Good Morning GBES Families,

On behalf of staff, welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year! We are excited to welcome your children on the first day of classes; Thursday, September 4th.

**PowerSchool Parent Portal** goes live on Tuesday, September 3rd at 3pm. Parents/Guardians will be able to log into PowerSchool to find out who your children’s teachers are.

**School Supplies** have been purchased for students by the school to help get started. Families are responsible for replenishing supplies (as the school year goes on), providing book bags, indoor footwear, a water bottle, and other items as necessary.

**Curriculum Night** is being held at 4:00 on Tuesday, September 2nd, prior to the first day of classes. Families (children included) are invited to visit the school to meet teachers and staff. This event is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers, hear about the curriculum, find out where classrooms are located, bring in indoor footwear and any other items before school begins. There will be a frozen treat provided at the end of the session.

Families will be invited to the gym at 4:00 for a welcome message from our new principal Ms. LeBlanc. **There will be 2 sessions: (1) 4:10 and (2) 4:30 to give families with more than one child an opportunity to visit all classrooms. There will be staff at the main doors to direct families to classrooms.**

Please stop by the PTO table to discuss volunteer opportunities.

**The School Bell Schedule:** Our school day begins at 8:20am and ends at 2:20pm. For students in Excel, arrival time is 7:30am. Students will be permitted to enter the building at 8:10am. Students are expected to arrive on time and be in the building by 8:20am. **It is an expectation that students arrive each day on time to help them get ready to start their day.**

Here is our bell schedule:

8:10 Students enter the school through main doors (except Pre-Primary, who will use the side door by the upper playground)

8:20 Classes Begin

9:50 Recess

11:50-12:20 - Outdoor play

12:20 - 12:45 - Students eat lunch

12:45 Afternoon classes begin

2:20 End of Day Dismissal

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed from the door they enter after recess and lunch (see below).

**First Day Procedures:** Staff will be outside in the morning greeting students and families. All students in grades Primary to 6 will enter through the front doors. **Pre-Primary students will meet staff at the side doors by the playground.**

**Parking:** Families are reminded not to drive into the school’s driveway/parking lot during the hours of 8:00am and 3:00pm. Caregivers with mobility issues are welcomed to enter the parking lot to drop by students.

We will be sharing a lot of information with families over the next few weeks and throughout the school year**.** A September Newsletter will be emailed to families with important information about the school. Information about the new Safe Schools strategy including the new school vision statement and behaviour matrix will be shared in the newsletter.

We are always looking for volunteers at GBES. We welcome volunteers for our Breakfast Program, field trips, reading with students, clubs, on the PTO (Parent and Teacher Organization) and School Advisory Council (SAC). If you are interested in learning more about these committees, contact the school at (902) 464-5184.

Looking forward to seeing you on Curriculum Night and Welcoming your children on the first day of classes

Ms. LeBlanc & Ms. Conrad

Admin Team

School hours are 8:20am-2:20pm. For students in Excel, arrival time is 7:30am. Students are asked to arrive **after** 8:10 and **before** 8:20. It is important for students to arrive each day on time to help them be ready to start their day.

All staff will be on duty outside on the first day of school to greet students. Staff will have class lists to assist families.

**Please note:** Pre-primaries will enter the school each morning using the doors closest to the playground (Zone 1). All **other classes** (Primary-Six) will enter the school using the main doors.

We are continuing this year by starting each morning with a soft start. This means that students will enter the school when they arrive (**after 8:10**) through the main doors each morning. At recess and lunch, students will line up at assigned doors.

Primary Pendlebury & P1 Forbes will line up for recess and lunch at the same doors as the Pre-Primaries (Zone 1). They will also be dismissed at the end of the day through these doors (doors by playground).

1/2 Oppong, 2/3 Lapierre, and 3/4 McSwain-Berryman **will** line up for recess and lunch and **be** dismissed through the main doors - please exit and enter to the right when using all doors, including the main entrance. 4/5 Stewart, 5/6 McCarroll and 6 Middleton **will** line up for recess and lunch and **be** dismissed at the end of the day through the doors at the back of the school (Zone 2). \*\*\*See diagram below for entrance/exit doors.

