



THE GRIZZLY GAZETTE

June 26, 2025

Happy *Summer* Everyone!

I can hardly believe it's already the end of the 2024-2025 school year! It feels like just yesterday I was welcoming students on the first day of school in September. As my first year as Principal of GHMS comes to a close, I feel incredibly blessed and privileged. In this newsletter, I want to share a deep sense of gratitude for the amazing experiences we've had together.

This final week at GHMS has been filled with excitement— from the Grade 6 field trip to Whitty's Lagoon, to the Grade 7 movie theatre outing, and the Grade 8 festivities, including a memorable Leaving Ceremony and dance. I couldn't have imagined a better way to cap off such a remarkable year.

To ensure as many of you as possible have time to read this before summer plans take over, this week's Gazette is arriving a day early.

Wishing you all a fun, love-filled summer break! I look forward to another incredible year at GHMS.

In This Week's Gazette

- Gratitude
- Final Learning Update
- PAC Message
- Homestay Opportunities
- Community Opportunities

A Grizzly Shout Out

After a ten-month elimination process involving hundreds of players, trials, assessments, and an international tournament, five GHMS students have been named on the Vancouver Island WAVE U14's Tier 1 team.

Congratulations to Connor J, Mason T, Brayden S, Cole R and Xavier M !!!



End of Year Gratitude

As the school year draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Gordon Head Middle School community. Your contributions to school activities and your unwavering support for everything we do here are valued and appreciated more than words can express. Below are a few specific "thank you's" I would like to share.

To Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for your continued support. More specifically, I am grateful for the many ways you contribute to our school community—whether it's by driving or chaperoning field trips, coaching sports teams, serving on the Gordon Head Parent Advisory Council, or volunteering at special events throughout the school year. Your involvement makes a difference!

To our PAC:

We cannot thank you enough for all the work you do. Your input into our programs and facilities, as well as your role in strengthening the connection between parents and the school, is invaluable. A special thank you to the members of the PAC Executive—Salina Buchan, Kristina Stonnell, Gina Zak, Shannon Mycroft, Shannon Tong, and Susan Peters. To our PAC President, Laird McLachlin, we express our sincere gratitude for your leadership and unwavering commitment to supporting the Gordon Head community.

To Our Students:

Thank you for your dedication to learning, your laughter, and for sharing your unique journeys through adolescence with us. It's truly a gift to watch students enter Grade 6, fresh from elementary school, and then leave for high school so evolved and different from when they first arrived. It is an honour to witness your growth and all the accomplishments along the way—whether in music, academics, sports, or personal development. You all make this work so rewarding.

To Our Staff:

Last but certainly not least, I would like to express my deepest thanks to the staff of Gordon Head Middle School for their exceptional commitment to student excellence and growth. Adolescence is a unique and sometimes challenging time, and it takes a special person to navigate the complexities of middle school with patience, understanding, and care. It is truly a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated educators. Thank you all for your hard work and for nurturing our learners through these transformative "middle years."

Learning Updates

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

We are writing to share that the final Learning Summaries, previously called report cards, will be available to access on Thursday, June 26th. You will again notice your child's learning update indicating: Emerging, Developing, Proficient or Extending rather than a letter grade or percentages as well as a student self-reflection and goal setting section.

Families can access learning updates via SD61's Parent Connect on Thursday, June 26th, after 3pm. Please [click here](#) to go to Parent Connect. This is the same spot you have used to sign all the back to school documents, e.g. allowing access to internet at school.

If you have not created a Parent Connect account, parents and caregivers need to first create one in order to review the learning update. For instructions on creating an account, visit our school district website or [click here](#).

If you require a paper copy of your child's report card, please reach out to your child's teacher, or speak to the school's office staff directly.

For more information on Curriculum, Reporting and Assessment please [click here](#). To learn more about BC's recent changes to reporting and assessment [please visit this site](#) for information, including a video presentation.

Please take time to read over your child's learning update and self-reflection with them. Some guiding questions you may want to ask:

- What are you most proud of?
- What would you like me/us to notice?
- What was hard for you and why?
- Tell me more about your goals...how can you work towards them?
- How can I/we help you with your learning? With your friendships? With your participation in clubs, sports, or activities?

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this or any matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Dear Grade 8 Families,

On behalf of the PAC, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who volunteered your time, energy, and support for the Grade 8 Farewell Festival and Dance.

From setting up tables to serving food, supervising games, cleaning up, picking up equipment and everything in between—you helped create a joyful, memorable send-off for our students.

We are also so grateful to Ryan Vending and the Oughtred/Theman family for their generous donations of drinks and treats, which were a huge hit with the students.

And an extra big thank you to Tania, Kristina, Angie, Lindsay and Jacqueline for the incredible decorations—the space looked amazing and truly made the event feel like a celebration. Special thanks also to Laird and the crew of parent volunteers for leading the charge on hot dog prep and feeding the crowd with efficiency and good humour!

The success of events like this reflects the strength and generosity of our school community. Thank you for showing up, stepping up, and celebrating this milestone with our kids.

With appreciation,

The GHMS PAC

*thank
you*

Become a Host Family



ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE BY
HELPING SUPPORT AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

\$1260 per month provided for student support



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Homestay Opportunities

It's that time of year! The Greater Victoria School District's International Student Program is looking for new families interested in joining the vibrant hosting community. With students arriving to attend short-term and long-term programs in the Fall, there are many opportunities to begin hosting.

Host Families provide 3 meals a day along with healthy snacks and a welcoming environment. \$1260 per month is provided as reimbursement for student support (pro-rated for shorter stays.) Orientation and 24/7 support is available from the homestay office.

For more information:

Website: www.studyinvictoria.com/homestay

Phone: 250-592-6871

Email: homestay@sd61.bc.ca



&Robotics Engineering Camp

The Reynolds Reybots Robotics team has been to the World Championships three years in a row.

WE KNOW ROBOTS!

We are inviting students aged 10-12 to join our team members for a one week summer camp. We will use Lego Robotics to learn about designing, building and coding robots.

Each day, campers will complete team challenges, utilizing their creativity and problem solving skills.

This camp is run by members of the Reynolds Reybots and School District 61 Teachers and will take place at Reynolds Secondary School.

**FREE LEGO
ROBOTICS CAMP**

August 18-22

For more information
and to obtain a
registration package
please contact

kkarim@sd61.bc.ca

There is a limited number of
spaces available.