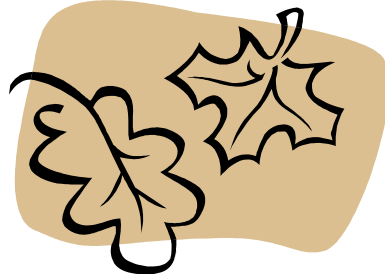


# October 2020




## Principal's Ponderings

Welcome fall! The month of October has certainly come upon us quickly! The leaves are changing, winter coats and mitts will start to appear and the school year is well under way. While the beginning to this school year has been unusual, teachers and school staff have done an amazing job of introducing to students new routines, procedures and guidelines around COVID-19 to help keep everyone safe and healthy while at the same time focusing on our core business which is academic achievement. Teachers will be communicating with families regularly to keep you updated on what is occurring in each classroom. While we know you cannot physically be in the school building, we do want parents to still feel connected to the school and your child's classroom.

We want to thank *George Lee* students for demonstrating an understanding the importance of wearing a mask, social distancing, and practicing good hand hygiene (washing and using hand sanitizer). Students have been resilient, understanding of new procedures and have followed through with what has been asked of them. Great job, *George Lee Grizzlies!*

Thank you, as well, to *George Lee* families for calling and/or emailing your child's teacher when you have questions/wonders. Classroom teachers are always the first point of contact. At times, we may want to check with other parents about something we've heard but it is important to remember that the quickest way to get accurate information or an answer to a question is to check with your child's teacher first as they are the authority about what is happening in your child's classroom.

We have observed that all families have worked hard to ensure their child is prepared and ready for the day with lunches, filled water bottles, masks, agendas, and homework. Well done, parents! A reminder to all parents that at the first sign

of  illness, please keep your child home and call 811 for direction. Once you have received next steps from SHA (Saskatchewan Health Authority) and a timeline has been put in place for a safe return to school, please call/email the main office to share this timeline with us.

We have been working hard to keep our *George Lee* bubble as closed as possible to anyone who is not a staff member or a student. To maintain this consistency, school photos will not occur at *Lee* this year. We ask families to find an alternative for your child's 2020-21 back to school photo.

Parents who are dropping off/picking up children are reminded to do so as close as possible to start/end times (9:08 am/3:22pm) of the day. It is important to limit intermingling between cohorts of students as much as possible. The fewer number of students on the playground before 9:08am and 3:22pm the easier this is to accomplish. **All students have been reminded that dismissal time is 3:22pm and at this time, they are to go home.** Only students who are bus students or B & A students should be on the playground after 3:22 pm.

We want to update you with two positive changes that the Regina Public School Division will be making to elementary school structures: slow and deliberate changes to the **elementary band program** and **usage of elementary school gyms**. Band teachers will begin on October 5<sup>th</sup> to work with small cohorts (from the same classroom) of students. The band program will utilize both in-person and the SmartMusic online platform. Also, elementary schools will begin using their gyms starting the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>. Schools will begin scheduling middle years classrooms (Grades 6 - 8) in the gym with younger grades slowly being added to the schedule. Guidelines for gym usage have been developed by the Regina Public School Division which include staff sanitizing equipment/benches prior to leaving the space and will occur after every class, as well as classes being scheduled with 10 minutes between each to allow time for Vital Oxide drying time. Each school is expected to develop and implement its own schedule.



As we have done in the past, **Circle of Courage** awards will be awarded monthly to students. These awards focus on 4 areas: Belonging, Independence, Generosity and

Mastery. Students will be presented with awards in their classroom with award winner names being announced during morning announcements and placed in the school newsletter.

Congratulations to all the award winners for their hard work during the month of September!

Eldon, Harper (Gr 1/2); Jayla, Yash (Gr. 4); Konrad (SLC); Colton, Max (Gr. 4/5); Aishmeen, Briar, Samama (Gr. 5); Ellis, Emerson, Sabuk (Gr 5/6); Eva, Jett (Gr 6/7); Keanan (Gr. 7); Adria, Zainab (Gr. 7/8); Amama, Sheethal (Gr. 8).



**Spirit Days** for the month of October include:

- October 2 - National Custodian/Caretaker Appreciation Day (Thank you to Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Canlas, and Mr. Bolton for all their hard work!)
- October 5 - World Teacher Day (send a thank you to your child's teacher)
- October 9 - Mad About Plaid (wear your favorite plaid)
- October 16 - George Lee Spirit Day- wear your spirit wear or our school colors (blue & white)
- October 23 - PJ Day
- October 30 - Happy Halloween! (costumes to be worn in the afternoon)  
\*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will not be costume parades to other classrooms or sharing of food.

**George Lee Handbook** - Classroom teachers have sent home the updated George Lee Handbook so check your inbox.

**A George Lee Opportunity** - Our local Menchies at 4-1010 Pasqua St N has introduced a reading incentive program for students. Stop by and pick up a bookmark to record your at home reading. When students read 10 books or 10 hours of reading they fill out their bookmark and can receive a free Menchies frozen yogurt. What a great way to encourage reading at home and support a local business!

Take time to remember the many things each of us has to be thankful for! Happy Thanksgiving!

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

Sherry Knoblauch-Schoepp, Sandra Derenisky, Kathy Harris  
George Lee School Admin. Team