



**Grand Forks  
Secondary School**  
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Phone: 442-8285

# The Wolf Report

November 2007



## Principal's Message

Thanks to all the parents that showed up to Night Maze and parent-teacher interviews. Many teachers were booked solid for the evening. If you have any suggestions or feedback for us regarding the format...please drop us a line. Parent input is important for us to make the evening a success.

Teachers Mr. Kuklo, Mr. Anderson and Mr. McKaig have put together the completed package for the new Grad Transitions requirements. We think the package will be a great resource for helping students complete the requirements and reflect on what they have learned. All students are now required to complete this package as part of their graduation program. Grade 12 students will be presented with the package the week of Oct 29-Nov 1. Thanks to our group of teachers from BCSS and GFSS who helped put this together.

Thanks also goes out to the players and coaches of our junior and senior boys soccer teams for having another successful season. Our junior and senior girls volleyball teams are in full swing and we wish them continued success.

## Attendance Callout

The school is now in the second month of using a new automated attendance callout system. Thank you to parents as we work out the bugs in the system. Feedback so far has been very positive with parents being grateful to be informed about their child's unexcused absence. If you have received a call and you are unsure why...please contact the office at 442-8285. Regular attendance is very important for most students and is often linked positively to their achievement in class.

## Principal's Lunch for Sept.

The following students were chosen from the list of nominees for September based on the theme of "Helping Others":

Tyler Kraft

CJ Meyers

Josh Burnside

Correna Helmkey

Sarah Balak

Good job students!

## Mid Term Reports

Students will be receiving their mid-term grades on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Students may also receive interim reports home in the mail on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't received any information about how your child is doing...please contact the school and we will provide you with a progress report.

## HOWL Report

Starting this past Thursday, several senior students started the HOWL Report last block on Thursday afternoons. Led by the hilarious Mr. Lockhart and witty Mr. Anderson, these students will be providing a send off for the weekends including recognition for students from the week, funny moments, top ten lists, and other interesting tid bits. Cool!!!

## Cell Phone Use

Students are expected to turn off cell phones and have them put away during class time. Phones may be used during lunch or after school.

## Student Advisory Council

A Student Advisory Committee has now been formed. Senior students Julia MacLeod-Pharand, Azlan Graves, and Selena Demenoff have stepped forward to be part of this important group. The students have met with Mr. Stewart three times and have helped finalize a new student code of conduct and handbook. The group has also recommended some changes on issues such as telephone use for students on study blocks, improving water fountains, etc. If you have a student issue you would like addressed...see one of these students

### Study Hall...

Thanks to teachers and students that have been using the study hall and Mrs. Riester for organizing the referrals. Study Hall is set up during lunch as a spot for students to go if they are behind on their work. Students may also be referred there if they are incomplete with their work. Snacks and drinks are provided as well as staff support. So far this year 170 students have accessed help through study hall.

## Important Dates

### Tuesday, Oct.30<sup>th</sup>

- Grade 12 meeting (D block) to receive Grad Transitions package

### Tuesday, Nov.6<sup>th</sup>

- PAC meeting in library at 7pm

### Thursday, Nov.8<sup>th</sup>

- End of Semester 1 Term 1

### Monday, Nov.12<sup>th</sup>

- Remembrance Day Holiday

### Friday, Nov.16<sup>th</sup>

- School in session
- Ski swap drop off 6pm-8pm

### Saturday, Nov.17<sup>th</sup>

- Ski swap drop off 10am-12pm
- Ski swap sale 1pm-3pm

### Wednesday, Nov.21<sup>st</sup>

- Report cards go home

### Saturday, Nov.24<sup>th</sup>

- Costa Rica fundraiser

### Wednesday, Dec.5<sup>th</sup>

- School Dance

### Wednesday, Dec.19<sup>th</sup>

- Christmas Concert

## HOWL out LOUD

October is shaping up to be our best month ever for the number of students receiving HOWL out LOUD cards. Congrats to students and staff. Starting in November we will be posting winners on a new bulletin board being designed by Mr. de Haan's art class...come and check it out. T-shirts will also be drawn at the end of each week during the HOWL Report. The other exciting news is students will also start earning HOWL bucks that they can use to buy school clothing, school supplies, and cafeteria goods. It pays to be **H**elpful, **O**pen-minded, have a **W**inning Attitude, be a **L**eader, a **L**earner, **O**utgoing, **U**nderstanding, and **D**ependable.

## Costa Rica Fundraiser

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, students going on the trip to Costa Rica will be putting on an indoor garage sale in the gym. Donated goods can be dropped off between 8-11:00am. Sale will go from 3pm until the end of the auction.

The group is also holding a live auction from 6-8pm the same evening. Come and check out the goods and help support the students!! For more information, please contact Ms. Vowell at 442-8285

## No Smoking Policy

As many of you know, the provincial government's new policy on smoking is now in effect for all schools. Smoking is prohibited anywhere in or on school property including vehicles. Students, staff and parents are required to smoke off premises. Thank you for your cooperation in enforcing this law.

## School Attendance Line 442-0954

\*absences are not recorded as excused after the day of the absence

## Student Handbook

A revised student handbook is being posted to the school website this week. Members of PAC as well as the Student Advisory Committee have provided input into the changes in addition to some direction from the new provincial guidelines. The handbook is reviewed every year so please let us know if you have further comments regarding the document.

## Athletics

Volleyball is still in session with both senior and junior girls' teams participating. Basketball skill sessions have started for all students interested in playing this year in grades 8-12 for both boys and girls teams. Sessions are Wednesdays from 5:15-6:30pm for girls and Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm for boys. If you have further questions, please see Mr. McKaig who is the Athletic Director.

## PAC Meeting

The next PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meeting will be on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school library. Topics of discussion will include the new Grad Transitions package (sample copies given out), work on a Trades program, new Student Handbook, Recycling Program, and other updates. Come out and join the action. It is a good way to keep up on what is going on at school.

**Website**....check out the new school website at [www.sd51.bc.ca/gfss](http://www.sd51.bc.ca/gfss)

Information is updated daily!

## Fred Walker Learning Center

Here's what we've been up to at Fred since September 2007.

We had our first field trip of the year at the beginning of October. We visited the Inkameep Cultural Centre in Osoyoos and experienced a "live rattle snake demonstration". We also went on a guided walking tour of the traditional Okanagan Pit Houses and learned about the traditional uses of the local flora and fauna. For our next Fred field trip we're heading to Nelson in November to tour the programs offered by Selkirk College and Kootenay School of the Arts.

For our junior students we have regular afternoon activities which include bowling, working out at the GFSS weight room, cooking healthy meals, and Art with Ms. Stolz. We also visit the GF art gallery monthly and are looking forward to touring the current "Drawing on Identity" exhibit. Jordan Rosengren is the proud winner of the bowling tournament, having the highest score, 235. The students are enthusiastic about their new sketchbooks and are currently cooperatively designing a Fred Walker logo for our new "Fred Hoodies". We will also be applying for an "Honouring Our Health" grant and plan to use the funds to promote a nutrition and physical activity program for all our Fred students.

We currently have 9 Adult students attending Mon. & Wed. 3-6PM, 12 Junior students attending full-time and 14 Senior students attending part-time.

Our staffing this year is comprised of Joanne Van Hoogevest – "official mummy" Admin. Asst., Trevor Murdock – Ab. Ed. Cultural Support Worker, Margot Stolz – Teacher, Sr. & Adult Program, Diane Thome – Youth Care Counsellor, Rob Simpson – V.P., Teacher Jr. Program.

## DLC... . What is the DLC? (Distributed Learning Centre)

At Grand Forks Secondary School, the DLC is a classroom that provides a quiet place for students, grades 8-12, to receive academic and behaviour support. Our team includes teacher Karen de Wynter, teaching assistant Mary Ann Westaway, and youth care counsellor Maureen Haworth. We work closely with the staff to monitor students in-class performance. We assist students with a variety of skill-building (i.e. organization, studying, social skills, and academics). Students attend DLC either as a class for support or periodically when they need some help.

## Aboriginal Education Program

The GFSS Aboriginal Education program includes approximately 90 students. Mrs. Argue is continuing as the academic support and Ms Groeneveld as liaison teacher. We also have Trevor Murdock as our Cultural Support Worker. Trevor divides his time between GFSS and Fred Walker, and is also involved with the Respectful Relationships program. Trevor looks after cultural projects in classes, contacts with the local community, and works one on one with some students. Through his ties with the local Aboriginal community Trevor is also able to involve youth in projects connecting youth with elders.

We now have a new dedicated space called the Aboriginal Education Resource Room, located next to the Counselling Centre. It has a great workspace, lots of natural light, and we are working on developing it as a welcoming and well equipped multi-use centre.

We have launched the E-Spirit competition again this year with two teams participating. Students go through all the steps of a creating a plan for a business of their choice. If all the criteria are met, the students may be invited to the national gathering, which will be held in Regina in May.

The Grand Forks Art Gallery is currently presenting a show "Drawing on Identity": original art created by Aboriginal students at the Inkameep Day School during the 1930's and 1940's showing their culture and heritage. As well, there is an exhibit of art by some Boundary District Aboriginal students. Classes have been invited to attend over the next few weeks. The exhibition continues until December 15 and everyone is invited to attend.

## Recycling Program

Students and staff at GFSS will be introduced to a re-worked recycling program over the next couple weeks. A small group of students lead by Natasha Bradford, have been working on developing a school wide recycling program and a system to help eliminate all the recyclable goods being thrown out with the garbage. In the spring students along with Mrs. Westaway conducted a garbage survey and learned that over 50% of the material going out in the garbage was actually recyclable. Watch for the new stations and signs ...and most importantly...recycle.

## Block Rotations for November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 <sup>st</sup> DABBC	
5 <sup>th</sup> ABCCD	6 <sup>th</sup> BCDDA	7 <sup>th</sup> CDAAB	8 <sup>th</sup> DABBC	
Remembrance Day	13 <sup>th</sup> BCDDA	14 <sup>th</sup> CDAAB	15 <sup>th</sup> DABBC	16 <sup>th</sup> ABCCD
19 <sup>th</sup> BCDDA	20 <sup>th</sup> CDAAB	21 <sup>st</sup> DABBC	22 <sup>nd</sup> ABCCD	
26 <sup>th</sup> CDAAB	27 <sup>th</sup> DABBC	28 <sup>th</sup> ABCCD	29 <sup>th</sup> BCDDA	