



GRAY SCHOOL NEWS

Gray Elementary

Volume 4 Issue 2

September 2017

From the Principal

Welcome back to a new school year! The staff would like to extend a special welcome to those who are new to the Gray community. We hope you all had a wonderful summer. Gray has a well-deserved reputation for being a caring community that expects the very best from everyone: respectful, hard-working students; talented, dedicated staff; and active, supportive parents. The staff is refreshed and eager to begin another exciting year of learning with your children.

As you know, Mrs. Braid is no longer the Vice Principal at Gray; she is now the Principal at Annieville Elementary. We are very happy to welcome Mr. Klassen to Gray as our new Vice Principal. Mr. Klassen comes to us from Chalmers Elementary where he was the Inclusion Team Teacher last year. Prior to that assignment, he taught the Primary Supportive Learning class at Chalmers. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise, so we know that he will be a great asset to the Gray community.

Traffic Safety and Parking

You may have noticed that the District has expanded our staff parking and moved our Disabled spots to the blacktop area in front of the building. There are now three spots for staff, the Principal, Vice Principal, and Administrative Assistant, and three spots for people with disabilities. I'd like to emphasize that these spots are not open to the general school population. If you have a child in the school with mobility issues, those spots are open for your use. If you have a mobility issue, have a blue, disabled persons' pass in your vehicle, and need to pick up your Kindergarten or Grade One child at their door, those spots are for you. We request that all other parents park in the roadway spots available and use the pick up and drop off area without leaving their vehicle; please **do not drive onto school grounds at the beginning and end of each school day**. Many of our students and their parents walk up and down the driveway before and after school, as there is no sidewalk for them to use. It is extremely dangerous to have parents turning into the driveway. The main parking lot is **for staff use only** and cannot be used by parents for dropping off or picking up their children



Dates to Remember

- ☺ **September 21st**
Photo Day
- ☺ **September 21st**
Open House
- ☺ **September 22nd**
Pro-D Day
- ☺ **September 27th**
PAC Meeting - 7pm
- ☺ **September 29th**
Orange Shirt Day

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School Organization

Our school continues to expand! This year, we have added two new enrolling divisions. However, that meant that the Supportive Learning Primary Program needed to move to McCloskey to accommodate our growth. We now have 555 students in our school. This year we have 23 divisions and a number of new staff members. Here is an outline of our configuration and staff:

<u>Div.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room #</u>	<u>Support Staff</u>	
1	7	Mrs. Matheson	704	Mrs. Chambers	LST
2	7	Ms. Mondin	101	Ms. Bhatti	LST
3	6/7	Mr. Karpluk	102	Ms. Drysdale	LST
4	6	Mrs. Vogel	703	Ms. Ackerman	LST
5	5/6	Mrs. MacKenzie	701	Mr. Louie &	Teacher/Librarian
6	5	Mr. Reshef	601	Mrs. Hodgins	
7	5	Mrs. Messer & Mrs. Hodgins	602	Mrs. Roder	Gym Teacher
				Mr. Klassen	Inclusion Team Teacher
8	4/5	Mrs. Dobie	603	Mrs. Bradley	Counsellor
9	4	Ms. Lochhead	604	Mr. Singh	Child and Youth Care
10	3/4	Mrs. Feenan & Ms. Randhawa	404	Mrs. Kallo	Speech Pathologist
				Ms. Woolford	School Psychologist
11	3/4	Mrs. Diotte & Mrs. Dyck	501	Ms. Northcott	Vision Teacher
				Mrs. McLeod	Education Assistant
12	3	Mrs. Groom & Ms. Varshney	503	Ms. Mah	Education Assistant
				Ms. Martini	Education Assistant
13	3	Mrs. Sandham & Ms. Randhawa	502	Ms. Geisbrecht	Education Assistant
				Mrs. Vida	Education Assistant
14	2	Mrs. Craft	401	Ms. Dhaliwal	Multicultural Worker
15	2	Ms. Watson	202	Mrs. Turner	Administrative Assistant
16	2	Ms. Johal	404	Mrs. Hudie	Administrative Assistant
17	1/2	Mrs. Skinner	203	Ms. Singh	Custodian
18	1	Ms. Hewitt	402	Ms. Randhawa	Custodian
19	1	Mrs. Wong	201		
20	K/1	Mrs. Bowers	302		
21	K	Mrs. Bain	304		
22	K	Miss. Hastings	303		
23	K	Ms. Khun Khun	301		

We realize it took much longer this year to move into our permanent classes. We needed to take the time to ensure that we were making the best decisions possible for all our students. As well, we needed to ensure that we were able to accept all the students in our catchment area who had registered over the summer and once school began. I'm happy to report that we were able to do so! We were lucky to be able to make that move on Friday afternoon. There are some schools in the District who were not ready to move until Tuesday, as they had new divisions added to their school. Many schools in other Districts are still working on their organization. This has definitely not been a usual year for staffing and school startup around the province.

Grade 6/7 Band Instrumental Rental



As a service to our parents, Tapestry Music will once again be holding a band instrument rental session. This year, we will be doing this after the PAC BBQ, at 7:00 in the library. We felt that, as many parents would already be at the school for the BBQ, it would eliminate the need for another evening at school for parents. This

is an optional event for parents. You are not obligated to use Tapestry Music if you are renting an instrument for your child. You may also rent from Tom Lee Music, Long and McQuade, or any other store that provides such a service. Of course, if you already have an instrument in the family, there would be no need to rent.

Meet the Teacher and PAC BBQ



We will be hosting our annual Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 21. Once again, the teachers will be available in their classrooms to provide two short information sessions in your child's classroom. This will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom, and find out what will be happening for your child

in their education. Teachers will provide further information about the sessions to the parents of their students next week. The first session will begin at 4:45 p.m. and the second at 5:00 p.m. The BBQ will begin at 5:30 p.m. as usual.



Head Lice

As many parents may recall, at times at Gray we have had a struggle controlling the spread of head lice. Head lice is indeed a pesky problem but it is not a health concern.

However, we would like to remind parents of the importance of checking their child's head on a regular basis for nits and/or live lice. For more information go on dealing with head lice, click [here](#).

If you find that your child does have lice—please contact the school as soon as possible.

If we determine that, as a school, we are having a major outbreak we will have a group of trained volunteers check students heads here at school. If for some reason you wish that your child not take part in these checks please let us know.

Annual Permission Forms

This week students will be bringing home a notice regarding the Annual Permission Forms process. There is more information on the Permission Forms posted on the district website at:

<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/resources/forparents/parentconnect>

Parents are asked to review and respond to all Permission Forms that are posted on Parent Connect by September 29th.

To access Parent Connect, go to

<https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsingone.aspx>

Terry Fox Run

During the weeks of Sept 18th to September 25th the students at Gray will be collecting money for the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research.

Once again we are asking our community to send in donations for this worthwhile charity. The Terry Fox assembly and run will be held on Monday, September 25th.

You can now logon to Parent Connect with your email address.

- If you **forgot your password or you are logging on for the first time, click on the Forgot my Password button** and if you have an email address on file the system will email you your password.
- Your **pop up blockers must be turned off** for Parent Connect to work properly
- If you do not have an email address on file please contact Mrs. Turner in the office.

Detailed instructions on using Parent Connect are available by selecting the "Help" button on the Parent Connect Sign In screen.



Fruit and Vegetable Program

Gray students will be participating in the BC Fruit and Vegetable program once again this year, Click [here](#) for more information on the program.

The Gray PAC is looking for a Program Coordinator and a few volunteers to help once a month with the distribution of the fruit and veggies. One person will need to hold a Food Safe Certification - ideally,

currently holding, but we can assist with certification costs.

Please contact Terri Burton at mkterriburton@gmail.com If you are interested.

Student Accident Insurance Plan

Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services offers a Student Accident Insurance Plan. For more information on this optional insurance plan [click here](#).

Late Arrivals and Absence Reporting



It is very important that all students arriving after the 9:00 a.m. bell sign in at the office and receive a late slip prior to going to their classrooms. Once your child has signed in and picked up a late slip it is not necessary for you to accompany them to their classroom. Your cooperation with this safety measure is much appreciated.

If your child will be absent, **PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL before 8:55 a.m.** The school phone has an answering machine to record messages before 8:30 a.m. and

after 4:00 p.m. Unexplained absences will be followed up by our Parent Volunteer.

To assist us in our efforts to protect your child, **please log on to Parent Connect to ensure that we have your correct phone number for home and work, as well as other emergency contact numbers.**

Sign In /Sign Out Procedures

Please be reminded that **all visitors to the school** are required to check in at the office.

If you are volunteering in the classroom or library we ask that you sign in and out in the Visitor Sign in Book located on the front counter. There you will take a "Visitor" label to wear which communicates to both staff and students that you have business in the school and you are not a threat to any child's safety.

If you are only going to be in the school for a few minutes you still must check in with our office staff and pick up a yellow Visitor Card, which you can return on your way out.

If you are picking up your child early please ensure you or your child talks to one of the office staff to let them know that you are picking up your child early and also **make sure** you or your child signs out in the back of the Sign In/Out Binder located at the office window.

Please help us keep all of our students safe by following these safety precautions.

Supervision Assistants Required

We are looking for individuals who would be interested in becoming a spare Noon-Hour Supervision Assistant. Supervision Assistants are responsible for monitoring student behaviour and safety and for enforcing school rules, policies and guidelines concerning student behaviour both in the classroom and on the playground. This is a CUPE union paid position, and the hours of work are

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have openings for a few casual on-call Supervision Assistants. If you are interested in this opportunity please drop by the office to pick up an application.

PAC News

Welcome Back Message from PAC

A warm welcome to our new parents & welcome back parents of returning students! We are more excited than ever to continue building relationships and strengthening our school community!

Who is the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)?

All parents and guardians of students registered in the school are automatically voting members of the Gray PAC. The School Act gives parents the right, through the PACs, to assume an advisory role in every school.

How Does A PAC Work?

PACs, with strong participation from parents, have an important influence on life at the school and the feelings the community has towards the school and education. There is strong evidence that increased parent involvement in the school results in increased student achievement, accomplishment, satisfaction, and bonding; all of which results in decreased dropout rates.

The Purpose of the PAC is:

- To encourage and promote communication between the parents/guardians, teaching staff and administration in our school community;
- To provide parents with the opportunity to gain greater understanding of our school;
- To assist the School Planning Council in carrying out its functions;
- To give input into school-based decisions;
- To improve the sense of community in our school/neighbourhood;
- To monitor and review school rules and conduct, the safety programs, the educational programs, learning material, equipment and our school building;
- To fund additional activities and initiatives that benefit our Gray students to help create a more comfortable learning environment for our children and educators.

Your Involvement:

Parents are encouraged and invited to bring forth issues, suggestions or ideas by:

- Attending a monthly PAC Meeting
- Contacting a PAC Executive member
- Sending a letter to the school addressed to a member of the PAC Executive
- By attending a PAC meeting you will find that it's a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and become part of a greater school community. Parents and guardians can make a difference to the quality of their children's education by getting involved in what they are doing in school and by taking part in the school PAC.

The PAC meets on the 4th Wednesday, alternating between an evening and morning meetings each month. Our first PAC Meeting of this school year will be held in the school Library on **Wednesday September 27th at 7:00 pm**. Hope to see you there!

Current PAC Executive 2017/2018:

Chair	Amy Burden	Contact any of the PAC Executive members by emailing them at GrayPac@deltasd.bc.ca
Vice Chair	Andrea Mori	
Secretary	Sandra Baumeister	
Treasurer	Lucie Seba	
Hot Lunch Coordinator	Ruth Kaune	
DPAC & Newsletter	Kristin Unger	
Events & Fundraising Coordinator	Terri Burton	
Emergency Preparedness	VACANT	

COBS Bread Dough Raiser Program

We have partnered up with COBS Bread at Scott 72 Centre (Scott Road & 72nd Ave)!

Mention "Gray Elementary" when making your purchase and they will donate 5% of it back to Gray!

COBS Bread promises to bring you the freshest, highest quality baked goods every day! Each morning their dedicated bakers are up early making bread from scratch for you to enjoy. COBS is dedicated on giving back to our community, at the end of the day, all of their leftover bread is given to local charities.

Click [here](#) to read a letter from Geoffrey Paulin, COBS Bread Scott 72 Centre Franchisee regarding the program.

Entertainment Books

Our Entertainment Book Fundraiser is back!! It is one of our school's most successful fundraisers.

Entertainment Books will be distributed on Thursday September 14th. Please take a moment to read through the notice in the package ([click here to print/view the notice](#)) as there is important information about this campaign .

Kaboom Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Fundraiser Program

We are pleased to announce Kaboom Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu has had an overwhelming response from our Gray community! I hope your children are having a fantastic time and their new location is bright and spacious! For new parents, click [here](#) to read the [Flyer from Kaboom Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu](#).

Upcoming Gray Events & Fundraisers

Stay tuned for these upcoming Gray community events and fundraisers!

- Family BBQ & Open House (Sept 21) - [Click here for the Barbeque Pre-Order Form](#).
[Click here for a Volunteer Form](#) , please help out.
- Entertainment Book Fundraiser (Campaign: Sept 14 - Oct 2)
[Click here for the Entertainment Book Flyer and Information Notice](#)
- Halloween Dance Party (Oct)
- Free Family Movie Night (Nov)
- Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser (end Nov)
- Holiday Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser (end Nov)
- Christmas Market (Dec 2)
- Family Bingo Night (end Jan)
- Easter Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser (Feb)
- Parent Paint Night (Feb)
- Zumba Party (TBD)
- Carnival (May/June)
- Staff/Teacher Appreciation Lunch (May/June)
- Sports Day (June)

We have an amazing group of parent volunteers who help plan and execute all our wonderful school events & fundraisers, but we still need more help - many hands make light work!

If you are interested in lending a hand or joining any of our awesome organizing committees, please email Terri Burton at mkterriburton@gmail.com. We would love to have you on board & hear your ideas!

How to Get Better Grades in School

You can make this your child's best year ever in school! Smart students have secrets. What does it take to be a superior student? The most important secret is a great study strategy! Terry Small's student success system shows your kids how to take charge of their time and succeed! Parents and students attend this seminar together to learn proven strategies and study secrets that have helped 251,000 students to excel.

Guaranteed: better grades, self-confidence, more free time, and fun learning! Good grades have never been more important than today. Come and learn how to get them! You will have fun and be entertained. The seminar is suitable for students of all abilities in Gr. 4 to 12. This seminar sold out early last time so call early! Get a head start on good grades.

Terry Small is Canada's #1 study skills expert. He is listed in Nationwide Who's Who. His ideas were recently featured on CKNW Radio, BCTV, Global, and in the Globe and Mail and Student Success. Terry speaks internationally.

When: October 18, Wednesday, 2017, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Delta Manor Education Center

Instructor: Terry Small B.Ed., M.A.
{ 42.00 for the whole family. }

To register: Delta Continuing Education - ph. (604) 940-5550

* Also available in Langley

www.terrysmall.com

"Study smarter, not harder!"

Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 Students

Beginning September 1, 2017 drop by any Delta recreation facility listed below and activate your Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 Annual Drop-in Admission Pass. With the pass, you will be able to attend unlimited drop-in sessions. You can bring along a youth, young adult or adult, at a reduced family admission rate, each time you use your pass!



Eligibility Requirements

All Delta residents who were born in 2004-2007, or who are in Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 as of September 2017, are eligible for the pass with the payment of a \$5 administration fee.

In order to activate your Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 pass, simply go to the Customer Service Office at any Delta recreation facility and present proof of your birth date and Delta residence, along with the \$5 fee. Students who are older or younger than the typical Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 students will need a signed letter from your principal to confirm enrollment.

Facility Listings by Area

LADNER

Ladner Leisure Centre, 4600 Clarence Taylor Crescent

NORTH DELTA

North Delta Recreation Centre, 11415 84 Avenue

Sungod Recreation Centre, 7815 112 Street

TSAWWASSEN

South Delta Recreation Centre, 1720 56 Street

Winskil Aquatic & Fitness Centre, 5575 9 Avenue



For more information on the Grade 5, 6, 7 and 8 Annual Drop-in Admission Pass, please visit www.delta.ca

