



Griffiths-Scott School
"A Journey of Learning"
April 2021



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.

Values

Honesty		Integrity	Respect
	Reason		Responsibility

Welcome back! I hope you and your family enjoyed a peaceful, relaxing and fun Spring Break. The sun shining in my office windows is a delightful reminder that spring has actually arrived!

Please use the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist - updated February 2021](https://www.wrps11.ca/download/303327) with your children every day before they leave home. Use this document to Respond to your Child's symptoms. <https://www.wrps11.ca/download/303327>

We are so thankful for the good weather and we will be getting our students outside as much as possible during the next few weeks of school! Learning and playing outside is good for everyone of all ages. In Finland some schools have a 45 minute lesson, followed by a 15 minute break outside every hour of the school day! We all know that being outdoors in the fresh air is especially important as the number of Covid cases are increasing.

At GSS, learning outdoors happens every day, during class time, at recess time, or both! Students learn to get along with others, solve problems, and resolve disagreements while they play with their classmates at recess. Teachers find ways to plan lessons that can happen outside where the realm of learning opens up for students. Our junior high students have been doing some of their small group reading at the benches in front of the school. The school grounds are an excellent place for science experiments and discovery. We all danced outside with our Unity Dance to the song Jerusalema (choreographed by Mrs. Killen) on our last day before spring break! Check out the story and picture on the WRPS website at <https://www.wrps11.ca/trustees/whats-new/post/griffiths-scott-school-students-dance-for-unity>.

As of today, all or most gym classes will be moving back outside.

There are many benefits to learning outside which also help students learn inside the classroom.

- Improved cognitive ability, with an enriched vocabulary and ability to meaningfully apply concepts learned outdoors.

- Whole body experiential learning, which leads to improved attendance at school, engagement and attitude towards learning.
- Improved attention on non-preferred tasks when back inside after being outdoors.
- Improved ability to self-regulate with increased social and emotional wellbeing when learning outdoors.
- Improved mental health with reductions in anxiety and depression for children learning outdoors.
- Supportive of divergent thinking that leads to efficient problem solving across the curriculum.

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Please help your child be prepared for their outdoor time at school each day. Check the weather before they leave for the day to ensure that they have the appropriate clothing and footwear. All students require the “walking field trip form” signed by the parents before they will be able to leave the school grounds with their teacher for any activities located off school property. This form was completed by most parents earlier in the school year. However, if you have not signed the form (available online) your child will not be allowed to go with their class for any activities which occur off the school premises. Please note, that also includes playing at the former Millet School playground, as that is now the Town of Millet property.

We'd like to thank the hardworking and dedicated Parent Advisory Committee and Helpers at GS Society members. As you know they are raising funds to contribute to an outdoor classroom area which will be located at the front of the school. That space will include some benches and tables that can be used during class time for outdoor learning. Thank you to everyone who purchased items at the digital Farmers' Market recently which was the latest fundraising event by the group.

Our next PAC online Zoom meeting is on Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend. Email Mrs. Coleman if you would like the meeting link which will be sent out on the day of the meeting. Check the April calendar for upcoming events at school.

Nominations for WRPS Trustee Election on October 18

The nomination period for the 2021 general election opened on January 1, 2021 and runs until NOON on nomination day, which is Monday, September 20, 2021. WRPS promotes and encourages its interested citizens to run for the office of elected school board trustee. The Division is committed to providing an environment that will give all candidates fair access to the electorate. For more information and for nomination forms, please refer to our Election [webpage](#).

Thank you to our families for your continued support of your children's learning and our school. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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Ms. Saunders