

February 21,
2013



George Jay Elementary

G V S D

Virtue of Love: Love is a special feeling that fills your heart. You show love in a smile, a kind word, a thoughtful act or a hug. Love is treating people and things with care and kindness because they mean so much to you. Love is contagious. It keeps spreading.

GEORGE JAY BULLETIN

Mrs. Leslie Lee, Principal
1118 Princess Ave.
Victoria, BC V8T 1L3

Mrs. Terri Smith, Vice Principal
Telephone: (250)385-3381
Email: georgejay@sd61.bc.ca

Website: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/georgejay>

"Learning to Care... Caring to Learn"

Dear Families, Friends and Guardians of George Jay School students:

It's hard to believe we are halfway through the school year. This month we welcomed in the Year of the Snake and celebrated Valentine's Day wearing red, white and pink! In honour of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, we had a fundraiser with a special whole school event, a JUMPA-THON on February 19th. Be sure to get the funds you collected into the school.

In support of Anti-bullying Day on February 27th, we encourage our children to "Be a Buddy, not a Bully!" and ask them to show, through their actions that "Kindness Rocks." Everyone is asked to wear something pink that day to demonstrate their commitment to cultural diversity and tolerance of others.

Finally, I want to thank the many community organizations who have provided time and funding to sponsor the following extra-curricular afterschool activities, and provide unique opportunities for our children: the READ society for the NOISY KIDS READERS CLUB; Music for Youth for providing mentors for music lessons: Fairfield Community Centre for Jump N' Start; Central Baptist Church for the choir ; LifeCycles Project for the sustainable garden and educational activities; the Parents for their club sponsorships at noon and the Arts Reach for their visual arts program and theatre arts program. We are thankful for all these wonderful people who help make a difference in our building.

Leslie Lee, Principal

Terri Smith, Vice-principal

Dates to Remember

Feb. 15—22nd	K - 12 Transfer Process begins
Feb. 22nd	Movie Night 6 - 8 pm in our library
Feb. 27th	Anti-Bullying Day—please wear pink!
March 1	SOAR Assembly and Storybook Theatre at 1 p.m.
March 7	Reports go home
March 8	Strongstart closed and school closes for holidays—no newsletter this month
March 9th-24th	Spring Break
March 25th	School re-opens
March 29—Apr. 2	Easter
April 5	SOAR Assembly
April 18	Newsletter
April 19	Multicultural Day—gym from 1-4



Hi! My name is Hershey and I am a 3 ¾ year old Cairn terrier. My human's name is Sue MacTavish, she is the Youth & Family Counsellor here at George Jay. I have recently been certified as a therapy dog with the P.A.T.S. (Pacific Animal Therapy Society). Please check out their website <http://patspets.ca/wordpress/>

I have been coming to work on Tuesdays with Sue since January 29th. I have passed a behaviour assessment with the vet to show that I am a gentle dog and not aggressive; even if someone pulls my tail. Sue is my handler and I will always be on my leash and under her control when I am at the school. All of my vaccinations are up to date and I am on a flea treatment program.

I have come to George Jay with Sue quite a few times already and I am familiar with the buildings smells, sounds and sights. I am a pretty small dog (17 lbs.) and I really enjoy being around people, especially small ones! They tell me that I am clean and well groomed. I hardly shed at all because I have hair on top of my fur. Sue says that she will make sure that she checks with teachers about allergies before she introduces me to the students.

I am looking forward to the students reading to me, teaching them about dogs and having them talk to me. Sue tells me that animals can be very therapeutic for people! If you have any questions or concerns about me please feel free to call Sue at (250) 385-3381 local 230. I am very excited to be joining the George Jay Team!



Attendance and Late Arrivals

Parents, it is extremely important that you ensure your child is at school by the bell at 8:45am and ready to start the day. Many of our students head off to learning support programs and will miss valuable learning time. If you are late, please sign in at office. TOAST CLUB hours of operation are 8:20 to 8:40am. We have many working volunteers and they must head off to work! Absenteeism is also a current concern and will impact your child's academic development over the long run if they are not attending school. We want your child to succeed! If you have extenuating circumstances, please let your teacher know or Mrs. Lee.

Read for the Top

The Read for the Top Program is an annual event that began in 1984 to help celebrate National Book Week. We now hold it to celebrate students reading at George Jay Elementary School. It is a school wide reading initiative that is enjoyed by the entire school community. This reading competition was designed to celebrate mostly Canadian authors and literature. Students enter their teams of four members, which they make up themselves. The Junior section is for grade 2-3 students and grade 4 and 5's take part as Intermediates. On average, about 25 teams compete. A typical game consists of the students on two teams answering questions based on characters, events, and authors/illustrators of the chosen books.

Read for the Top has become a tradition at George Jay and it makes May a very exciting month. Bob Warren, former Teacher Librarian and Vice Principal at George Jay (now retired) was the founder of this event. He comes back to George Jay to run the preliminary competitions during the month of May leading up to the final. The whole school, local authors, celebrities and school district officials attend the final event.

Reminder: GO GREEN PACK IN AND PACK OUT

In an effort to recycle more and protect our environment for future generations, George Jay has gone green! We are currently being more responsible with respect to paper, plastic etc. by recycling almost everything in our building. In addition, we would like our students to reduce the amount of materials they bring to school and throw away each day here. We are asking families to put food items into re-usable containers and the children will take home what they bring eg. Juice boxes, plastic and foil wrap. In essence, what you bring with you will go back home. Your support is important and helps convey the message we are trying to do at school! If you have any questions, please contact us at the office.



Happy, Healthy Kids Program

This is a community funded hygiene program for students of George Jay Elementary, which provides hygiene supplies free of charge. Please contact Leila Durzi, Family Liaison Worker or Sue MacTavish, Youth & Family Counselor for more information at 250 385-3381.

Lockdown Drill

George Jay will hold a lockdown drill March 7th in the afternoon. It is part of the safety drills (fire and earthquake) that the school is required to conduct each year. Constable Hamilton will be present, and students will be informed how to conduct the drill and practice it with their classroom teacher. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Smith.

Report Cards

Report cards are scheduled to be sent home on March 7th^h for all of our students. Please read them over carefully with your son/daughter as they are a representation of your child's current progress. If you have any questions or concerns about the report card, please contact the teacher to make an appointment or to discuss further.

George Jay Playground

George Jay has finalized plans for the unique and amazing primary playground. Students and parents provided input on selecting the new design and we have one that will surely impress the community! Just like the other one we have! The Ministry of Education provided \$50,000 towards the cost of the playground and further donations from the George Jay Pac and Coast Capital Savings helps us complete the installation. We hope to begin installation in late spring — just in time to end the school year!

GOOD FOOD BOX ORDERING

We are pleased to be able to offer Good Food Boxes for pick up from George Jay Elementary School every two weeks.

This is the only school in Victoria that offers this program!

Good Food Boxes feature high quality, local, unsprayed, and/or organic sustainably grown produce for up to 50% less than market prices. Tastier produce with higher nutritional content for less cost!

To order your box: fill in the order form. This can be found in the parent room or sent home with your child by request.

Sample Order Form

Name _____ Student's name _____

Phone number _____



Please check off the type and number of boxes ordered:

Large Fruit and Veggie \$18 ___ All Fruit Box \$15 ___

Medium Fruit and Veggie \$12 ___ Snacking Box \$10 ___

Small Fruit and Veggie \$6 ___ All Organic Box \$18 ___ Amount enclosed _____ (please pay in cash or check made out to the Capital Region Good Food Box Society)



Are you interested in an Education Fund (RESP) for your child?

Did you know that the Federal Government gives \$250 grants to low-income parents? This is absolutely free money and does not require a parent contribution.

Volunteers from Investors Groups in co-operation with the George Jay Family Liaison Program are offering an opportunity for parents of young children to get information on how to get free government money to provide for their children's post secondary education. This is NOT the same thing as the grant the government gives when a contribution is made for a child. This is completely free money the government offers to low income parents. Generally, this is not advertised by the banks or government and therefore not widely known.

Loretta and Mona from Investors Group will be here for an information session to let families know about this opportunity. This will be taking place on Thursday April 25th at 3:15 in room 106. Childminding will be provided.

Please contact Leila at 250-385-3381 to register. Hope to see you there!!



National Little League

National Little League would like to invite all boys and girls aged 3-13 to play baseball in our 2013 season. There are no try outs, no skills or previous experience is needed, equal playing time for all players and no player is refused on the basis of the ability to be able to pay. National is also offering a free baseball camp open to all who would like to come out. Camp is every Saturday for 9-13 year olds and every Sunday for 7-9 year olds. For registration or camp information please email coach-don@shaw.ca or call Roy @ 778-350-1357. We look forward to seeing everyone out on the field.

Welcoming the World

Multicultural Day Returns!

The Parent Advisory Council will host our third Multicultural Day on Friday, April 19th from 1-4pm in the George Jay gymnasium. How does this work? We need parents, families, relatives and/or friends of our community to represent their country. We will have tables set up in the gym. You will set up your own table with your 'presentation.' This should include an ethnic tablecloth, flags, maps, artwork, authentic pottery, ceramics...whatever you think would be appropriate to represent your country. A sample of food should be provided as well and it is our hope you will dress in your ethnic attire, if you are comfortable doing so! Students will come through one or two classes at a time and spend a few minutes being culturally informed at each table. Our hope is that students will learn about cultural traditions through dance, food, music, literature and spirituality. Help us celebrate the world in our school!

Please return this notice with your child to school or drop off in the front office. Also, you can email Carina Smith at cmsbes@gmail.com to lend your support to this awesome event and ask any question you'd like!

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Name:

Number and/or email:

The country I would like to represent is:

I *cannot* commit to representing a country but I will help with:

Gym setup (11:30-12:45)

Preparing a dish for this event (rice, samosas, chow mein, finger foods etc)

Providing decorations for this event (flags, tablecloths, plastic forks, napkins...)

Clean-up after this event (4-5:30pm)