

ÉCOLE GOLDEN EARS ELEMENTARY

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

[HTTP://ELEMENTARY.SD42.CA/GOLDENEARS](http://elementary.sd42.ca/goldenears)

What does a Principal do?

BY LAURA BRANDON

The role of a school principal is a blend of providing leadership in a variety of contexts and much more than the stereo-typical disciplinarian we see portrayed in media. Every year I develop and submit a Professional Growth Plan to continue developing my skills in the areas of ethical, instructional, relational and organizational leadership. This includes everything from how I develop and maintain relationships as a principal, my decision-making processes and maintaining school district and provincial policies, procedures and laws to name just a few.

This past September, I found myself heavily drawn into the managerial aspects of my role. Some days I was in my office more than with students, and this is not who I am as an educator. I want to dedicate more time to students and staff. To achieve this goal, I have decided to actively make a change in my practice and monitor the outcomes. The first change I've made is my response to all the emails I receive. My auto-response message reads:

"Thank you for your email. I am prioritizing working with students and staff during school hours. I will do my best to return your email within 48 hours, during the work week."

As I have expressed previously, we work together in the best interest of your children. In addition to emails responses, I will return phone messages after students have left for the day and I have finished meeting with staff. If you want to meet with me in-person, please contact me ahead of time so we can set up a mutually agreeable time to meet. This is the best way to ensure we are both able to dedicate the time and space to work together.

Thank you in advance for your support as I continue to grow my practice as a principal. I am open to constructive feedback on the changes I am trialing. I look forward to working with you, your children and the dedicated staff of Golden Ears Elementary this school year.

School Events:

OCT 7-11
FIRE SAFETY WEEK

OCT 9
PRIMARY PHOTOS (DIVS 13-29)

OCT 10
INTERMEDIATE PHOTOS (DIVS 1-14)

OCT 14
THANKSGIVING
(NO SCHOOL)

OCT 16
GREAT BC SHAKEOUT

OCT 17
PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY RACE
AT ALBION SPORTS COMPLEX

OCT 18
FIST BUMP FRIDAY WITH RCMP

OCT 22
MONTHLY ASSEMBLIES

OCT 24
INTERMEDIATE CROSS COUNTRY RACE
AT ALOUETTE LAKE

OCT 25
PROVINCIAL NID (NO SCHOOL)

OCT 28
PHOTO RETAKES (MORNING)

OCT 31
HALLOWEEN; HAUNTED LIBRARY
& COSTUME PARADE

NOV 1
PJ/COMFY CLOTHES DAY

Fire Safety Week October 7-12, 2024

Fire Prevention Week™ is October 7-12th and this year's theme is "Fire Alarms: Make them work for you!™." This year's campaign strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. The campaign's key calls to action focus on: INSTALL, TEST, and REPLACE.

<https://www.nfpa.org/en/Videos/2024-Fire-Prevention-Week>

We will be practicing fire drills at school in the coming weeks, so we are prepared and know our "plan for escape" at school. We conduct 3 fire drills in the fall and 3 in the spring.



The Great BC Shakeout- October 17, 2024

On October 17th, Golden Ears Elementary will be participating in the Great BC Shake Out. This is our opportunity to practice an earthquake drill and building evacuation. If you would like more information on earthquake preparedness, please visit <https://www.shakeoutbc.ca/>. This will be our first of two earthquake drills this school year.

If you would like more information on our School Safety Notification System, please visit our website at: <https://elementary.sd42.ca/goldenears/school-safety-notification-system/>

PAC Corner:

OCT 16
DOORMAT PAINT PARTY

OCT 22 @ 8:30 A.M.
OCTOBER PAC MEETING

OCT 23
HALLOWEEN FAMILY DANCE

OCT 23
HOT LUNCH-SUBWAY

FOR ALL ENQUIRES REGARDING
HOT LUNCHES, PLEASE CONTACT
THE PAC DIRECTLY.

CONTACT:
GOLDENEARS PAC@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GOLDENEARSSELEMENTARY



INSTAGRAM.COM/PARENTSOFGOLDENEARSSELEMENTARY



REMINDER: RETURN PINK STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Halloween Costumes

As Halloween approaches, I want to remind students, families, of the need to be thoughtful and inclusive when selecting a costume to be worn at school. The choice of costume should always be respectful of the diverse cultural and lived experiences of all the members of our school community.

Please consider the two following guidelines when you and/or your child are making the costume selection:

- Be kind and consider the school community. Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate the stereotype of someone's gender identity, culture, race, religion, age, or disability must not be worn.
- Be thoughtful and safe. Costumes that depict violence, alcohol or drugs are not appropriate. Similarly, replica weapons (e.g. guns, knives, etc.) must not be brought to school.

The choice of Halloween costume must align with the expectations set out in our school code of conduct and our district [Safe, Caring and Healthy Schools](#) policy. We must always ensure our learning environments remain safe, welcoming, inclusive, and affirming for all students, families, and staff.



Diwali: Festival of Lights

DIWALI, OR DIPAWALI, IS INDIA'S BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT HOLIDAY OF THE YEAR. THE FESTIVAL GETS ITS NAME FROM THE ROW (AVALI) OF CLAY LAMPS (DEEPA) THAT INDIANS LIGHT OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES TO SYMBOLIZE THE INNER LIGHT THAT PROTECTS FROM SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.

THIS FESTIVAL IS AS IMPORTANT TO HINDUS AS THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY IS TO CHRISTIANS. THIS YEAR, DIWALI IS CELEBRATED OCTOBER 28- NOVEMBER 2ND.

