



Griffiths-Scott School
"A Journey of Learning"
December 2020



Mission: To provide a creative and caring environment in which each student achieves optimal learning.

Vision: Together we embrace UNESCO values and learn in respectful, positive ways.

<u>Values</u>		
Honesty	Integrity	Respect
Reason	Responsibility	

December, the last month of 2020, has arrived! We have all experienced a multitude of challenges since March. However, there are always some positive aspects of difficult situations which we can reflect upon. At GSS we have seen our students rise above the challenging circumstances and embrace the privilege of being at school. Last spring many of them worked diligently to keep up with their learning at home. Since we opened our doors in the fall the excitement and enthusiasm of our students, as they enter each day, makes GSS a great place to be, even in the midst of challenges! We are grateful for all the support we have received from parents, families and our community. Thank you! We are so proud of our students for their acceptance of the responsibilities of keeping our school safe. They follow the protocols that are now routine in our school days, including saying thank you as we sanitize their hands many times a day! Our Griffin values (listed above) are not just words on a page or the wall, they are lived and demonstrated daily by our Griffin students and staff. That is what we will remember for many years as we reflect upon 2020.

Thank you to all parents for completing the **COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** at home each day before your child leaves for school. [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist - updated October 2020](#). The response to symptoms document is an easy to follow chart to follow when your child is not well. <https://www.wrps11.ca/download/303327> Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we all work together to keep our students and staff healthy.

We are all thinking about our students in grades 7 and 8 who are now all learning from home. We reviewed the expectations of learning at home with them on Friday, as it is very different than last spring. They accepted the responsibility and had a great start to their online learning yesterday. Once again, thank you to our students and their families for demonstrating responsibility and integrity in their education, no matter where the learning takes place.

The Government of Alberta has determined that all students, from K - 12, will be doing at home learning for the week of January 4 - 8. That week is not an extended Christmas break.

There will be school work that needs to be completed at home during that week for all of our students in K - 8. We will provide more information about this prior to our Christmas break.

We have some students who have been doing learning at home since the fall through the school at home option with WRPS. It is important for all families to know that option is still available. However, if families who have been with this option since the fall, want their students to return to in-person learning, they must contact me by December 7. If families would like to change from current in-person learning at GSS to the WRPS school at home option, they also must notify me by December 7. This is a final opportunity to designate if a student learns at home or at school for the remainder of the school year. The transition between school-at-home-learning and learning-at-school will occur on January 4th at GSS. You can find more information at this link.

<https://www.wrps11.ca/trustees/whats-new/post/wrps-re-entry-points> Please note, this does not affect our grade 7 and 8 students who are currently learning at home because that was a provincial decision. If you have any questions please call me.

Throughout the month of December our students and staff will be enjoying some special Christmas events and activities. We will miss some of our annual events such as our Christmas Concert and GSS turkey dinner. However, we still have some fun days and activities planned in classrooms and school wide. On **Tuesday, December 15**, we will have our Christmas Dress Up Day. Students are invited to wear Christmas gear (sweaters, headbands, etc.) or dress up in their special Christmas clothes (shirts, ties, dresses, etc.). Then on **Friday, December 18th** we will all be relaxed and comfortable wearing our pyjamas on Pyjama Day!

Our Annual GSS Christmas Giving Project will still be happening. This year we are supporting the Millet Food Bank and Lions Club. The procedures need to follow all of the health restrictions and guidelines so families have the following options as ways to participate if you choose to.

- 1) We will have bins (supplied by the Food Bank) in our Foyer. **Families are welcome to donate items of food and/or new toys.** Students will put the items straight from their backpacks to the bins. No staff will touch any of the items. The Food Bank will pick up the full bins outside of our school doors and take all of the items to the Millet Food Bank.
- 2) Families can take food and/or new toys directly to the Millet Food Bank. When you drop the items off please let the Food Bank staff know that the items are part of the GSS Christmas Giving Project.
- 3) Families can make a cash donation to the Millet Food Bank through an e transfer to milletfoodbank@gmail.com. Please note that we will not be accepting any cash donations at GSS.

Thank you for participating in our annual Christmas Giving Project if you are able to. This is a valuable learning opportunity for our students as they understand the importance of

giving to others. It is also part of our UNESCO learning for students as they consider how their actions make a difference in the world, both locally and globally.

The HAGSS (Helpers at GS Society) has a fundraiser underway. This year they have partnered with Fizzy Funtastics to help you get your Christmas shopping completed. This company sells DIY kits for Bath Bombs, Soaps and Lip Balms, whether you keep the kit for yourself or share as a gift we thank you for your support.

Online orders will be accepted from **November 27th to December 11th** with **delivery by December 16th**. You can select to have your items shipped to you at a cost of \$10 or select the pick up option to be added to the bulk order for free shipping. All bulk orders will be available for pick up at Pipestone Links Golf course, due to the COVID restrictions we are not able to have pick up within the school this year.

<https://fizzyfuntastics.com/>

Thank you so much for supporting Griffiths-Scott School and please share the link with family and friends.

Our next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to our new and returning members! Everyone is welcome to become involved with our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and our fundraising society, Helpers at Griffiths Scott School (HAGSS). Please contact the school by phone (780-387-4101), text or call at (780-216-1474), or email if you would like to have the Zoom link to participate in the meeting.

Please note that the Nutrition Program is now in place at GSS. If your child requires breakfast or lunch on a regular basis they have access to that each day. We also have individually packaged items if your child requires a healthy item to supplement their lunch once in a while. All safe food procedures are being followed and food distribution is done by a staff member. It is not self-serve for the students. Please contact Mrs. Coleman if you have any questions.

We want to wish all of our Griffin families a peaceful and Merry Christmas. Stay safe and stay healthy. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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Mrs. Coleman

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Ms. Saunders