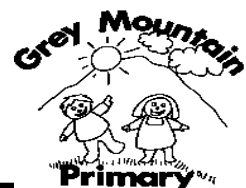


November Newsletter

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

"Respect, Responsibility & Reaching for our Best"



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

www.gmp.yukonschools.ca



Thank you for keeping
GMP Nut Free!

Mrs. Ramsay's Remarks

It's been a busy and exciting time at Grey Mountain Primary. Recent highlights include the Bedtime Book Bonanza, Goal Setting Conferences, and the Halloween Costume Parade! Another highlight was the monthly theme of THANKFULNESS throughout our school during the month of October. We held an assembly, enjoyed class presentations, and enjoyed watching "Bubbles" and "Suzy Q" role play. Our school wide theme for November is **HARMONY**. We look forward to working together to develop our understanding of harmony more deeply.



As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. kim.ramsay@gov.yk.ca



No School – November 10th and 13th

There will be no school on **Friday, November 10th** as our staff will be participating in our second Curriculum Redesign Professional Development Day. The final 3 days dedicated to training on Yukon's new curriculum will be:

- **Friday, January 19, 2018**
- **Monday, February 26, 2018**
- **Friday, April 27, 2018**

The Remembrance Day stat holiday is on **Monday, November 13** and there will be **no school**.

Restorative Approaches at School

As you may recall, each class presented their ideas about "Respect, Responsibility and Reaching for Our Best" at our assembly in September. Conflicts are a natural part of our lives. At school, we continue working with our young learners to resolve conflicts and restore relationships in a positive, harmonious way. We'd like to share some approaches we are using with the students.

We teach students to tell a teacher when something has happened at school that made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. We care. It's important to tell a teacher right away so that problems can be dealt with quickly.

We listen to both sides of the story, and bring children together to discuss what happened. Often the conversation goes like this:

- To the one who has been harmed: What happened? How did this impact/affect you? What needs to happen to make it better for you?
- To the one who has caused the harm: What happened? Who was affected by your actions/words? What needs to happen to make things right?

Restorative approaches focus on mending harm, rather than mere punishment. There is a strong emphasis on listening and dialogue. Our goal is to keep all students safe (physically and emotionally) at school, to develop greater empathy in all of our students, and to facilitate repairs when harm has occurred. Everyone makes mistakes. The important thing is to learn and fix our mistakes.

If you have a concern about your child:

1. First, speak directly to your child's teacher.
2. If the issue is not resolved, please share your concern with me. I am available to meet in person or on the phone.
3. If you have a concern about another child's behaviour at school, please speak to the teacher or principal, rather than addressing another student directly.

It's always best to address small problems before they turn into bigger issues.



World Diabetes Day – Tuesday, November 14th

All students and staff are encouraged to wear **BLUE** on Tuesday, November 14th to raise awareness and show our support on World Diabetes Day.

School Assembly November 23rd

Our school will hold an assembly focussing on “Harmony” on Thursday, November 23rd at 11:30am in the gym. Some students will take part in presenting their ideas about harmony. Families are welcome to attend.



Arctic Sports Club has begun!

Students in grades 1-3 are meeting once a week to learn Arctic Sports with Madame Ott and Mrs. Bennett. There will be a tournament for students on December 6th at Porter Creek Secondary School. Students must come regularly to the club practices in order to participate in this special inter-school event. All grade 1-3 students are welcome! Please encourage your child to participate!

Communicating Student Learning: Interim Report Cards



Our school is moving forward with changes to teaching, learning, assessment and reporting with a re-designed curriculum and a different way of communicating student learning. Thank you for your participation in our first **Goal Setting Conferences** in October. The next communication of student learning will be the **Interim Report Card**. These will be sent home on **Friday, December 8th**.

What can you expect for the Interim Report Card?

A paper based report will be issued for each child. The interim report is a snapshot of the student's progress and achievement in **Literacy** and **Numeracy**. Students will be assessed on Learning Standards using the following descriptors:

- Not yet meeting expectations (Grades 1-3 only)
- Approaching expectations
- Meeting expectations
- Exceeding expectations

Teachers will also provide a brief description of the student's Work Habits and/or Social Responsibility.

All students will self-assess and reflect on their development in one or more Core Competencies.

The 3 Core Competency areas are:

- Communication
- Thinking
- Personal and Social Responsibility

A copy of the Goal Setting Conference from October will be sent home with the Interim Report Card.

We invite parents to connect with us with any questions, comments, and feedback about how we communicate student learning.

Independent Grocery Store fill receipts

Keep your till receipts from Wykes Independent Grocery Store and turn them into the school office. For every \$5000 worth of till receipts that we receive (they do add up fast), the school will receive a \$20.00 grocery voucher.



Cold Weather Reminders

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. Also, students are to go directly home or to their daycare after school, for weather and safety reasons. Thank you for picking up your children promptly at 3:05pm – we appreciate it!

School Council

The School Council will hold their next meeting on **Tuesday, December 5th** at 5:30pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend meetings. Please join us!

GMP School Council Members

Kim Thompson – 668-6708

Tamara Carter - 334-5208

Ben Campbell – 335-1080

Ardeth Evans - (587) 890-2201



Please visit our school website here: <http://gmp.yukonschools.ca>

There are many interesting pages, a calendar with GMP events, photos and class pages. Check it out!

Save the date!

This is an advance notice that our first **Christmas CRAFTernoon** will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th** in the afternoon. This will be an interactive Christmas Time with families. Exciting details to follow! We look forward to seeing you there!

The school council will be hosting a **bake sale** in the library. Families are encouraged to donate nut-free baking (cookies, cakes, loaves, bread, etc.) which will be for sale that afternoon.



Dates to Remember

Friday, November 10
Monday, November 13
Tuesday, November 14
Thursday, November 23
Tuesday, November 28
Tuesday, December 5
Wednesday, December 6

Thursday, December 7
Friday, December 8
Tuesday, December 19
Wednesday, December 20
Wednesday, January 3

Professional Development Day – **No school for students**
Remembrance Day Holiday observed – **No school**
World Diabetes Day – **wear blue!**
School Assembly in the gym @11:30am
Swim for Grades 1-3; bus@12:30 and 2:00
School Council meeting @5:30pm in school library
Arctic Winter Games Tournament at Porter Creek
Secondary School
Swim for Grades 1-3; bus@12:30 and 2:00
Interim Report Cards home
Christmas Crafternoon – all afternoon
Last day before Christmas Break (**early dismissal at 11:40**)
First day back to school in January!