



October 2017

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Principal's Message

We've enjoyed a very exciting start to our school year! Lots of new staff and students filled our halls with positive energy. We currently have 1025 students enrolled in G.W. Graham. Classes are in full-swing with students actively participating in a wide variety of lessons throughout the school day. Extra-curricular activities are up and running with students joining teams, clubs, drama and music.

Our entire teaching staff enjoyed meeting new and returning parents on our Meet the Teacher Night in early September. We will have our Parent/Student/Teacher interviews on October 26.

Students are encouraged to get involved in school beyond the regular classroom experiences. Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities establish a stronger relationship with their school and tend to really enjoy their Middle and Secondary School years. We are extremely fortunate at G.W. Graham to have a very involved staff who provide a wide variety of opportunities for students to get connected to school beyond the classroom. We also have several extended classes outside of the regular timetable that result in early morning or after school classes, and even our Outdoor Education class meeting on weekends. We have a very busy school with students arriving early in the morning and ending their day with late night practices. Again, I encourage all students to find a passion and a way to connect in the many activities throughout our school.

Our Parent Advisory met on for our first meeting of the year. The first meeting is our Annual General Meeting, in which the following parents were elected to make up our Parent Advisory Executive:

Cynthia Muir – Chairperson

Vacant – Vice chairperson

Tina Bartens – Secretary

Jennifer Hopwood – Treasurer

Gerald Buchwitz - Correspondence Secretary

Thanks to these parents for committing their time to supporting our school by serving on our Parent Advisory Committee. Parents are encouraged to attend our monthly PAC meetings in order to have an active voice in our school community, or even to just be well informed about our school. Our next PAC meeting is on October 16th.

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News from the Library

Welcome to a new year in the library.

We are again having monthly challenges in the library and the first one was to create a poster promoting the library. Throughout the rest of the year we will be hosting at least one contest per month.

We are also having a reading challenge this year. So each month students who read a book they enjoyed and want to write a review can create an online review, print review, a piece of art that represents the book or come and see me to do an oral review. Students who participate will have their names placed in a draw at the end of the month.

We still have a number of lost books and fines outstanding from last year so please make sure all students look for lost books and pay their fines.

This year we have a large number of outstanding students volunteering in the library during lunch hour. Thank you to all volunteer helpers who have given up their free time to help out in the library. You make our library an extra special place to be.

GWG will also be hosting an author visit. Robin Stevenson will be at GWG on November 7.



After School Homework Club

All students are welcome to come after school for some quality homework support.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:45-3:45pm in room C238

Aboriginal News: Ey swayel!

Greetings, my name is Trisha Lumsden and I am the new Aboriginal Learning Support Teacher at G.W. Graham. I welcome your input and any ideas culturally that you would like to see us focus on this coming year. Please come in and see us- or call / email anytime if you have any concerns or questions. In October, we would love for you to attend G.W.'s *Fish Stew and You* evening on October 12th, at 6:00 to 7:00 in the common area where we can enjoy casual conversation and a delicious bowl of salmon stew.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Sincerely,

Trisha Lumsden & Ramona Baldwin



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News from the Career Center

Happy Fall! This is a busy time in the lives of our grade 12 students, in part because applications to nearly all post-secondary institutions are open. UFV's application opened Oct 1st while BCIT's and Kwantlen's application open Nov 1st. Deadlines for applications vary from institution to institution so check your student's schools of choice to be sure they apply before those deadlines. Students who want to be considered for major entrance scholarships at UBC should apply before Dec 1st.

Save the date! **A student recruiter from UBC** will be visiting G.W. Graham on Thursday **November 17th** at 7 pm. Parents and students (grade 9-12) are welcome to attend. Learn what life and learning is like at UBC's two campuses!

Shad Summer Program

Does your student have a passion for the sciences, math, the arts or business? Are they a strong academic student in Grade 9-12? You should consider the Shad enrichment program. SHAD is a month long intensive pre-university summer program that focuses on science, math, engineering and entrepreneurship. It brings together 700+ top students from across Canada and fully immerses them for one month at one of 13 host universities across Canada where they will be challenged to grow intellectually and in leadership abilities. Students considering Shad should see Mrs. Jones, visit shad.ca and apply before Nov 20th.

myBlueprint

Students and families are encourage to check messages often on myBlueprint. There will be great information about post-secondary open houses, scholarship and work experience opportunities. A weekly check is all you will need to stay current!

Upcoming Post-secondary Open Houses

Trinity Western Oct 20-21 and Nov 17-18. Register at tru.ca/visit
Vancouver Community College Oct 18, 3-6. Visit vcc.ca/experience
Explore Capilano Info Night Nov 22 %:50 to 8:00 RSVP at explorecapilano.ca

Save the Date

Save the date! Nov 1st at 6pm in the library all parents and their grade 12 students are invited to our **Financial Opportunities presentation**. Mrs. Jones will explain the scholarship process and how best to make good use of the fall to prepare.. Following that, a **student recruiter from UBC** will be visiting G.W. Graham at **7 pm**. Parents and students (grade 9-12) are welcome to attend. Learn what life and learning is like at UBC's two campuses!



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Music Department

We have a new website this year: <http://gwgmusic.ca>. Please check it out for all our concerts as well as info on courses, trips, fundraising and other music related activities.

Fundraising

We have started our first fundraiser of the year, Global Coffee. This is the same coffee fundraiser we have run the past few years, the product is excellent and it's a good money-maker for the students. Plus, who doesn't need more coffee?!

For those of you new to the program students have an order for and take orders for bags of coffee beans or ground coffee (we offer a variety of types, including decaf). Students collect the money with the order and submit the order form/money to Mr. Monkman or Ms. Taylor. The coffee is then delivered to the school for students/parents to pick up and \$5 from every bag sold goes into the students fundraising account. Fundraising accounts are kept track of by Mr. Monkman and each student has their own. All monies raised can go towards any music related activities/items.

Trips

We have a few trips in the works for the upcoming school year. Jazz students will have the opportunity to attend the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho at the end of February. Band 7 students have the opportunity to earn a trip to Victoria in May.

Our big trip this year will be to MusicFest Canada in Toronto and will be open to all students in grades 9-12. MusicFest is the national competition (which we have qualified for through our local festivals) and we are hoping to take a Concert Band and a Jazz Band to compete. As this is a performance based trip it is essential we have the right instrumentation for our ensembles, without proper instrumentation the trip will not happen. Information has gone out this week for all our grade 9-12 students and can also be found on our website.

GWG Music Apparel

We will be doing an order for GWG Music apparel in the next couple weeks. Students will be able to order Hoodies, T-Shirts and Water bottles with the GWG Music logo and customized with their ensembles and/or name. Order forms will be available next week.

