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gpv.hrce.ca

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I am very excited to start the year at Georges P. Vanier. I have had the privilege to support students and public education in a variety of positions and roles over the course of my career. Most recently I have served as the Chair of the Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia, and prior to that as Principal of Halifax West and J. L. Ilesley High Schools, and as a Vice-Principal at Halifax West and Lockview High Schools. Using evidence based approaches as part of a team to create a safe and inclusive school is my passion.

As you know we are in the midst of moving into our new modular building, the new home for Grade 6. All of our staff have been actively involved in the moving process and reconfiguring the main building for our grade 7 and 8s. We are grateful for the extensive work that has been completed by the contractors and HRCE staff over the summer. As with any construction project there will still be some work to do, but we have assurances that it will be done outside of the school day, and will not interfere with classes. Successfully opening the new building is our top priority at every level.

With a new building comes the challenge of rethinking how every procedure and practice will work. Safety is always the highest priority and it will mean that we have to make significant changes to vehicle traffic on our property at the end of the school day. You will see a detailed explanation below and will receive more detailed instructions as they are finalized.

We will continue the practice of sending out a Friday email to all homes. Regular communication will inform you of upcoming events, reminders, and school successes. We anticipate some additional communication at the beginning of the year due related to our start up.

Communication is also key between you and your child's teacher. They should be your first contact with any questions or concerns regarding your child's programming. The Vice-Principal and Guidance Counsellor teams are additional supports for your child and will work with you to ensure your child has success.

Most of all I am looking forward to meeting the students on Wednesday. I hope the information in this letter is helpful to answer the many questions they may have. It is always an exciting time because it is filled with so much potential.

Tim Simony
Principal, Georges P. Vanier Junior High

Vice Principals and Guidance Counsellors

This year students will be supported by two teams as described below. This configuration will allow the team to provide consistent support throughout the year, and the following years while the student is attending Georges P. Vanier

Students A to L: VP Tammy Murray and Guidance Counsellor Ron Nugent

Students M to Z: VP Damion Pollard and Guidance Counsellor Jackie Laba

Contact information is available on the website <https://gpv.hrce.ca/>

Welcome New and Returning Staff:

Tim Simony – Principal
Jackie Laba - Guidance Counsellor M to Z
Robyn Bent - Grade 6 teacher
Sohael Abidi - Grade 7 and 8 Math teacher
Jane Delahunt - Science, Mode de Vie and French teacher
Emily Faubert - Science, Social Studies and Health teacher
Kim Reardon - Art teacher
Peter Ryan - Physical Education teacher
Theresa Glasgow - Learning Center teacher
Terri-Lee MacLean - Educational Program Assistant
Tamara Murphy - Educational Program Assistant
Christy O'Neill - Educational Program Assistant

First Day of School: As students arrive on Wednesday, teachers will be at the doors to greet them! All grade 6 students will be directed to the cafeteria and grade 7 and 8 students will go to the gym. Students will be greeted by administration and will then meet their classmates and teachers. They will spend two hours with their first period teacher reviewing locks, lockers, teacher expectations and school routines. From there they will begin their third period classes.

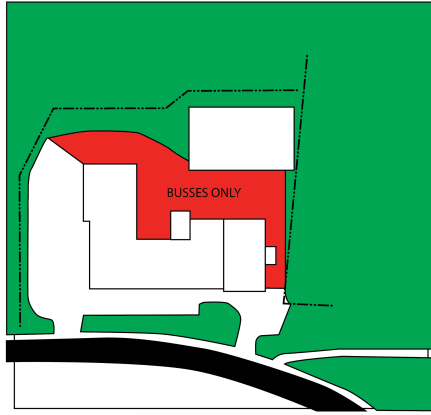
It is not necessary to send in all school supplies the first day! Just send your child with the essentials the first day and keep the rest at home to use as needed.

School Website: Please visit our website for current and upcoming events as well as our monthly newsletters. We can be found at <https://gpv.hrce.ca/>

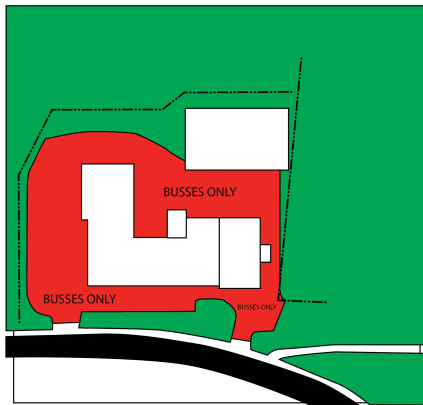
Student Fees: There are no general student fees at Georges. P. Vanier

School Supplies: A complete list of school supplies can be found on the school website. <https://gpv.hrce.ca/our-school>

Parking Lot Restrictions AM and PM: The new grade 6 building occupies a significant amount of space and we are reassessing our parking lot practices for the AM and PM. Below you will see two drawings illustrating what is restricted from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM, and what is restricted from 2:30 PM to 3:25 PM.



From 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM private vehicles will be able to use our front parking lot and side parking lot. Both have been freshly paved and it may be some time before lines are added. Parents and Guardians can use it for drop off and pick up until 2:30.



From 2:30 PM to 3:25 PM only buses will be allowed to move in our parking lot. Parked cars will have to remain in place, and they will be blocked in by the number of buses we will have on site. Last year there were about 23 buses that picked up students at the end of the day. Student pick up by parents or guardians will have to be done off-site. If a student has mobility issues that need to be considered please contact their Vice-Principal and they will support a safe solution.

Leaving Early: Parents/guardians can come into the school to sign out their child. Other options are to call the school when you arrive or ring the front doorbell. A reminder that our parking lot will be closed to local traffic (buses only) from 2:30 - 3:25 daily.

No Idling Zone: Please make sure that your vehicle is turned off while waiting to pick up your child as fumes enter the school and disrupt students and staff. This is also a health and safety issue. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Safe Arrival: Specific information regarding the Safe Arrival program is included in the attachment. This information will also be posted on our website for easy access in the future

Curriculum Night: Join us on Thursday, September 22 from 6:00-8:00 for an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about the expected learning outcomes, assessment and evaluation strategies for each subject.

Doors will open at 6:00 for a 6:10 start. The evening will begin in the gymnasium. This is an information session only and individual students will not be discussed.

Student Transportation:

Information on bus schedules can be found by logging into BusPlanner. Parents/Guardians, if you haven't already, you can subscribe to BusPlanner through the parent portal:

<https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FSubscriptions%2FChildTransportInfo>

For information on registering for BusPlanner, visit the HRCE website at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/student-transportation>

Please remember that stop times are estimates. Times can vary for many reasons, weather, traffic, etc. Students are requested to be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the listed time. It is also suggested that parents/guardians who meet their children at the p.m. bus stop be there 5 minutes prior to the listed time. Students are no longer allowed to travel on a bus that they are not registered for. This includes going to a friend's house after school. Other arrangements will need to be made.

School Hours: Students will be admitted to the school at 8:40 am. Please do not drop your child off early as there is no supervision prior to 8:40.

Bell Schedule:

Entry Bell 8:40

Block 1 9:00 – 10:05

Block 2 10:05 – 11:05

Recess for Grade 6 - 10:05 to 10:20

Block 3 11:05 – 12:05

Lunch 12:05 – 1:05

Block 4 1:05 – 2:05

Block 5 2:05 – 3:05

School buses are on time if they arrive five minutes prior to the start of classes.

In our school this would be 8:55 am.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices: Please remind your child that cell phones may only be used during lunch time in the cafeteria, outside or upon a teacher request for educational purposes. Cell phones should be kept in their locker. We are not responsible for lost or damaged phones. Parents/guardians are to contact the office should they need a message relayed to their child during class.

Lockers and desks: Lockers and desks are property of the HRCE and there is no expectation of privacy.

Lunch Monitors: We are looking for lunch monitors. If you or someone you know is interested, please call the office at (902)860-4182.

SAC: The school advisory committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 15th from 6-7:30. We will be looking for a parent/guardian from the Waverly Memorial community. If you are interested, please contact the school at (902)860-4182.

Emergency Management Plan: September is a busy month ensuring students are prepared in case of an emergency. We will be holding several drills this month including fire, hold and secure and lockdown. These drills are to ensure that students know the procedures and expectations.

No Child Without: For more information on Medic Alert please visit the following website:
<http://www.nochildwithout.ca>

Volunteers: A volunteer includes but is not limited to a coach, a driver, a classroom helper and a trip chaperone. Students will not be permitted to travel to or from a school sanctioned event with a parent (other than their own) unless the parent has a Criminal Records Check, Child Abuse Registry Search and a J-Form on file in the main office. If you have these checks done through another agency, school, or organization, you can request that they send a copy to Georges P. Vanier. Please see the link on our website under volunteers to access the current Child Abuse Registry form.

Criminal Records Check can be done through the RCMP office. We appreciate the time, patience and understanding our parents have shown in ensuring our students are safely transported to extracurricular events.

Students are not permitted to leave the grounds at lunch unless they are with a parent/guardian and have been signed out.

Head Lice: This is common in schools where many students gather together. Please take a moment to review How to Prevent, Find, and Treat Head Lice from the link below and our website. Check your child's head regularly, once a week as part of your routine, after every sleepover, every day during lice outbreaks at school. Keep long hair tied back or braided. Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves. Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school.

<https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

Cafeteria: Please remind your child that they are to remain seated while in the cafeteria and are expected to clean up after themselves. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Grade 7 Immunization: Forms will be sent home early in September. We ask that they be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

Athletics: Welcome to another year of extra-curricular sports at Vanier. Fall sports are coming up soon: Soccer, Cross Country, and Volleyball. For updates/information, students are encouraged to read the whiteboard outside the gym, listen to announcements or see Mr. Hanlon. Once the leagues are up and running, your child will receive a schedule, permission forms and information on athletic fees.

Parents can follow Mr. Hanlon on Twitter @VanierSports or follow Pat Healey (@Laker_PatHealey) of the Laker, who is great at re-tweeting any information he receives.

If you are interested in coaching/volunteering a sport team this year please contact Mr. Hanlon shanlon@hrce.ca

<https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/students/junior-high-sports>

Georges P. Vanier 2022-2023 Calendar

September 1	Organization Day PP-12 (no classes)
September 2	Professional Development Day P-12 (no classes)
September 5	Labour Day – No school
September 6	Professional Development Day P-12 (no classes)
September 7	First Day of School for Students
September 13	School pictures
September 15	SAC meeting 6-8pm
September 22	Curriculum Night 6-8pm
September 23	Photo Master Retakes
September 30	Truth and Reconciliation Day – No School
October 10	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 20	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC meeting 6-7pm
October 24	Grade 7 Immunizations
October 28	Provincial Conference day P-12 (no school)
November 9	Remembrance Day Set Up
November 10	Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 11	Remembrance Day observed (no school)
November 17	School dance 7-9pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
November 21	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)
November 28-30	Report Cards go home
December 1	AM- PD Day; PM Parent Teacher Meetings
December 2	PD Day PP-12 (no classes)

December 13	Band Holiday Concert 6-8pm
December 14	Snow date for the Holiday Band Concert
December 20	Last day of school for Christmas break
January 3	School re-opens
February 9	Parent Information Session regarding Registration 6-9pm
February 20	Heritage Day – (no school)
February 23	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC Meeting 6-7pm
March 8	Showcase set up night 6-9pm
March 19	Showcase Set up (Snow date)
March 13-17	March Break
March 20	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
March 27-29	Report Cards go Home
March 30	P.D morning (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm
April 7	Good Friday (no school)
April 10	Easter Monday (no school)
April 24	Grade 7 Immunizations
May 18	School Dance 7-9pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
May 22	Victoria Day (no school)
May 30	Spring Band concert 7-8:30pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
June 22	End of year Grade 8 School Dance 7-9
June 29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last day of school – Report Cards go home