

North Glenmore Gator Gazette



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January 2016

*Additional Non-Instructional Days

The Board of Education approved February 9, 2016 and May 24, 2016 as additional district wide non-instructional days to help teachers prepare for the implementation of the revised curriculum.

**Non-Instructional Days: February 9 & May 24
(students don't attend)**

Please refer to page 5 of this newsletter for full Board of Education News Information.



Registration of New Students for September 2016

Please Note: If your child is currently attending North Glenmore this year, it is not necessary to re-register for next year, the students automatically roll over to the next grade. NGE Grade 6 students will automatically be rolled over to Dr. Knox

Now Online, Registration for Kindergarten and new students for September 2016 begins on **Monday, February 1st at 7:00 am**, and runs until **Friday, March 4th, 2016**.

If you know of anyone in your neighbourhood who has a kindergarten aged child, please let them know they should register as soon as possible.

See website for more info



Happy New Year

We hope all of our NGE families enjoyed a happy, healthy holiday! We're ready to start the New Year with another successful term of learning. A special "thanks" to all of our parents for your continued support. Looking forward to a great second term!

Home/School Conferences

We look forward to meeting with you at our upcoming home/school conferences in February:

Thursday, February 4th, 2016

Friday, February 5th, 2016

Both these days will be **early dismissal days for students @ 12:30 pm** (busses will run accordingly).

We will once again be using an online booking process for our conferences. The feedback we received back in October was that the process worked quite smoothly for parents to select which dates/times worked best in their schedules.

Notices with more information will be coming home soon!



Toque and Mittens Giveaway!

In December, our school received a generous gift from community members, Dona & Rich Miller. They worked together with many Telus employees and volunteers from the Trinity Baptist Church over the past 3 months, and made over **a thousand** pairs of mittens and toque combos. They donated them all to over 30 agencies (including North Glenmore Elementary).

With our recent Kindness Mission challenging everyone to **BE GENEROUS**, we decided to randomly draw students to win these mittens and toque combos and asked that student winners choose to **BE GENEROUS** and give them away to someone else (either to someone in need or to a special friend or family member).

Many of our winners shared some great stories on our website about giving their mittens and toque combos to some very happy gift recipients. Way to go, Gators!



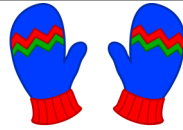
School-Based Team Meetings: What are They? Why do We Have them?

The purpose of a **School-Based Team Meeting** is an opportunity to discuss issues that arise for a student and, as a team, brainstorm solutions.

When the school observes academic, behavioural or social issues that continue to be a concern for a student, a decision is often made to schedule a School-Based Team meeting to further support that student. The parents are included as a part of the team and are invited to join the meeting (parents are generally contacted by phone by the classroom teacher.) The school team consists of the classroom teacher, the Learning Assistance Teacher (who is usually the facilitator), one or two members of the school administration, the school counsellor and any other support services involved with the student, such as the Speech and Language Pathologist.

Our goal, as a team, is to help the student become more successful. Support strategies are identified and an Action Plan is developed. A further meeting may be scheduled to review the plan.

This is an important partnership process that helps students understand that home and school are working together to support them in their education.



Winter Reminders.....

Parents please discuss these matters with your child(ren):

1. The "no snowball" rule is in effect. While throwing snow seems like a perfectly natural activity, the potential exists for injury to others. We continue to remind students that throwing snow at school, or to and from school may lead to suspension.
2. Students should be dressed warmly so they can fully participate in the fresh outdoors. It is a good idea to send along some extra clothing during the wet/slushy season.

****Please label your child's clothes****

3. When the weather warms then returns to cold, we find a lot of ice on our fields! We continually caution students (and parents) to stay away from icy patches and walk along the cleared pathways.

4. Sliding is permitted on the mid-field hill only. Only "soft sliders" are permitted. It is quite a gentle slope, but the children seem to enjoy it all the same!

5. During particularly icy days, both sliding and use of the Adventure Playground equipment will be cancelled. A reminder that running on the Adventure Playground is NOT safe at any time and is not allowed.

6. Snow "tunnelling" is not allowed due to the possibility of "cave-ins."



NGE – Upcoming iPLAN Parents as Partners Session **Session #1 of 2016: Parenting in a Digital Age (with Merlyn Horton)**

This year, we are continuing our **iPLAN (Parents Learning About the Net)** series. Last year we heard from a variety of experts from various organizations. We are excited to continue to highlight and provide opportunities for parents to engage in this very important topic of supporting our children in being both safe and positive online.

The next event that we'd like to highlight in our iPLAN series is a community-based session. As part of **Unplug and Play Week**, this session will be hosted at the **Rotary Centre of the Arts**. Presenter **Merlyn Horton** will be hosting this FREE event titled, "**Parenting in a Digital Age**". Merlyn is the CEO of Safe Online Education Associates. Over the past 15 years, she has spoken at multiple industry conferences on many topics including cyber-abuse, online sexual exploitation, children and media, and homelessness and social media.

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 27th (7:00-9:00pm)

WHERE: Rotary Centre of the Arts (421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna)

HOW TO SIGN-UP: [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there!



Post-Summit Updates

We are excited to share some recent updates on the initiatives that came from our October Whole-School Summit!



(1) Whole School Kindness Missions

- ⇒ Our most recent Kindness Mission in which our whole school was challenged to **BE GENEROUS** brought many heartwarming stories of students, staff and parents putting others first! We'll continue sending home notices with information for families on how they can participate in each mission at home and throughout the community.

(2) Parent/Community Resource Bank

- ⇒ Our committee will be sending home a survey this month to all our families to help us learn more about the unique careers, skills and passions in our parent community that we could potentially access to enhance student learning. Thank you in advance for completing and returning this survey!

(3) Easily Accessible Community Services

- ⇒ We recently met with Canadian Mental Health and mapped out our next steps for this initiative (which include: (1) having CMHA attend our Kindergarten Orientation, (2) looking at simple ways to smooth the intake process for families when it comes to accessing community resources, and (3) looking to create/compile readily available handouts, brochures, information and resources for our families). We'll continue to share updates as this initiative unfolds.

(4) Welcoming School Environment

- ⇒ Thanks to NGE Parent, Josh Milner, our Kindness Mission Reflection Tree in our front foyer is almost finished! We will soon have students, staff and parents contribute to the tree by posting sticky notes on and around it related to our current kindness mission. The sticky notes will change with each Kindness Mission so that our tree is always current and always reflects what we are currently working on as a whole-school community. Stay tuned for more!



We'll continue to share updates with everyone and we welcome and invite all of you to be involved in any of our post-Summit initiatives!

Traffic and Parking Reminders

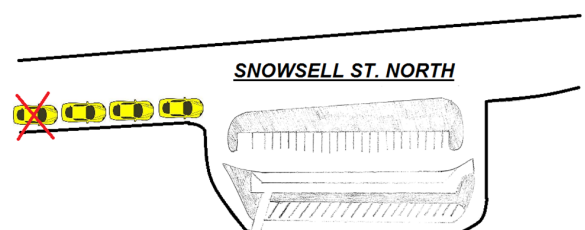
With a new year upon us, we'd like to remind everyone about some important traffic and parking reminders.

Traffic/Driving:

- (1) Please be sure to drive 30km/hr when in our school zone and be aware of all pedestrians. Children sometimes forget the road safety rules and your diligence around the school is greatly appreciated.
- (2) When using our morning Kiss & Drop (i.e. Drop Zone), be sure to pull up to the end of the zone and wait for a middle school student or parent volunteer to let your child/children out of your vehicle.

Parking:

- (1) Both the upper and lower parking lots are **staff only**. With our significant increase in enrollment over the years, we now have more staff than parking spaces available. Parents can park all along Snowsell in areas that are marked for permitted parking.
- (2) There are only 3 permitted parking spaces on the right curb on Snowsell just before the parking lot entrance. By-law came by our school in December to remind us all that parking behind these 3 permitted spots is both unsafe and illegal (see image to the right).



We thank you for your diligence, patience and care when driving and parking around our school.



Off the Shelf

Welcome back!!

In January, we will be starting regular weekly meetings for the Battle of the Books. Participants should listen for announcements to find out their meeting days. Students should have read at least three of the battle books by early January, so keep reading!

From February 2nd – February 5th, we will be hosting a second Scholastic Book Fair. The money from our book fairs pays for our author visits and some of our special programs like Battle of the Books. This year, it is also paying for some new furniture and upgrades to our library. Requests for volunteers will come out in early January. Thanks in advance for your great support of our book fairs!!

Our library reading club will continue until the end of January, so keep on reading! We have given away dozens of prizes so far, and I am especially proud of our kindergarten and grade one readers. Some of our youngest readers have completed FOUR reading logs already! Way to go, Gators!!

Our birthday book draw winners for December were Kenton M. (primary) and Quinn G.(intermediate). Remember to put your name in the draw this month if your birthday is in January! You might win a book prize or other fun prizes!



PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on **Tuesday, Jan. 12th, in the library.** All parents/guardians are invited to attend. Babysitting available at the school.

Your PAC invites you to dance the night away on **Thursday, February 18th** with DJ Super Dave in the NGE Gym.

More information will be sent home in February.

Winter Weather Is Here!!!

Slippery winter sidewalks create a hazard for children making their way to and from school.

This is one of the reasons that our local municipalities have bylaws and policies requiring residents to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, walkways, and stairways bordering their property after each snowfall. We would ask that all community members that live in areas where students travel to and from school be on the lookout for slip hazards, and help make the commute to school a safe one.



Grade 6 Basketball!

We are looking forward to the start-up of our grade 6 boys and girls basketball teams in the coming months. Our schedule will include both home and away games. If you are able to help with the transportation of students to and from away games, please check in with the office to ensure that the proper paperwork is in order. Thank you in advance for your support, it is very much appreciated. Notices will be coming home soon!

Go Gators!

ROCKETS VISIT NGE LEADERS!

As a "Thank You!" to our Gr 6 students for their great leadership in our school, we have invited the Rockets to play a special floor hockey game... just with them during a lunch hour on Tuesday, January 5th.

After a "Thank You!" pizza luncheon, members of the Rockets will join the Gr 6 students for their gym classes.



THANK YOU PAC

A **Big Thank you** to our PAC for hosting a special holiday movie for students on the last day before the Christmas break. The movie, nutritious snack and holiday treat were enjoyed by all!

Food and Toy Drive



WOW! Our NGE community is absolutely AMAZING! During December we collected food and toy donations to support our Kelowna community. We brought in 440 **pounds** of food and toys! The generosity of everyone here at NGE is truly incredible. Thank you for your support and your help. We are so thrilled to have made such an outstanding difference for people in need. Thank you!



CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students should NOT bring electronic devices, games, iPods, cell phones to school - they are known to be the cause of great distraction, and there is always the concern that such costly items may go missing. Students have been asked to leave them at home. The school cannot take responsibility for the safety of these items or any inappropriate actions that may occur with their use. Due to privacy concerns, these items should never be used to take pictures at school. If your family has a special reason that your child must have a phone available, please contact Mr. Birkeland or Mr. Kleckner directly.



"Together We Learn"
CENTRAL OKANAGAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT

News and Information

December 4, 2015

Additional Non-Instructional Days **To Support Implementation of the Redesigned Curriculum**

Kelowna, B.C.

On September 28, 2015, the Ministry of Education announced 10 hours of non-instructional time to help prepare teachers for the implementation of the revised curriculum. As schools will be closed to students for two days to facilitate this process, changes have to be made to school and district calendars throughout the Province.

At the November 25, 2015 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education passed the following Motion:

15P-182

THAT: The Board of Education approve February 9, 2016 and May 24, 2016 as the additional non-instructional days to help teachers prepare for the introduction of the revised curriculum.

School Principals and Parent Advisory Councils will determine the impact of these additional non-instructional days on individual school calendars. Any further changes that may be required to local school calendars, beyond the closures on February 9th and May 24th, will be communicated by the school principal.

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education, 250-767-6153

Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools, 250-470-3256

