

October 1,  
2015

# GEORGE JAY BULLETIN

Mrs. Leslie Lee, Principal  
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Mrs. Terri Smith, Vice Principal  
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**"Learning to Care... Caring to Learn"**



Dear Families, Friends and Guardians of George Jay School students:

Welcome back to our 2015/16 school year. We are looking forward to another exciting year of learning and laughter with your children. The transition of moving back to our "new" school is ongoing but we are very happy to be back. Parents and families are always welcomed to George Jay and we hope you feel that we offer a positive and caring school environment. It is important that we foster positive relationships with all our families, so if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please pass them to any members of our staff, come into the office to chat, or leave a note.

Currently, we have 292 students from K-5 in 14 divisions. Students are now all in their new, permanent classes. We also welcomed our second French Immersion class at the K level. Our staff has some new faces. We welcome the addition of Ms. Beattie (gr. 1/2), Ms. McEwan (K), Ms. MacDonald (special education ELL), Ms. Goulet (French Immersion 1), Ms. Ramsay (gr. 1), Ms. Heffelfinger (gr. 4) and 2 new educational assistants, Ms. Cross and Ms. Rha.

A large number of forms have gone home recently. Please return them quickly as there is important contact information that we depend on for emergencies. At the end of the month, there are parent-teacher interviews: we hope that many of you will come to meet your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend, please contact the teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress. It has been a quick and relatively smooth start to the school year.

Mrs. Leslie Lee (Principal)      Mrs. Terri Smith (Vice-principal)



## Dates to Remember

Oct. 5	Cross country—Clover Point
Oct. 8	Individual Picture Day
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving—school not in session
Oct. 23	Provincial Pro D day—school not in session
Oct. 28	Parent/Teacher interviews— early dismissal at 12:00
Oct. 29	Parent/Teacher interviews—early dismissal at 12:00
Oct. 30	Halloween Dance 6—8 p.m. please bring goodies for the bake sale if you can

**GVSD**

Virtue of Excellence: Excellence is doing your best, giving careful attention to every task and every relationship.

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## Newsletter Email List

School newsletters are sent home by email the third Thursday of every month. **If you have not provided the school with your current email please do so by calling the school office at 250-385-3381 or by sending us an email with your child's name attached to [georgejay@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:georgejay@sd61.bc.ca).** Our goal is to get everyone's email address and keep our school green by using less paper.

Newsletters and other important information regarding events going on at the school, can also be found on our school website: <http://school.sd61.bc.ca/georgejay/>

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## Valuables at School

We request that students do not bring any valuables or electronic devices to school such as ipods or cell phones. Students are devastated when these items are broken or parts go missing and we cannot be responsible for damage, theft or loss. Please keep these items at home. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. In addition, Pokemon cards or other trading cards should remain at home as well.

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## Attendance/Safety Arrival

We request that if your child arrives late to school they please sign into the office for a late slip. If you are leaving with your child during the day for any reason please come to the office and sign your child out. If your child will be away for any reason, please call the school at 250-385-3381 to let us know. You will receive an automated call if your child is away and has not arrived by 9:30am if the school has not been notified of an absence.

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## Breakfast to Beethoven Club

We are pleased to let you know that our Breakfast program has begun. There is no charge for this but we do need your child to be registered for the program and your signature is required on the form. Breakfast club runs from 8:30—8:50. We expect students who are registered for the program to be here on a regular basis as we need to know how much food to prepare daily. This program is not a drop in. Breakfast will consist of food options from at least three food groups.

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## Happy, Healthy Kids Program

This is a community funded hygiene program for students of George Jay Elementary, which provides hygiene supplies free of charge. Please contact Leila Durzi, Family Liaison Worker or Sue MacTavish, Youth & Family Counsellor for more information at 250 385-3381.



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## Cross Country

Cross country has now begun. If your child is interested in participating, practice times will be on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 8:20. The team will participate in four Fall events. Cross country forms are available in the school office.



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## Swimming

Our swim club is for George Jay students of all ages! George Jay Swim Club is back and starts Oct. 7th at Crystal Pool.

Please have forms back to the school by Friday Oct. 2nd. (any other late forms will have to go Crystal Pool).

If you can't print this form, but would like one, you may get one at the office.

thanks!  
Kate

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## Hello From the Family Liaison Worker

Hello, my name is Leila Durzi. I am the Family Liaison Worker at George Jay Elementary. I am here to support families in a variety of different ways. Some of the things I do include coordinating the In-School Mentor Program which matches community volunteers with students; coordinate a Holiday Hamper Program which provides gifts and food to families in need during the holiday season; the Good Food Box which provides local and sustainable produce to families at a reasonable price; the Happy Healthy Kids Program which provides hygiene products for families on a monthly basis. I also help families access services and community resources; act as an advocate for families; provide counselling and support services; work closely with PAC to provide activities for parents and students. I work Monday to Friday from 8:30-3:30. My office is located in the Parent Resource room at George Jay. I will also be available in the community to connect with parents. I can be contacted by calling the school at 250-385-3381 or 250-419-2977.



Hi! My name is Hershey and I am a 6 year old Cairn terrier. My human's name is Sue MacTavish, she is the Youth & Family Counsellor here at George Jay. I am

certified as a therapy dog with the P.A.T.S. (Pacific Animal Therapy Society). Please check out their website <http://patspets.ca/wordpress/>

I have been coming to work Sue since January 2013. I have passed a behaviour assessment with the vet to show that I am a gentle dog and not aggressive; even if someone pulls my tail. Sue is my handler and I will always be on my leash and under her control when I am at the school. All of my vaccinations are up to date and I am on a flea treatment program.

I am a pretty small dog (17 lbs.) and I really enjoy being around people, especially small ones! They tell me that I am clean and well groomed. I hardly shed at all because I have hair on top of my fur. Sue says that she will make sure that she checks with teachers about allergies before she introduces me to the students.

I am looking forward to the students reading to me, teaching them about dogs and having them talk to me. Sue tells me that animals can be very therapeutic for people! If you have any questions or concerns about me please feel free to call Sue at (250) 385-3381. I am excited to be coming back to George Jay this year!

## School Lunch Program

- ◆ Your School Lunch Program is supported through CommunityLINK. LINK stands for: Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge. This program is administered through the Ministry of Education.
- ◆ TRUFFLES CATERING is the dedicated caterer for the School Meal Program in both Victoria and Sooke School Districts. They deliver 750 hot meals and 360 cold meals to 24 different schools.
- ◆ The School Meal Program is a Universal Program which means all students are welcome to register no matter what their financial circumstances might be. Families who need the program are asked to contribute what they are able. Families who wish to use the program as a convenience can purchase the service and say it simplifies their day and they know their children are receiving a healthy, well balanced lunch.
- ◆ The School District contracts with a Registered Dietitian who visits schools and reviews menus with the caterer to ensure that your school lunch program meets the Province wide "Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools" set out by the Ministry of Health.
- ◆ You can get more information at [healthlinkbc.ca/](http://healthlinkbc.ca/) or [healthyschools.bc.ca](http://healthyschools.bc.ca)

## MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at our school

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.

## What is happening in MakerSpace?

MakerSpace is a hands on learning space where children work in collaboration, learning habits that help learners become life-long learners in any context. It is a place to build, tinker, take apart, put together and learn through interdisciplinary STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education. If you would like to know more about MakerSpace and what we are doing please check out my website below. You can also follow me on **twitter** **@teachersunnyjun**

**[www.teachersunnyjun.com](http://www.teachersunnyjun.com)**

A simple use of green poster paper and green duck tape and green screen is ready! We will be using a green screen app created by DoInk to record creative videos.

The Recording Studio is becoming a reality, thanks to Stephen Evans from T-C Helicon. Stephen has been meeting with me to brainstorm and teach me all about sound equipment. Soon George Jay students will be able to record sounds and music using technology.

Although it has only been a week, we have been busy creating and challenging ourselves through building tasks. Primary children are working on building collaboratively through play, and intermediate children are learning about building structures and building tables using newspaper.

Thank you to everyone who donated clean recycle materials and especially Mike Jennings (Ben's father) for donating glue guns for the MakerSpace.

We also have one sewing machine on loan from Matt.

We will also be receiving a mic and headphones from T-C Helicon with the help from Stephen Evans.

If any parents are interested in getting involved in MakerSpace in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me via email (**[sjun@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:sjun@sd61.bc.ca)**) or come visit the MakerSpace in room #304 any time.

We are continually collecting clean recyclable materials for MakerSpace, so if you have any of the following items at home that you would like to get rid of, please send them to school:

### Craft supplies

Cardboard

Plastic materials

Paper

Styrofoam

Paint

Collage materials

Rainbow Loom

Knitting and crochet supplies

Legos

TinkerToys

K'Nex

How-To books

Tinkering tools

old electronics for tinkering

sewing materials

paper plates

plastic/ paper cups

balloons

strings, ropes

cereal boxes

paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls



## Important notice regarding Volunteer Drivers

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. By generously donating their time and expertise to our school, volunteers support the learning environment for our students.

Our school is committed to ensuring student safety. **With this in mind, drivers who are volunteering to drive any child other than their own will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) and Driver's Abstract.**

**Please do the following:**

- ◆ Complete our school's "Volunteer Driver Form" and provide a copy of your Driver's License and insurance.
- ◆ Phone ICBC to get a copy of your Driver's Abstract. Go to the following link to get the phone number for the ICBC office near you: <http://icbc.com/driver-licensing/driving-record>.
- ◆ Once you receive your Driver's Abstract in the mail, please bring it to the school office.
- ◆ Apply online for a Criminal Record Check at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>. Use our school's access code: SX3ZFMZP2S Your Criminal Record Check will be sent directly to the school.

Criminal Record Check applicants who do not have a credit history of at least six months or have not been living in Canada for at least two years will need to get a Volunteer Driver Letter from the school office to take it to your municipal police department.

We greatly appreciate all of our volunteer drivers taking the time to complete this process. For further information, please contact the school office.

\*The Criminal Record Review Program verifies identities through an Electronic Identity Verification (EIV) process. It is important to know that the Criminal Records Review Program is not running a credit report; it is only using the EIV to verify the applicant's identity and to make sure the personal information contained in the criminal record check form is accurate. No information from this process is retained or stored by the Criminal Record Check Program.