



THE GRIZZLY GAZETTE

September 18, 2026

Happy Friday Everyone!

Greetings, Gordon Head Families. It has been another great week for the Grizzlies. Thank you to all of the families who were able to join us for our open house and family BBQ. It was so nice to meet our new families and connect with past parents and siblings from Gordon Head. It has been a busy week with clubs and athletics starting up this week and it is great to see so many students getting involved at GHMS. Included in this Gazette is more information regarding upcoming sports and club schedules.

In This Week's Gazette

- Bikes/ Scooters/ Parking
- Parent Connect Portal
- Clubs and Athletics
- PAC Request for Members
- Public Health - Immunizations

Monday September 21	Professional Development Day
Monday September 28	Photo Day for all students
Wednesday September 30	National Day For Truth and Reconciliation (No school)
Thursday October 15	PAC Meeting 7:00pm
Tues-Wed October 27 & 28	Parent Teacher Interviews

Bike and Scooter Transportation

It is great to see so many students walking, riding and scootering to school each day. As many of you know, the benefits go far beyond just reducing traffic congestion and parking. The physical and mental health benefits of active transport are beneficial for children and adults alike. In order to make sure that children are safe on their way to and from school, please make sure students are wearing helmets at all times and dressing in clothing that helps with visibility for drivers. As the daylight hours get shorter visibility becomes a top priority for safety.

In terms of the rising popularity of electric scooters, I want to bring your attention to the following safety rules you may not be aware of:



Operators of E-scooters must be 16 or older: a person under 16 cannot ride an electric kick scooter, nor can their parent or guardian knowingly permit it. Please see the following link for more details. [Saanich Scooter Information](#)

Staff Parking Lot

A gentle yet important reminder to families to not enter the staff parking lot to pickup or drop off students unless arrangements have been made with the school for specific exemptions. We've had near accidents in the past and need your help in keeping our students and staff safe. Thank you to everyone for your understanding.



Parent Connect Portal

As many of you will already know, the parent connect portal is the main method for parents to connect to the school and school district to share and receive information about their children's learning as well as grant permissions for student involvement at school. This portal gives parents access to learning updates and all consent documents.

The following forms are managed by the portal and only need to be completed once

- Consent for online digital tools
- Personal Information Consent (Outside Media, School Yearbook, School/District Media/Websites)
- Student Technology Use
- General Field Trip Permission Forms

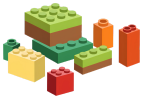
Each year parents are required to complete the **Student Verification** form to ensure that all information in the school data based system is up to date. This form was traditionally sent home on paper but we are now able to have parents make necessary changes online through the Parent Connect Portal. Parents/Guardians will click on the 'student verification' link on the portal. The form will prepopulate with as much information from MyEd as is available in the data extracts. The Parent/Guardian will need to fill out the rest. The form will only prepopulate with the Parent/Guardian information of the parent/guardian filling out the form. Parents/Guardians will need to manually add any other Parent/Guardians as well as emergency contacts. File upload buttons are available for court order, immigration and address changes.

A verification form for a student only needs to be submitted by one Parent/Guardian. Additional updates can be made by any Parent/Guardian at any time. The submission button will be found at the bottom of the form.

[Parent Connect Portal Access](#)

[Parent Connect Portal Instructions](#)

Clubs and Meetings

- Mellow Monday - **Monday** in the Library a calm, quiet place to really get into books 
- Lego Club - **Tuesday** at Lunch after the eating period 
- GSA Club - **Wednesdays** in the library a calm, quiet place to really get into books **LGBTQ+** 
- Coding Club - **Wednesdays** after school Ms. Lamonds room 
- Dance Club - **TBA**
- Pokemon /Magic/ D&D Club - **Thursdays** @ lunch 

Upcoming Sports

The fall sports programs have now started up. Soccer, Cross Country and Ultimate are now underway. All games and practices will be announced daily over the PA, but please make sure your kids bring home the information notices handed out during the initial meetings. These notices include important information about practice and game times as well as expectations and directions.



We are still looking for volunteer coaches for Basketball which starts in October. If you or a family member are able able to help coach one of our many teams in either the recreation or competitive leagues it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Josh Hotchin if you have any questions "jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca





GORDON HEAD ATHLETICS

2026/27 Sport Seasons

As we get organized for the first sport seasons of the year, we've outlined below the sports we hope to offer at Gordon Head this school year, along with when each season officially starts and ends.

Two things to note:

1. Sign-ups and practices usually start a couple of weeks before a season's start date, since that is typically when games between schools begin. Please make sure your child is listening to the morning announcements so they don't miss out!
2. Each season depends on having enough students and coaches. If we don't have enough student sign-ups or coaching support, we may not be able to offer a particular sport. Please talk with your child(ren) about which sports interest them. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping coach a team this year, please let Mr. Owen (jowen@sd61.bc.ca) or Mr. Hotchin (jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca) know.

Season	Sport	Season Starts	Season Ends	Staff Contact
Fall	Soccer	Sept 21	Oct 5	jowen@sd61.bc.ca
Fall	Ultimate	Sept 23	Oct 14	jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca
Fall	Cross Country	Sept 24	Oct 8	cclark@sd61.bc.ca
Winter	Basketball	Oct 19	Dec 3	jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca
Winter	Volleyball	Jan 18	Mar 8	jowen@sd61.bc.ca
Spring	Badminton	Apr 7	May 3	jowen@sd61.bc.ca
Spring	Field Hockey	Apr 8	May 3	jross@sd61.bc.ca
Spring	Rugby	Apr 13	May 20	jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca
Spring	Track & Field	May 6	June 2	jhotchin@sd61.bc.ca

Dates follow the district athletics calendar and may shift slightly. Please watch the announcements and future Gazettes for updates.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to a great year of Gordon Head sports!

Mr. Owen & Mr. Hotchin

PAC Members Urgently Needed

A huge part of our success each year is due to the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and all the work they do to support students and staff throughout the year (*please see next page for a list of supports from PAC*). Unfortunately, many of our PAC members from last year have moved on to high school. We are very fortunate that our Pac Chair and Treasurer have both offered to stay another year, and we now have a Secretary but we are still seeking parents to fill the following roles below.

Roles Needed:

- Fun Lunch Volunteers
- Fundraising Coordinator
- Grade 8 Fundraising/Planning Committee Lead

The time commitment is manageable: one meeting per month (typically Thursday evenings from 7–8 pm) and some additional work on your own schedule, depending on the role.

Upcoming Meeting dates:

Oct 15: 7–8pm

Nov 19: 7–8pm

Dec 17: 7–8pm

If you are interested in taking part in this worthwhile program or have questions regarding the duties and requirements of these roles, please contact Julie at ghmspac@gmail.com

Celebrating 2025-2026 PAC Accomplishments

The PAC funded the following initiatives and events, to support and enrich GHMS's learning environment:

- Classroom funds of **\$ 9500** (\$25 per student x 380 students)
- Field Trip funds of **\$3,800** (\$10 per student).
- **\$2800** to support Exploratories: Woodworking, Outdoor Education, Foods/Sewing, Dance, Drama, Arts, and Music.
- **\$750** towards Sexual Health educators from Island Sexual Health.
- **\$1,000** towards visiting presenters including NEED2 Suicide Prevention Education Support, the White Hatter Digital Literacy and Internet Safety.
- **\$1,000** towards athletics including the middle school sports association membership.
- **\$700** contribution to school staff appreciation lunch
- **\$7289** towards Chromebooks

Gaming funds of **\$13,431**:

- **\$1,000** for the library – approx. 50 books purchased
- **\$1,000** for technology – What in the World website and IXL yearly subscriptions
- **\$1,000** for Arts – Presentation
- **\$540** towards balls used for recess (soccer, volleyball, basketball)
- **\$1,000** towards Grade 7 Salish Sea Field Trip
- **\$4800** towards the purchase of 2 Tech Packages
- **\$500** for clubs operating outside of the curriculum including Pokemon and Magic, Chess, Library Clubs.
- **\$1052** towards the purchase of rugby Jerseys
- **\$739** towards Soccer balls
- **\$1800** Camp Imadene buses



School Immunizations and Vaccination Status Reporting

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In BC, Public Health Nurses visit schools to provide routine immunizations for students in Kindergarten, Grades 6 and 9. Students in other grades may also be offered an opportunity to receive school-based immunizations for missed or overdue immunizations as part of catch-up campaigns.

For school-based clinics, families will receive clear information about which vaccines are offered and how to provide consent or share decisions about vaccination.

Immunizations for school aged children are also available at public health units, First Nations health centers, as well as some pharmacies and primary care provider offices.

Keeping your child's immunization record up to date, including decisions not to vaccinate, helps public health respond quickly during disease outbreaks and supports the health of schools and communities.

Kindergarten Students and Parents

Children are eligible for school-entry vaccines starting at age 4. Families are encouraged to speak with their health care provider or Public Health Nurse and make sure their child receives these vaccines before starting school.

School-entry vaccines include:

- **Tdap-IPV** (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough, and polio)
- **MMRV** (measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox)

Some children may be eligible for additional vaccines based on their health or immunization history or other risk factors.

If your child has not received their school-entry vaccines or you have questions, please contact your health care provider or [local public health unit](#) to book an appointment. School clinics are offered in kindergarten for children who still need their school-entry vaccines.

Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (VSRR)

In BC, vaccines are not required for children to attend school. However, parents and guardians are **required to report their school-aged child's vaccination status**, including if their child has not been vaccinated, under the [Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation \(VSRR\)](#).

Immunization records are stored in the Provincial Immunization Registry (PIR). Accurate records help public health respond quickly if there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. This helps protect students, families, and school communities.

The regulation applies to all students (kindergarten to grade 12) in public, independent, and home schools, including international students. It does not apply to children who attend schools in First Nations communities.

Check and Update Your Child's Immunization Record

Check [Health Gateway](#) to find out if your child's immunization records are in the Provincial Immunization Registry.

If your child received vaccines outside BC, from a doctor or nurse practitioner, or at a travel clinic, some records may be missing from the Provincial Immunization Registry.

Missing records can be submitted through the [Provincial Immunization Portal](#) (records must be in English, French, or certified translation). If you need help submitting your child's records, please call your [local public health unit](#).

If you do not plan to vaccinate your child, please contact [public health](#) to make sure a vaccine refusal is recorded in your child's immunization record. If you previously requested a vaccine refusal be recorded, this should appear in your child's provincial record. Vaccine refusals are routinely reviewed at ages 2, 4, 10, and 13 so families can be offered another opportunity to discuss and consider immunization.

**View records:
Health Gateway**



<https://healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/>

**Submit records:
Provincial
Immunization Portal**



[https://immunizationrec
ord.gov.bc.ca](https://immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca)

**Find local support:
Health Unit Locator**



[https://www.islandheal
th.ca/our-
locations/health-unit-
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**Questions:
School Immunizations**



[https://www.healthlinkbc
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[https://www.islandhealth
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