



Green Valley School Newsletter

Striving for Excellence

February 2010

Rick Ardies, Principal

Ph: 434-6415

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<http://gvs.hsd.ca>

Calendar of the Month's Events

February is "I Love to Read" Month

- Feb. 5** - In-Service Day – no classes
- Feb. 9 - Rachel's Challenge Info Mtg
@ 7:00 pm in the GVS Gym
- Feb. 12 - Report Cards issued - Gr. 5 – 12
- Feb. 15** - Louis Riel Day - no classes
- Feb. 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Gr. 5 - 8 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Yearbooks available to be ordered
- Feb. 23 - 25 - Grade 7s at Camp Arnes
- Feb. 23 - Gr. 11/12 Band at the Optimist Fest
in Wpg.
- Feb. 24 - Gr. 9/10 Band at the Optimist Fest
in Wpg.
- Feb. 25 - School Board Budgetary Info
Session @ 7:30 p.m. @ HSD
- Feb. 26** - HTA/PD Day – no classes



Principal's Message

There are a number of events going on at GVS throughout the month of February that I would like to draw to your attention. Our grade 9-12 exam period begins this week. Students will write exams Tuesday, Feb. 2nd - Thursday, Feb. 4th. Please note that grade 9-12 students need attend school only on those exam days in which they are scheduled to write exams. Exams begin at 9:10 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and students are required to remain in the exam room for at least 90 minutes. Grade 5-8 students will continue with regular classes those days.

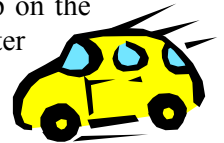
Term 2 report cards will be issued on Friday, February 12th and there will be parent/teacher interviews on Thursday, February 18th for parents of grade 5-8 students. Please note that our second semester begins on

Monday, February 8th; any grade 9-12 students needing to make course changes should see our Guidance Counselor, Mr. Cam Gerbrandt.

As we announced last month, Green Valley School will participate in Rachel's Challenge events this month. We are very excited to join in this initiative designed to promote kindness and compassion among students. Please check out the letter on page four of this newsletter for details; I will also take this opportunity to extend invitation for you to attend the Rachel's Challenge parent evening on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m. in our gym.

Student Pick-up and Drop-off

Please note that the east (school side) side of Oak St. is a no stopping zone from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. on all school days, from the EMB Church driveway to the corner of Park Ave. Parents wishing to pick up their children from school need to stop on the west side of the street or wait until after all busses have left the school before stopping.



Attendance and Absences

Please remember to call the school office if your child will be missing school for the day, or part of the day due to sickness, doctor and dentist appointments or any other reason. Thank you.

Grade 7 Trip to Camp Arnes

This is the time of year where grade 7 students and teachers are getting excited about the annual trip to Camp Arnes. The dates for this year's trip are February 23rd-25th. These days are spent giving the students a chance to experience a time of outdoor education. Many PE, Science, and Social Studies outcomes are met during our time at the camp. Homeroom teachers have handed out waiver/permission forms to the students. The form indicates the dates of the trip, possible hazards and the cost. If your child is getting a price discount based on chocolate sales, this discount will be indicated on the form. The forms and money need to be returned by February 8, 2010. Remember, this time at Camp Arnes is based on curriculum, and we encourage all students to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about

the trip please contact me, Russ Bergen, at the school or email me at rbergen@hsd.ca.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Why You Should Go!

Some parents view parent/teacher conferences this way – as long as my son or daughter is passing their courses, I don't need to go talk to their teachers. I'd like to suggest that this is an incorrect assumption.



Parent/teacher conferences are a chance for you to connect with a significant person or persons in your child's life – their teachers. These are adults who spend about four or five hours a day with your son or daughter. Therefore the teachers have an important relationship with your child – a relationship worth talking about. These teachers see your child in a setting completely different from what you normally do. Yes, the report card can give you some great information, but person to person conversations can reveal things that the report card can not.

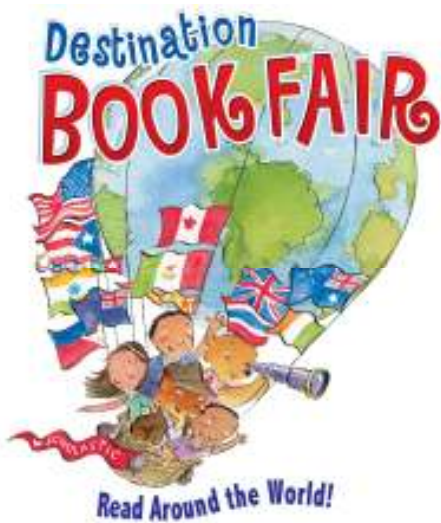
Some parents don't know what to talk about beyond what percentage grade their child has received in a course. Here are some topics you may wish to discuss: How is my child's organization? How do they get along socially with other members of the class? What does the teacher see as my child's strongest asset? Their weakest? How are things going with homework and in-class work ethic? As a parent, what can I do to help my child feel successful as a student and a person?

Hopefully, as parents and teachers both communicate interest in education and how to improve, students will share that vision and strive to make their school experience a positive one.

Written by Mr. Cam Gerbrandt, Guidance Counselor

I Love to Read Month

February brings our *Annual Scholastic Book Fair*. This year's Book Fair dates are February 16th – 18th. Family Night falls on Thursday, February 18th, the same night the Parent/Teacher interviews take place. "Read Around the World" is this year's theme and we



invite you to visit our library-store. Flyers will be sent home shortly, giving parents and students an idea of some of the books available. You can also access the Scholastic Book Fair site on the web at <http://www.scholastic.ca/bookfairs/> for an idea of what will be featured. We look forward to another outstanding year at the Book Fair as this is one way for us to add more new books to the library shelves. This is always a very busy time in the library and would be impossible to host without volunteer help. Any parents with time to do some volunteer work at the Fair are encouraged to call the school and talk to the librarian.

Graduation News

All grade 12 students had the opportunity to meet in early January to go over more details regarding the graduation ceremony. Thanks grads for your input and ideas. It really helps to make this grad your own.



For those applying to universities or colleges, many institutions want early applications in by the middle of February. For example, the U of M deadline is February 19th and the U of W deadline is March 1st. While you can still apply later in the year, you must apply before these dates in order to be eligible for some of the scholarships.

Many post-secondary institutions have an open house during the month of February. This allows prospective students to tour the school and ask questions.

If students are making plans to work or travel after graduation, there are many opportunities.

Formal grad cap and gown pictures will take place on March 15th. There are no classes this day. Please book your appointment early to get the most convenient time.

Finally, check out the school website. It has a special link for grads that connects them to important dates, universities, colleges and more. Please see Mr. Gerbrandt, if you have any questions on any of the above listed topics.

Yearbook News

Forgot to order a school yearbook? No problem! Yearbooks will be on sale again for one final week from Feb 22nd to the 25th. Senior years students can purchase in the front foyer at lunch, and middle years students can order through their homeroom teachers. The 2010 yearbook costs \$35.00, with an additional \$5.00 for personalization.

GVS Music Department Optimist Festival

The music department is off to a great new year and 2010 has a busy couple of months lying ahead. In

February the Grade 9/10 Band and the Grade 11/12 Band will be going to the Manitoba Optimist Festival. The Grade 11/12 Band will be at the festival on Tuesday, February 23rd and the Grade 9/10 Band on Wednesday, February 24th. We are currently looking for parents to come along as chaperones for both of these dates. If you are available and would like to participate in an exciting day with the GVS bands, please contact Vern Neufeld at the school or via email vneufeld@hsd.ca

Spring Musical

Auditions have taken place and a cast has been chosen for this year's musical, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Rehearsals will start in the coming weeks and the performance will be in April.

Band Boosters at GVS

The GVS music department is starting a Band Booster committee. This committee will assist the music department in some key organizational areas such as fundraising, looking at uniforms for the bands, advocating for the band department and other areas that the members of the committee will decide upon. So far we have 2 people willing to be on the committee, and we are looking for more. If you are looking for ways to help improve the music / band department at GVS, and experience first hand the great things already happening in the music department, consider joining the band boosters. Please send an email to vneufeld@hsd.ca

Green Valley Sports Report

Basketball is well underway with approximately 90 students participating. We have 9 teams in total and schedules are up by the main gym doors. The middle years teams will be starting league play on the first week of February and runs until the second week in March. A big thanks goes out to our coaching staff Carter Krahn (Gr 7 G), Earl Shilling and Doris Wiens (Gr 7 B), Loretta Wiebe (Gr 8 G), Jared Chamberlin (Gr 8 B), Jon Hansen (Gr 9 B) and Nadine Friesen / Elizabeth Priest (Varsity Girls).

As for our High School teams the Varsity Girls had their first win of the season with a decisive victory over Gab Roy. Their next games involve tournaments in Ste. Anne Feb. 5 & 6 and then in Morris Feb. 19th and 20th.

The Varsity Boys teams, coached by Colten Gryba have had a tremendous season so far. Every tournament they have attended there has been some hardware taken home. The Niverville tournament resulted in a consolation win. The team won a first place trophy in Gretna and a third place plaque in MacGregor. This may be a first for GVS, but the varsity boys are currently ranked 3rd in the province for AA boys basketball. We are hoping that this is the year for our

first ever basketball banner. We will have tough competition from Ste. Anne, Landmark, Lorette and Niverville. Our coach is very optimistic and has seen improved play from the boys all season. Good luck to all our teams and come out and watch some exciting basketball at South Oaks. A schedule of games will be posted by the gym doors.

The Varsity Badminton program had their first practice on Wednesday and look to develop our skills every Monday and Wednesday from 4 – 6. All grade 10 – 12s welcome. We also appreciate the fact that Randy Fast is once again coaching. Two grade 12s Keaton Friesen and Quinton Wiebe are two hopefuls who are looking to go all the way this year.

Lastly the **Bike Helmet Program** is underway. Students have received an order form and can order bike helmets running from \$10 - \$13. The deadline to get the orders in to the Gr. 5 – 8 homeroom teachers or to the Phys. Ed staff is February 19th. Any questions, please contact Sheldon Hill 434-6415.



Canteen News

Due to rising food costs, we will be raising the price of all Monday to Thursday canteen meals to \$2.50 starting on Monday, February 1st. Any remaining \$2.00 canteen vouchers will still be valid. New voucher sheets are available for \$25 (10 meals). Pizza will remain at \$1.50 per slice. Pizza voucher sheets are also available for \$15 per sheet (10 vouchers).

Please note that all meals must be pre-ordered before 8:55 a.m. Students who arrive late or forget to place their orders before that time will not be guaranteed a lunch for that day.

French Career Fair

Hanover School Division will be holding its biannual French Career Fair on February 23, 2010. The event is intended for students in Grades 8 - 12 who are currently enrolled in the French language program. This will be an ideal opportunity for students to discuss the role that their French language education can play in their career plans. The career symposium will be held at the Steinbach 55 Plus Centre and students will be bussed to attend from 10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Green Valley students will have an opportunity to partake in a variety of activities, as well as participating in a treasure hunt. An informative letter will be sent out shortly to all students in French. After having read the letter, any questions or concerns can be directed to Mme Krista Hillier during regular school hours.