



# October Newsletter

Monday, Oct. 30, 2023

"Respect, Responsibility & Reaching for our Best"



186 Alsek Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Phone: 867-667-5189

[www.gmp.yukonschools.ca](http://www.gmp.yukonschools.ca)

*We acknowledge, recognize, and respect that we learn, work, and play, within the traditional territory of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council*



## ☺ Mrs. Ramsay's Remarks

The change in seasons is upon us. The snow is beginning to stick, the Northern Lights are dancing brilliantly, and the children are very excited about Hallowe'en! Students are settled into routines and deepening friendships at school. We enjoyed meeting with parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences held in September. Thank you for partnering with us to support your child.

If you have any questions or concerns during the school year, please call or come in to speak with me (Principal at GMP) – my door is open and it is always better and easier to deal with a minor issue before it becomes a major problem. [Kim.ramsay@yukon.ca](mailto:Kim.ramsay@yukon.ca)

Kim Ramsay  
Principal

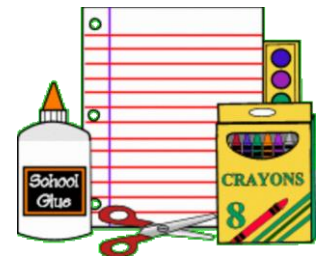
## ☺ School Fee for 2023-24 at Grey Mountain Primary

Friendly reminder that the school fees are now **due**.

The fee is:

- \$40 for kindergarten students
- \$70 for students in Grades 1 – 3

The fee is used for school supplies, field trips, and incidental expenses.



Thank you for your attention to this matter and thank you to so many who have dropped their school fee off with Ms. LJ.



## ☺ Hallowe'en at GMP

Hallowe'en is on Tuesday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. We will celebrate at school with a friendly Hallowe'en carnival in the gym. Stations will be set up in the gym throughout the day. Students are encouraged to wear their costumes for the day, or for the afternoon.

**At 2:30pm** on Hallowe'en Day, we will have a fun *Dance Party* in the gym! Parents and siblings are welcome to join us!

## ☺ School is over at 3:00pm



Please be on time to pick up your children at 3:00pm. It is expected that students are picked up or walk home at 3:00pm. We have a supervisor outside until 3:15pm to ensure children leave the school safely. Please note that this is not an extra recess time. Families are welcome to play on the playground after school so long as parents/caregivers are supervising their own children.

## ☺ Student Safety

The parking lot located on the school grounds is for **staff only** between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm. A reminder that students being dropped off by vehicle should be **let out on Alsek Road** and should be instructed on how to enter the school grounds safely **using crosswalks and sidewalks**. City bylaw states that cars have to be parked 5 meters from the crosswalk. Students with bicycles are asked to lock them up at the bicycle stands.



## ☺ New Recess Routine

In response to our growing school population, we have created 2 recess times for the children. We've been at it for a few weeks now, and it seems to be going well. The children have more space to play, and there is a better ratio of staff supervisors to ensure that everyone is having a fun recess.

### For Morning Recess:

- Kindergarten classes and Mrs. Coventry's Grade 1 class: **10:00 – 10:15 recess**
- Ms. Herle's Grade 1/2 and Ms. Frey & Ms. Lo's Grade 2/3 class: **10:20 – 10:35 recess**

### For lunch time:

- Kindergarten classes and Mrs. Coventry's Grade 1 class:
  - 12:02 – 12:30 – eating lunch first - then outside for recess at 12:30
- Ms. Here's Grade 1/2 and Ms. Frey & Ms. Lo's Grade 2/3 class:
  - 12:02 – 12:30 – outside recess first and then inside for eating lunch at 12:30

With most decisions, there are pros and cons. One of the downsides is that the *Wednesday Pet Lovers Club* is now available to Kindergarten and Mrs. Coventry's Grade 1 class only.

## ☺ Refundables



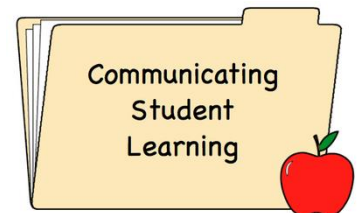
The school is no longer collecting refundables. Your children will now be bringing home any juice boxes or containers that are refundable.

## ☺ Communicating Student Learning: The next event at GMP

Parents will receive a phone call, email, or an invite for an in-person meeting from the teacher between **November 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**.

The purpose of this communication is to discuss:

- Reading
- Your child's strengths and areas for further development
- Ways to support your child at school and at home



Written Progress Report Cards will be sent home on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please feel welcome to discuss concerns with your child's teacher at any point in the school year. Rest assured that teachers will also keep in touch with you between the reporting events as needed.

## ☺ Bi-Weekly School wide assemblies

Every two weeks, our school has an assembly. We gather in a circle and sing a welcome song together. Then, each class shares what they have been learning about in their class. We sing a land acknowledgment song (check it out on our website!) and the assembly ends with a 5 minutes slideshow featuring GMP students and some great moments from the previous 2 weeks. We would love to share these assemblies with parents – you are welcome to come! The next 2 assemblies will be on:

- Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the gym
- Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in the gym

The assemblies are about 20 minutes long.



A reminder that there is  
**NO SCHOOL for students on Friday, Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**  
due to the PD Day

☺ **Activity afternoons – Nov 8<sup>th</sup> , 15<sup>th</sup> , 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

They are back! A much-loved experience at GMP! Starting on November 8, students will take part in one Activity for an hour each Wednesday, for 4 weeks. This is during school time. The students will be selecting an area of interest, and multi-age groups will be exploring their interests together. Some of the areas of interest include: baking, crafts, hand games, dance, painting and hiking. Students stick with the same activity for the 4 week session. We will likely do this several times throughout the school year.

☺ **Sexual Health Curriculum and Guest Presentation**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a guest from the Health Promotions Unit to teach a Sexual Health lesson in each class. We recognize that some parents want to be aware about when these lessons occur and what the content of these lessons are. At the Kindergarten to Grade 3 level, the focus is on naming body parts and appropriate touch. If you'd like to see a more detailed lesson plan, please ask me – I'm happy to share it with you.

☺ **School Website**

Our school website is at: [gmp.yukonschools.ca](http://gmp.yukonschools.ca)

Here, you will find upcoming school events, and a variety of interesting nuggets of information. We will do our best to keep it updated regularly.



☺ **Cold Weather Reminders: Warm Clothes Are Essential**

Brrr.... It's starting to get colder. Please ensure your children wear warm clothing – coats, gloves, snow pants - so they can enjoy their time outside. At our school, students will be outside at recess time unless the temperature with wind-chill is minus 30 or colder (according to Environment Canada's website). Students are always allowed to come into the school for a warmup. Staff are outside monitoring students, paying careful attention to the weather conditions.

☺ **School Calendar – unique to GMP!**

This year, our school has adjusted our recess and lunch times *slightly* from previous years. In doing so, we are able to provide 2 days that the school is closed, to provide a break for students throughout the year. The feedback we have received from families in the past, is that having a rest throughout the year, is beneficial to the children.

The goal is that rather than families taking a "home day" off school on random days throughout the year, together as a school we will have a few common "school break days". We'll give it a try this year and see how it feels for everyone. Your feedback is appreciated.

**The 2 school break days at GMP will be Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

As well, with this schedule, our students will complete the required number of minutes of school ahead of most other Whitehorse schools.

**Our last day of school will be Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2023-2024**

*(more to be added as the year goes on)*

Monday, October 30 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Cst. McCann visiting classes to talk about Hallowe'en Safety
Tuesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	.....	Hallowe'en – student can wear costumes to school!
Tuesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	.....	Dance Party in the gym from 2:30 – 3:00 – families welcome!
Wednesday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field trip for Mrs. McDowell's Kinder class
Monday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	.....	School Assembly at 11:30am in the gym
Wednesday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Activity Afternoon Session #1
Thursday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field trip for Ms. Lo's Grade 2/3 class
Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Remembrance Day observed – <b>no school</b>
Wednesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Activity Afternoon Session #2
Thursday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field Trip for Ms. Herle's Grade 1/2 class
Friday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Field trip to the Library, Shipyards and KDCC for Mrs. Coventry's Grade 1 class
Monday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	.....	School Assembly at 11:30am in the gym
Wednesday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	.....	Activity Afternoon Session #3
Thursday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field Trip for Ms. Lo's Grade 2/3 class
Friday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Professional Development Day – <b>no school for students</b>
Wednesday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Activity Afternoon Session #4
Monday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	.....	School Assembly at 11:30am in the gym
Thursday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field Trip for Ms. Lo's Grade 2/3 class
Friday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Skating Field Trip for Mrs. Coventry and Ms. Herle's classes
Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Gymnastics Field Trip for Ms. Herle's Grade 1/2 class
Monday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	.....	School Assembly at 11:30am in the gym
Wednesday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	.....	<b>Last day of school before Christmas Break</b>
Monday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>	.....	<b>First Day Back in the New Year</b>
Friday, January 12 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Welcome Back Breakfast for students and families
Friday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Professional Development Day – <b>no school for students</b>
Friday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Written Progress Report Cards sent home
Monday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>	.....	<b>School Break Day for GMP – no school</b>
Wednesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Valentine's Day
Friday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	.....	Heritage Day – <b>no school</b>
Friday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Last Day of school before Spring Break
Monday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	.....	First Day back after Spring Break
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Good Friday – <b>no school</b>
Monday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	.....	Easter Monday – <b>no school</b>
Monday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	.....	<b>School Break Day for GMP – no school</b>
Thursday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Student Led Conferences 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Friday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Student Led Conferences – <b>no school for students</b>
Friday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	.....	Professional Development Day – <b>no school for students</b>
Monday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Victoria Day – <b>no school</b>
Friday, June 7 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Grey Mountain Gallop afternoon
Monday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Family Picnic and Grade 3 Farewell at 5:00pm
Wednesday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Whole School Field Trip to Kookatsoon Beach
Thursday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	.....	<b>Last day of school for GMP</b> (note - most other schools end on June 14 <sup>th</sup> )
Friday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	.....	Summer Break Begins!