



# Gold River Secondary School

November 20, 2009

## School Improvement Plan 2009-2010

### GOAL # 2

To improve the literacy of all students at GRSS in the areas of reading and writing with a focus on closing the gap between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students.

#### Why We Chose This Goal:

- A review of the DART assessment results in the 2007-2008 school year indicated that a substantial number of students at all grade levels were not meeting expected levels in both reading and writing.
- Teachers frequently mentioned that low reading comprehension levels and a lack of fluency in all teaching areas was dramatically impacting on student success and their ability to demonstrate learning.
- Educational research has clearly shown that the level of student success is influenced by their ability to read, write and express themselves orally.
- Enrollment in Language Arts courses also indicates that an abnormally large percentage of students require a modified program in order to have instruction at their level of reading, writing and oral expression.
- Literacy levels impact on numeracy success.

#### How We Will Track Progress:

- DART
- Pre and post writing samples of students using the Achieving Excellence in Writing program.
- Success rate on Provincial examinations.
- Success of Transition and Nootka Discovery students.
- Successful completion of either English 12 or Communications 12.
- Survey of students, parents, and staff.

## Parent /Teacher Interviews

Tuesday, November 24

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Call for an Appointment

### Staff Changes

A temporary good bye to Mrs. O'Reilly and Mr. Kellington. We wish them well until we see them back at school again.

Welcome back to 3 staff members. Mr. Mudge, who will be taking over for Mr. Kellington while he is away. Mr. Norman who is returning part time after the Christmas break. Ms. Lawrence who is our Home Economics teacher for the remainder of this year. She formerly taught Art at our school.

### Encounters With Canada

Encounters With Canada was one of the best experiences of my life! I learned a lot, met over a hundred youth from across the country, and learned about the health and medicine field of careers.

The week consisted of a lot of sightseeing, lectures, and a whole lot of waking up at 5:00, which is actually 2:00 (which I am not missing at ALL). Our monitors and the weather network said that it would be pouring all week; but, being from Gold River, it was a light sprinkling with the occasional medium-sized drop, which always came during our hour of outdoor sports. I also discovered that Hondas do not like me, Bob and Security Guy John are the coolest people in the world, and that I am 100% sure I want to go into the medical field. The Parliament buildings were incredible, and the statues all over Ottawa are stunning! We also went to the cemetery and paid our respects to the war veterans that served our country, which I will keep in my heart forever.

The week ended with a solid 39 hours of no sleep, when we had a few hours to shop, return to the Terry Fox Memorial Center, have a banquet, do skits of our provinces (BC was the best by far!), have a dance, say our goodbyes, and return home. It was weird to think that we had grown so attached to each other when we had only known each other for a week, when it felt like we had known each other for our whole lives! I will never forget this experience, and I will keep it placed in my iTop 10 Experiences of My Life! list!  
Erica Eng

## Open House

Friends  
Students  
Parents  
Relatives  
Join us for the

## Canucks Game on the Big Screen

Meet the Staff

November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Popcorn and  
Ice Cream  
Enjoy  
Coffee and Baked  
Goods

During a Power Outage our regular  
phone number does not work.  
Please call 250-283-7121.

## ADVISING CENTRE NEWS-Mr. Lake

### Scholarships

A meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October to discuss scholarship and bursary applications. Application forms for local scholarships are available on the student dropbox. Information about many other scholarships is available in the top drawer of the file cabinet in the Advising Resource Room.

### Post-Secondary Institutes Visit

Representatives from nine post-secondary institutes met with students in grades 10-12 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October during our annual PSI Visit. The representatives were delighted by the beauty of Gold River, and they took the time to comment on the responsible behaviour of our students. This was another opportunity for our students to explore options and to gain information about post-secondary admission requirements. A useful online tool for students and parents exploring post-secondary programs and prerequisites may be found at [www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca). Students make use of this resource during the career and education exploration component of their Planning 10 course.

### Post-Secondary Applications

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October Mr. Lake met with students planning to continue with their education after completing grade 12 to explain

the post-secondary application process. Students were advised to begin the process at [www.pas.bc.ca](http://www.pas.bc.ca). This site allows application information to be stored and used again if a student applies to another college or university.

### Anti-Bullying/Racism Pledge

Mr. Lake met with each grade eight student to discuss the importance of letting a staff member know if a student is being bullied or is thinking of self-harm. Students were given an opportunity to express any concerns, and to join their fellow students in grades 9-12 in signing the GRSS Anti-Bullying/Racism Pledge.

### HeretoHelp Website

Mental health and substance use information is available at [www.heretohelp.bc.ca](http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca). If you are feeling desperate and need to talk to someone, call 1-800-784-2433. Trained and helpful operators are on hand 24 hours a day to give you support. Additional support for youth may be found at [www.youthinbc.com](http://www.youthinbc.com).



Students taking part in the iWalk activities organized by the Doing It Right class. After the walking, the class sold milk and healthy cookies that they baked.



### Dates to Remember:

- November 24 - Parent/Teacher Interviews 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
(classes dismissed at 2:00 p.m.)
- November 25 - PAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- November 26 - Open House at 7:00 p.m.
- November 30 - Picture Retakes at 1:00 p.m.
- December 3 - Grade 8 Trimester 1 ends
- December 4 - Grade 8 Trimester 2 starts
- December 8 - Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- December 18 - Last day before Christmas Break
- January 4 - Classes resume after Christmas Break
- January 27- February 1- Midterm Examinations
- January 27 - PAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.