

École Golden Ears Elementary School

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mark Your Calendars

May 1 School Administrator Day
May 1 PAC Meeting (6:30)
May 3 Primary Poetry Recital
May 4 GEE Indigenous Market (10-2)
May 5 Red Dress Day
May 6 Teacher Appreciation Day
May 8 PAC Lunch
May 9 Gr. 6 Immunization Follow up
May 10 Class and Team Photo Day
May 13 & 14 GEE Track Meet
May 15 NID; District-based
May 16 PAC Lunch
May 20 Victoria Day Stat.
May 22 Gr. 8 Day (Grade 7s)
May 28 Intermediate Cross Country
May 29 Primary Cross Country
May 30 11:00 dismissal for current Ks
May 30 Ready, Set, Kindergarten
(for incoming K students)
May 31 Jump Rope for Heart

WHY THE RULES?

This year we have been working on maintaining safe and positive play environments on our playground and field. This has included a shift in how play is organized and the development of rules to keep everyone safe. Back in the fall, we needed to take a break from “soccer” to work on this with students. I refer to this as “soccer” in quotation marks on purpose. What was really happening entailed multiple students (around 10) standing in the soccer goals, while a crowd of students with multiple balls (around 5 or 6 balls) took hard shots on goal, then those in the goal would drop kick the balls back to the crowd. We were having very high rates of injury, and not only with the students engaged in “soccer.” Students and staff on the field were also being injured. These injuries included several concussions (some severe), deep bruises and even a broken arm.

So, what are the rules for soccer?

- We play soccer **games**; students have one ball/game, make teams and we purchased smaller goals for the students to use.
- Taking shots on the big soccer goals (as described above) is not permitted.
- The ball must stay low; no drop kicking the ball or shooting for top corners.
- We only use school balls; this helps manage the number of balls in play at one time. Also, balls from home can be over-inflated and too hard.

Nothing has changed since we worked together to make soccer safer for everyone. Students who are unwilling to follow these rules are asked to leave the field and try again at another break. We are also having conversations about “integrity” with students and that everyone is expected to follow the rules all the time. We understand that sometimes a ball may get kicked higher than permitted during the course of game play. Setting up a corner kick or drop kicking a ball is a choice.

So, if your child comes home complaining that they weren't permitted to play with their ball from home, or they had to leave the field, you will know why.

Kind regards,
Laura Brandon

Class Placements for the 2024-2025 School Year

Soon we will begin to create our classes for next year. Please be assured that staff devote considerable time, care, and attention to this process. This very complex and lengthy responsibility occurs over several weeks and continues into September when class placements are finalized.

Throughout the year, there have been many opportunities for parents/guardians and teachers to discuss each child. Staff work together to consider the following criteria very carefully: social emotional skills and relationships, as well as learning styles, strengths and needs. Our goal is to create safe, engaging and inclusive classrooms that balance these factors, as equitably as possible.

If you feel there is additional information to consider about your child, you may submit **input** to the principal in writing by May 31, 2024, at laura_brandon@sd42.ca

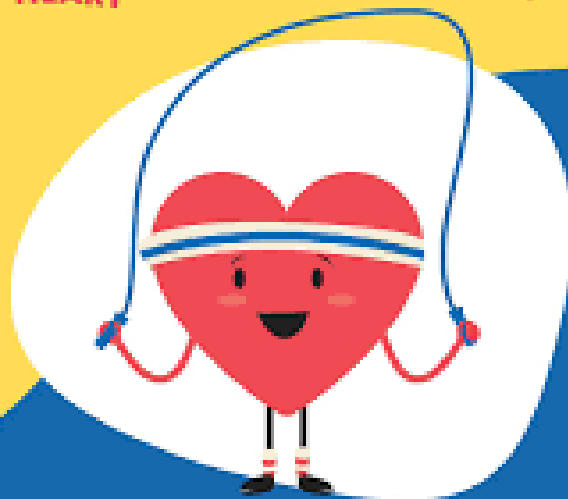
Please do not request specific teachers or peers by name.

Transfer requests for 2024-2025 School Year

If you are seeking to transfer your child to another school for the 2024-2025 school year, please review the "Student Transfer Guidelines: Elementary 2024/25" document by following the link provided. Please take note of the deadlines for each phase. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the school office. <https://www.sd42.ca/student-registration/>

Please be sure to contact our office and let us know if you will be moving out of district.

**JUMP ROPE
for HEART**



Guess who is skipping?

Our Jump Rope for Heart event is May 31st. Please help us promote the importance of heart health by making a donation if you are able at:
<https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/44858>

School Supplies for 2024-2025

This year, we trialed bulk ordering school supplies for grades 1-7. Next year, we are going to shift our practice as we strive to determine the most cost efficient method of purchasing supplies. Our goal is to keep the cost of school supplies reasonable, while ensuring teachers and students have the needed supplies for the year. School supplies will be purchased as follows:

- Incoming Kindergarten: will continue with the practice of paying a fee for school supplies and the school purchasing the supplies.
- Grades 1-3: the school will bulk-order school supplies and parents will be asked to pay a school supply fee.
- Grades 4-7: school supply lists will be available on our school website for parents/guardians to purchase their child's school supplies.

K-3 Parents/guardians, continue to have the option to do their own school supply shopping from a provided list.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at (604) 463-9513.