



# George Bissett Elementary School Newsletter

October 2021  
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## Important Dates to Note

### October

- 4 - 21 Grade 6 Reading, Writing, and Math Assessment
- 11 - Thanksgiving (no classes)
- 12 - 16 Second fire drill takes place this week
- 13 - Picture Day
- 22 - Provincial Conference Day – No Classes
- 25 – SAC 6pm

## Message from Principal

September has certainly flown by! We thank you for your continued support at home. As we begin the month of October we will be thinking about Treaty Education and how we can continue to learn more about this important topic.

Teachers have been engaging students in conversations about who the Mi'kmaq people were before colonization and who they are right now. By discussing these important concepts, we can uncover the factors that led to Residential Schools, reserves, cultural oppression, and the lack of education & human rights for Indigenous peoples.

As we move through October, the weather will continue to get cooler. Students will need sweaters and jackets, especially on cooler mornings. Please label your children's clothing as similar jackets and sweaters can be difficult to identify without names.

Our students are adjusting to their learning environments while familiarizing themselves with

school routines and expectations. Teachers continue to review school and classroom expectations with students. It would be great if you have a discussion at home about the importance of rules and routines.

George Bissett participated in several emergency safety practices including a fire drill, a lockdown, and a Hold and Secure. Although some of these drills may result in some small anxiety, teachers present the information to their students in very age appropriate language and then debrief after the practices.

**Follow us on Twitter to see what's going on at school and reminders for upcoming events. @gbes\_hrce**

Jimmy Hurley



## Importance of Sleep

### The Importance of sleep!

<b>how much sleep is enough for your child?</b>	
Some kids may be wired to operate on a little less sleep than others, but the National Sleep Foundation suggests these guidelines:	
WHEN KIDS ARE ...	THEY NEED ...
up to 2 months	10.5 to 18 hours
3 to 12 months	9.5 to 14 hours
1 to 3 years	12 to 14 hours
3 to 5 years	11 to 13 hours
5 to 12 years	10 to 11 hours

## Time to Learn

We continue to notice some students arriving late on a daily basis. The school day begins at 8:30. Please ensure your child arrives no later than 8:25 to prepare for the day.

## Safe Arrival

On days when your child will be late or absent, please contact our safe arrival line at **(902) 464-5266**. Alternately, you may send an email to [gbes@hrce.ca](mailto:gbes@hrce.ca). Please clearly indicate your child's name, class, the date and reason for the absence.



## Student Success Planning

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For the past few years, GBES has been working on the following school goals:

1. **Literacy Goal:** Students will demonstrate improvement in writing with a focus on the development and organization of ideas.
2. **Math Goal:** To improve student achievement in number sense with a focus on relationships among numbers (comparing, benchmark/referents, and estimation).
3. **Well-being Goal:** We will improve student well-being at our school.

On PD days, staff work on these goals by using the strategies developed and by working with the resources needed to support those strategies.

This year, all elementary schools in the HRCE are focussing on helping students reach reading benchmarks in grades P-2. Many of our students have lost instructional time due to the pandemic causing delays to their reading development. We know that with enough explicit instruction, time, and practice we can help students make gains in reading. Our Teacher Support Team has met several times to discuss how we can realign school services and supports to help our P-2 classroom teachers. We are analyzing reading data on a monthly basis so we can respond to student progress and inform our instruction.

Reading development is also a focus in the upper elementary. We are identifying students' strengths and challenges in reading, to help us create goals to help them meet higher benchmarks.

You can help us at home by scheduling nightly blocks of reading time, talking to your children about their books, and modeling a passion.

### School Closure

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School closures due to weather or unforeseen circumstances will be announced on local radio stations by 6:00 am or on the [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) website. You can also call 464-INFO (4636), the school closure line. If buses are cancelled and schools remain open, parents are advised to use their own discretion concerning their child's (children's) attendance. In the event that only some schools are closed, elementary schools will not be announced individually, but according to their high school. Our high school is **Cole Harbour** so whenever **Cole Harbour** and its feeder schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, this will include George Bissett.

If schools should be cancelled part way through the day, parents will be notified by the office. All schools will close two hours prior to their usual closing time, so for us that would be 12:30. Please ensure that your child and the office know your

up-to-date emergency plan, phone numbers, address and medical information. Parents coming to pick up their child/children **must** check in at the office. If a school has a late start due to some issue at the school, the school will start two hours after its usual start time, so for us that would be 10:30.



In the event an emergency occurs throughout the day at the school and there is a need to relocate the children, the students will relocate to Colonel John Stewart. From there, parents will be contacted by school personnel to come to pick up their child/children.

**If you would like to be notified by email or SMS of any school closings or other important announcements, go to [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca) and click on the icon on the left hand side of the web page. Enter your email address and click "Subscribe."**

### Breakfast

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We are fortunate and happy to offer breakfast foods from bins at our school. Please note that we will continue to offer grab and go style breakfast items. Students may retrieve breakfast items (granola bars, fresh fruit, etc...) from their classroom.

### School Advisory Council

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We are seeking more members for our SAC. Parent/Guardian and Community Members are needed for our Council. Please contact Mr. Hurley at 464-5184 or by email: [jhurley@hrce.ca](mailto:jhurley@hrce.ca).

### Lunch: Healthy Hunger

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We are hoping to setup a Hot Lunch Program through Healthy Hunger in the coming days. We are just waiting for confirmation before sharing with families.

We ask that you send in water bottles, spoons and forks with your children. We do have some available at the office, but we would rather spend our money on learning resources for the students. Thank you. We appreciate it.

### Parking Safety Reminder

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I would like to remind everyone that between the hours of 8 am to 3 pm, parents are asked not to pull into/park in the school driveway or parking lot. This is for the safety of students, caregivers, and staff. With regard to safety, children will often run out behind vehicles without watching (and they can move very quickly) which has led to close calls in the past. Students are not expecting cars to be moving in the parking lot, so they are not looking for them. It only takes a minute for an accident to happen. Please help us keep your children safe!

