a whole-school community, we came up with just a handful of meaningful and powerful initiatives that we'll be focusing on moving forward:

- Further developing our **Whole-School Kindness Missions**
- Growing our already strong **Welcoming School Environment**
- Building a **Parent/Community Resources Bank** we could access to enrich student learning
- Deepening our connections and creating a hub with our local **Community Services**

We invite all parents, staff and community members to be a part of these actionable initiatives moving forward. We have already started work in all 4 areas and have committees forming to help us continue to come up with creative ways to strengthen each of these meaningful initiatives.

Please contact the school to learn more on how you can get involved and even join a committee. You can also find updates and the videos from the Summit posted on our NGE website ([CLICK HERE](#)).



Picture Retake Day Tuesday, November 3rd

If your child is having their picture retaken, please send a note of permission to your child's classroom teacher on Picture Retake Day. This will confirm clear home communication to our photographer.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Our Assembly will begin at 12:15 pm on Nov. 10th. Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Sparks, Beavers and Cadets are encouraged to wear their uniforms for the assembly. Poppies will be distributed before the assembly and students are encouraged to make a small donation in remembrance of those who made sacrifices in the past. Parents/community members welcome.





Grade 6 Volleyball GO GATORS!

This year we have over 30 girls and boys who have signed up to play on the Grade 6 Volleyball teams. The teams have shown great enthusiasm, sportsmanship and skill development even though it is early in the season! The players are representing NGE. well; showing off their great attitudes and excellent skills! The coaches: Mrs. Letkeman, Mrs. Weststrate & Mrs. Bowen (girls) and Mr. Owens & Mr. Smith (boys) look forward to watching the teams grow over the course of November, where games against other schools will be scheduled. A huge thanks to the coaches, volunteer parent drivers and of course, the Grade 6's! Have a terrific season!!!



SPIRIT DAY

Guess what's coming? It's white . . . it's cold . . . it's sparkly. Spirit Club presents - White Winter Wonderland

Day! On Friday, November 27th wear as much white as you can . . . be creative. Don't forget mittens, toques, earmuffs and scarves.

Have fun!



Fire Chief for a Day

The Kelowna Fire Department hosted a fun evening for all Schools in Kelowna in October. The evening included dinner provided by McDonalds, presentation of a T-shirt, certificate and photos with the Fire Chief. There was also a number of exciting fire safety activities. Congratulations to Max. R., Gr 3, whose name was drawn to be this year's NGE Fire Chief for the Day!

PHONE MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS.....

These should only be for emergency situations (i.e. car problems on your way, or an appointment scheduled during the day). Otherwise, please use the student planners for Grades 2-6 to communicate any messages regarding after school arrangements different from the norm (Kindergarten and Grade 1 students send a note to teacher). Play dates should be made from home (no phone calls please). Please be considerate of the many phone calls we receive through our office on a daily basis and try to keep your calls to very important messages only.

Thank you!



Off the Shelf...



Don't forget about our Birthday Book Draw! Our October draw winners were Brielle L., and Ian V. Don't forget to enter if your birthday is in November!!

Our Scholastic Book Fair last month was a huge success! Overall, we sold more than \$6700 worth of products, a school record! This meant we earned over \$2000 in cash and books! From this, each classroom was given books to add to their individual class libraries. Check with your son or daughter to see which books were added to their classroom! As always, we'd like to give a big THANK YOU to all of our wonderful parent volunteers who helped make our book fair such a success. We really couldn't do it without you!!

We have just begun our fall and winter Reading Club. Students have been given their reading logs and can bring them to the library for stickers and prizes. We have weekly draw prizes as well as prizes for completed reading logs. The reading club will continue until after Christmas, so keep on reading!

We have also begun reading for the annual Battle of the Books. Regular meetings will start after Christmas, but all of the books are available to read now. Come and check out our Battle of the Books section! You can still sign up even if you missed the initial meeting. See Mrs. Horning and she will get you started!

Just a reminder that library books can be signed out for up to three weeks before they are considered overdue. If more time is needed with a particular book, it can be renewed for an additional three weeks. If your son or daughter has overdue library books, please return them as quickly as possible. If materials are lost, please see Mrs. Horning or Mrs. D'Orazio about replacing or paying for these materials. Students with too many overdue library books may lose their library privileges and will not be able to take books home.

Don't forget about our Birthday Book Draw! Our August winner was Amanda R., September winner was Alexa R. and October draw winners were Annie L. and Lily J.A.. Don't forget to enter if your birthday is in November!



STUDENT ILLNESS

Thank you to parents for continuing to keep your children at home if they are feeling ill. At times children feel fine in the morning, but then feel poorly later in the day. In these cases, we are being diligent about sending students home. NGE has had it's share of colds/flu's, however we do not have an abnormally high absenteeism at this time (good news)! Let's keep washing our hands and staying on top of illness during this flu season.

After School Pick-Up

Just a reminder that supervision takes place after school until 2:45pm. At that time, a bell signals the students that if they have not been picked up as usual, they should report to the office.

Parents please be aware that you can not offer a ride home to a friend or neighbour without parent permission and letting the school know.



Yearbooks

Again this year, the NGE PAC has formed a committee to both create and sell yearbooks. Big thanks to our PAC Yearbook Coordinators, Patti, Terri, Kathryn, Kathy & Shelley.

Parents, if you have any pictures from school events throughout the year that you feel would be appropriate for the yearbook, please email them to: patti.ostrickoff@sd23.bc.ca.

Fruit and Vegetable Program!

This year, we are again participants of the BC School Fruit & Vegetable Program. Students receive a free fruit or vegetable snack 13 times during the school year. This snack is not meant to replace food normally consumed at recess or lunch. The goal is to increase fruit/vegetable consumption and expose children to healthy options that they may have yet to experience.

The program is being run this year by NGE parent **Cindy Shepherd**. Cindy will be providing us information throughout the year on the various fruits/vegetables we receive (why they are healthy, dishes you can make with them, etc).

Our next fruit/veggie = Baby Carrots (Nov. 17th)

Carrots are root vegetables and pack a powerful nutritious punch. They get their orange colour from beta-carotene, an antioxidant that our bodies convert to vitamin A which helps us to see in the dark. Carrots taste great simply washed and eaten or cut into carrot sticks. For a new twist on carrots try these:

- Grate a carrot into a small bowl for a fun snack on its own or throw into a salad.
- Cut carrots into sticks, drizzle with a small amount of olive oil and place in a single layer on a baking sheet. Roast at 425 degrees for 20-25 minutes until edges are browned.
- Cook carrots, mash and mix in with mashed potatoes for a fun colourful side dish.
- Make carrot ribbons: wash/peel a large carrot, use a peeler to peel long strings of carrot. Kids love to eat the long ribbons!



Morning 'Drop Zone' Program

Volunteers Needed!

THE GOAL: The 'Drop Zone' program (i.e. our Kiss & Drop) is a school based program designed to handle our students being transported to school during a short period of time while reducing vehicular congestion, and keeping our students safe.



We continue to need volunteers to run this program successfully. Please contact the school if you are able to volunteer!



PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m.** in the library.

All parents are invited to attend. We hope you'll join us! Babysitting will be provided by our Grade 6 students.

Safety Drills



NGE conducts a number of safety drills to ensure that students and staff know what to do in case of an emergency. Fire Drills are scheduled throughout the year. Earthquake Drills and Lockdown Drills (what to do if there is a danger in the building or on the playground) are scheduled once in the fall and once again in the springtime. Teachers work to reassure students during these drills that it is unlikely we will have an actual event. Parents may also want to reassure their children, particularly if you know they get nervous around safety issues. If your child is anxious about drills, please let your classroom teacher know so we can support if needed.



Battery Recycling Program

So what actually happens to those batteries the Gators drop into the battery recycling bin at the main office? Well, from the school, they are taken to The Battery Doctor here in Kelowna. From there, all the recycled batteries are shipped off to Teck Cominco in Trail which is located in the West Kootenays. At Cominco, all the metals and chemicals in the batteries are separated out in the smelter. These metals and chemicals then can be re-used rather than ending up at the dump.

Let's keep this going! Keep bringing those batteries to be recycled, in to the office.

A very gator thank you to **Brent Donnelly** for keeping us at the swamp as green as possible!





REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS



Written reports will be issued to students on Dec 10th. School-wide conferences are not scheduled with these reports. Individual conferences may be set up in situations where parents or teachers wish to discuss a child's progress further.

B.C. report cards use a provincial data base to enter marks and comments. The primary report cards indicate if students are not yet meeting, meeting or exceeding expectations for their grade level. The intermediate report cards provide comparative marks (A, B, C+, C, C-) which indicate a student's progress in relation to the curriculum and to other students within the same grade.

Students whose achievement does not meet the minimum standard of C- would receive either an "IEP" (Individualized Education Plan) if their special learning needs require program modification, or an "I" (In Progress) if their learning requires more time. Students receiving an "I" will be given a plan of action to be completed within a specified period of time in order to achieve a minimal mark and avoid a failing grade.

Although the report card template has comment headings in each curricular area, teachers will provide summary comments at the end of each report as in the past. If a curricular area was not a focus for assessment for the term, this subject will not show up on the report card.

Many teachers have already sent home a Parent Preview outlining the first term outcomes for their class. We hope this information is helpful to you in supporting your children's learning. If you would like to receive an extra copy of the learning outcomes at report card time, please contact your classroom teacher.



Proper Winter Wear

As the season is changing, getting colder and wetter, please remind students they need to dress appropriately for the playground. It is important for children to get fresh air and exercise during their day...so we need students to have the proper coats, hats, boots, etc. to enjoy themselves during their lunch and recess breaks.

Safe Play During Winter



The winter months often bring slippery sections on our playground. Students are continually reminded that they are not to slide on icy patches, and they are to stay off the adventure playground equipment if frosty or icy. Parents, please stay on the cleared paths, and help remind your children so that we can keep our "slip and fall" accidents to a minimum.

STARLAB



Our Grade 3 students are looking forward to having a visit from Starlab on Monday, November 30th. Starlab is an inflatable portable planetarium dome from the Vernon Science Center. This dome creates a dark, cloudless sky right inside our school. It is a realistic representation of the night sky. Starlab is the perfect complement to our curriculum. Star presentations range from an introduction to the wonder of the night sky for the less experienced astronomer, to an exploration of deep space for more experienced star gazers.

Nut Free Information

NGE is a Nut Aware School. Our young children with these allergies are still developing their skills to manage their condition and are not fully capable of doing so until they are closer to their teenage years.

To support our Nut Awareness at NGE, Parents are asked to:

- Carefully read food labels of items being sent to school
- Encourage your children to not share their lunch with others
- Connect with your child's teacher if you are sending treats and are unsure of student allergies in the class
- Label any food items that are using nut-alternatives (ex. Pea-Butter)



We'd also like to thank our NGE Parent, Craig Nielson, who has been supporting the school by finding us some nut-free classroom treat alternatives that our students with nut allergies can access whenever a class is having a special treat (ex. Cupcakes brought to school by a student). Thank you, Craig!

For more details around allergy awareness at NGE, please visit our website: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Community News

Family Active Night

The City of Kelowna Recreation & Cultural Services, Community Neighbourhoods Branch, in partnership with School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan), is proud to host "Family Active Night" at North Glenmore Elementary.

This is a parent participation program - where parents PLAY with their children!



Our first Families Get Active Night was a GREAT SUCCESS. Our next event will be **Friday, November 20th**. *Sign up forms will be sent home!*

CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL Babysitting Training & Home Alone Courses

November 14th & December 12th

TO REGISTER:

Margaret Boake - 250-317-2868 - m_boake@telus.net
Cheryl Stone - 250-575-5301 - cstoeKelowna@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.babysittingkelowna.com



Big White Ski & Board School

Information brochures now available in the office!

Tuesdays:

January 5, 12, 19
February 23, and March 3 & 10



Please see the Big White After School Program website for more details.

Worries and Woes

A presentation by guest speaker Dr. Lynn Miller

When: November 5, 2015

Where: the Laurel Building (1304 Ellis Street, Kelowna, BC)

For parents and families of children, youth, post-secondary/young adults: Learn about the anxiety disorder spectrum. Identify signs of anxiety. Become aware of the latest treatments, interventions, and research. Develop immediate techniques to help an anxious child, youth, or young adult (including test anxiety). Receive direction to community resources.

Grade 6 Bottle Drive!



The Grade 6 students are having a bottle drive to help raise funds for their upcoming special events, such as camp. We would GREATLY appreciate you bringing in your bottles to donate to the Grade 6 students' fundraising efforts.

Who: YOU!

What: Grade 6 Bottle Drive Fundraiser

When: Drop-off 8:30a.m.-10:00a.m., Wednesday January 6th - Friday January 8th, 2016
Official recycling on Friday January 8th from 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Where: North Glenmore Elementary
(Multipurpose Room)

How: Drop off your bottles at the shed beside the blue garbage bins in the teacher parking lot once the buses have let. Grade 6 students will be available to help you with your bottles throughout the week. If a Grade 6 student isn't there to receive your bottles, simply let the office know and students will be called to the office to help you get the bottles out of your vehicle. In order to avoid a mess, please do not bring bottles into the school. If these times don't work for you, no problem, just call or text April Unger at 250-870-3621 and she will be happy to arrange at time for you to bring them to her home.

And finally... **Why:** Because you want to help out our Grade 6 students!

Thank you very much for your support!



Please TURN OFF your Engines! School Zones are "NO Idling" zones - which includes our parking lot as well as surrounding streets. Please consider all the pollution you are creating for young lungs as you leave your car running while waiting for pick-up.