



March 2022

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

Motto

"A Journey of Learning"

March has arrived and we are all hopeful that spring will arrive eventually! However, as one student reminded me last week, when spring arrives our playground will be covered in puddles!

On Monday, GS teachers focused on our students' literacy skills during the PLC (professional learning community) Day. During the morning we assessed our students' writing skills. Each student in grades 1 - 8 recently completed a writing assignment about a possible invention. Now in groups we are assessing the students' development of skills using a common set of criteria. The afternoon included a session about the various skills involved in literacy. Strong literacy skills in reading and writing are necessary for successful learning in all subjects.

All WRPS schools use a set of common assessment tools to determine students' literacy skills. We use that information to inform teachers' instruction (what teachers teach) and possible interventions if students have not yet met the literacy curricular outcomes. Your child's teacher will have completed some of the following assessments with their students, depending on their grade level. Please note that some assessments are not assigned a "grade" or "mark" and will not be included in PowerSchool. These assessments are given at various times throughout the school year.

- Reading Readiness - Kindergarten and Grade One
 - Assesses students' skills in phonological awareness (pre-reading skills)
- LetterName-Sound (LeNS) & Castles & Coltheart 3 (CC3) (NEW from Alberta Ed. for 21-22)
 - Students in grades 1 - 3 were given these assessments to determine possible learning gaps from the interruptions in learning due to Covid.
 - Students who did not meet the governments' standards will receive extra instruction and intervention in their knowledge of letters and sounds which is crucial in beginning reading skills.

- Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment (Grades 1 - 4)
 - Teachers complete this assessment one on one with their students.
 - This tool assesses reading fluency and comprehension skills.

- STAR Reading Assessment (Grades 5 - 8)
 - This is an online reading assessment that students complete three times a year.
 - It assesses students' comprehension skills.
 - If students do not meet the criteria for their grade level, their teacher may also use a Fountas and Pinnell assessment to further investigate the students' reading skills.

- Words Their Way (Spelling Inventory) (Grades 1 - 8)
 - This tool assesses students' ability to use their knowledge of letters, sounds and spelling patterns to spell unfamiliar words.


Teachers also use a variety of their own in class assessments to determine their students' progress with the curricular outcomes. The purpose of assessment is not just to "give a written test" at the end of a unit or completion of a topic, and move on to new material in class. Assessments may also include questions, discussions, in class assignments, projects, etc. Students' learning happens on a continuum and sometimes at their own rate. Some students may require more instruction or extra practice to complete a skill and master the curricular outcome. Ongoing learning is a cycle of instruction, practice, intervention and assessment.

Aspects of your child's learning and assessment are reported through PowerSchool. Go to the Parent Portal on our GS website or access the PowerSchool App to view your child's current marks. It is also important to review the assignments, projects, quizzes and tests that your children bring home, to gain more information about their learning. Some of those pieces are difficult to fully explain through the online reporting system. Talk to your child about their daily work and review their learning with them. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. These are all ways that you can stay informed about your child's daily learning and academic progress.

We are looking forward to meeting our Kindergarten class of 2022-23! Mrs. Kirk will be in the front foyer tomorrow, Thursday, March 3 at 1:30 to 3:30 to meet our new Kinders and their parents. If you know of any families who have Kindergarten aged children (5 on or before December 31, 2022) please pass this message on to them.

February flew by with a lot going on at GSS! Our GS mini-olympics were held during morning announcements on Feb. 22 - 25. Classes answered Olympic trivia questions and demonstrated their athletic skills with form and technique. Congratulations to Mrs. Mandseth's 3-4 class for their gold medal performance! The grade 6 won silver and our Grade 1 Little Hoots won bronze. All the classes celebrated their hard work with TimBit treats on Friday! We also honoured Pink Shirt Day with a school wide bulletin board display in our front foyer. Thank you

to our families who participated in the Kindness Bingo challenge. The lucky winners of the baskets of treats were the Volkerink, Lipka and Ellis families. Our basketball team is participating in a condensed season. The Griffins have worked together as a team and played well. Thank you to Coach Ivan for all of his hard work and volunteering his time with the Griffins!

The  2021-2022 WRPS School Year Plan has recently been updated. Please note that we are still promoting and facilitating hand hygiene through regular handwashing and the availability of hand sanitizer. Thank you for continuing to monitor your child's health daily before they come to school. [COVID-19 information : daily checklists](#) **Staff and students are required to stay home if experiencing any of the symptoms in the checklist.** Students who exhibit symptoms at school will need to go home.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Wilhawk Beef Jerky fundraiser which will be arriving soon. Thank you to our GSS PAC for everything they do for our school! Our next PAC / HAGSS meeting will be Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. Please email me if you would like the Zoom link for the meeting.

Thank you for your support of your child's education. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Mrs. Coleman

Ms. Micklich