



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

École Golden Ears Elementary

With all the challenges and expectations of our day-to-day lives, we can find ourselves feeling a sense of unease. When I start to feel weighed down, I reflect on what is within my realm of influence and what is not. I find this helps me step back, take a breath and plan my next best step forward. I have learned that there is nothing to be gained by worrying about things we can't control, besides stress and anxiety.

Unfortunately, we are hearing the word "entitlement" used more frequently in social media and general conversation to describe people and their interactions with others. One of the definitions of entitlement is, "the belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment." Basically, that the rules apply to everyone else but not the individual. As our communities grow, so does the feeling of anonymity, our lack of connection to each other and our accountability to people we don't know. When we feel disconnected, our "integrity" takes a hit. Integrity is being honest and having moral principles. Essentially, doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

When we think of "entitlement" and "integrity" and the frustrating space that exists when people act with little to no regard for others, let's consider, "what is within our realm of control?" I feel our next best step is teaching, modelling and reinforcing basic manners. I will be the first to acknowledge my privilege of growing up in Canada as part of the white, English-speaking, dominant culture. From this perspective, I was taught that having "manners" means thinking of your impact on others and displaying actions such as:

- saying "please" and "thank you."
- greeting others with a smile and eye contact.
- holding doors open for people, instead of barging through first.
- using appropriate table manners during meals (chewing with your mouth closed, using utensils if needed).
- showing consideration for others' feelings and perspectives (engaging in reflective problem solving).

I am learning that manners vary across cultures and contexts, but in general, they reflect values such as kindness, consideration, and respect for others.

So, is there room to grow in developing the manners of our school community? The answer is a resounding "YES." Our school community has grown tremendously in the last couple years and our integrity is slipping. I'd like you to consider the following examples of what I have observed in and around our school:

- Drivers yelling, honking, swearing and even physical altercations over parking.
- Rude language (including yelling and swearing) at staff members.
- Disregard for our "Visitor" policy that is in place for the safety of the students and staff.
- Bringing dogs onto the property to "see if anyone will notice" and then needing direct reminders.
- Demanding to speak to staff without prior contact or setting up a mutually agreeable time.

These types of situations happen more frequently than we would all like to acknowledge. While these are examples of adult choices, the issue is that our children are always watching and listening. Children replicating entitlement can look like the following, at school:

- Using inappropriate language for a school environment (swearing, discriminatory or taunting words).
- Yelling at staff and other students; engaging in physical altercations with others.
- Vandalizing our school property (i.e., writing on the bathroom and hallway walls).
- Purposefully urinating/defecating on the floors or toilet seats in the student washrooms.
- Dropping items on the floor/leaving things lying around because “that’s the custodians’ job.”

I think we can all agree that none of the examples are reflective of a community that truly takes care of themselves, others and our school. At school, we are reinforcing the use of basic manners in our words, actions and our consideration for others. We thank you in advance for modelling and reinforcing the same manners at home and in the community.

Regards,
Laura Brandon

WESTCOAST RECESS

We have “Westcoast Recess” and outside lunch time. Students enjoy the exercise and time outside with peers, so please always send outside clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Since weather can be unpredictable and accidents or falls can occur, please send a spare set of clothes.



TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

If you are seeking to transfer your child to another school for next year, please review the “Student Transfer Guidelines” document by following the link provided below. Please take note of the deadlines for each phase. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the school office.

www.sd42.ca/student-registration/

Mark Your Calendars:

Apr 3 PAC Meeting
(8:30-9:30 a.m.)

Apr 8 Deadline for Phase 1 Transfer requests

Apr 10 Eid al Fitr

Apr 10 PAC Lunch (Panago)

Apr 12 PAC Games Night
5:30-7:30

Apr 13 Vaisakhi

Apr 19 Intermediate Speech Presentations

Apr 22 Earth Day

Apr 24 PAC Hot lunch (Subway)

Apr 25 PAC Meeting 6:30

Apr 30 Intermediate Musical: Team A Performance 1 pm

May 1 Intermediate Musical Team B Performance 1 pm

May 3 Primary Poetry Recital

May 4 Indigenous Market

May 8 PAC Lunch (Fuel)

May 9 Gr. 6 Immunization Follow up

May 10 Class and Team Photos



Picking Your Child Up Early from School

We are experiencing a significant number of last minute requests which are having an impact on our classrooms and office staff. Moving forward, you can help us by adhering to the following:

1. Parents/guardians need to contact their child's classroom teacher (either via email or note in a planner etc) the day before. Please include the time you need to pick your child up so the teacher can send them to the office to wait for you and be signed out.
2. If you need to pick up your child on short notice, please contact the office **30 minutes before** you plan to arrive and we will do our best to have your child at the office for pick up.

Please note that it is extremely difficult for us to call children inside once they are outside at recess and lunch. These are not good pick up times.

Following these procedures will help us protect the learning environments of our classrooms by minimizing interruptions.



Dropping Items off for your Child

We get it! We know your children leave their lunches in the car or forget their glasses at home. You are always welcome to come drop these items off at the office. We will either call your child to the office for these items during our regular announcements. In more urgent situations, staff will take the item to the classroom.

We appreciate your assistance in minimizing distractions to our classrooms.

"If you are not staff or a student, you are a visitor."

School staff consider the security of our building and the safety of staff and students our top priority.

All visitors **MUST** enter the building through the main doors and check in at the office. Once our office staff have greeted you and reviewed the purpose of your visit, we will ask you to sign in and we will issue a "Visitor" tag for you to wear.

Please don't enter our building through doors you find open without following the visitor sign in process.

