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GRASSY PLAINS SCHOOL NEWS

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

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The purpose of Grassy Plains School is to enable learners to develop their individual potential as life-long learners and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become responsible citizens in a democratic society.

October 15th, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Little School, a Lasting Legacy, and a Life of Purpose

My newsletter message is going to be quite different this month because every once in a while, we are reminded that the impact of a school reaches far beyond its classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds. Sometimes, the seeds planted in a little school continue to grow for generations.

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking at the Celebration of Life for Ralph Gardner, a former principal of Grassy Plains Elementary School. Although Ralph and I never had the opportunity to meet in person, we developed a wonderful friendship through emails over the past three years.

Ralph first arrived in Grassy Plains in the 1950s, when our school was only about two years old. He was just 18 years old, was freshly graduated from teacher's college and asked to be the principal! Life in Grassy Plains looked very different then. There was no electricity or running water at the school. Water was delivered in buckets from Francois Lake, buildings were heated with wood, and the long northern winters were certainly an adventure. The staff consisted of Ralph and one primary teacher. He shared that during his first year here the primary teacher left shortly before Christmas because she couldn't take the isolation and cold weather anymore.

Despite the challenges, Ralph remembered his time here with great fondness. More than 70 years later, he still cared deeply about our little school and community. He wanted to know about our students, our projects, and the things we were doing to make Grassy Plains a wonderful place to learn and grow.

One of the most meaningful parts of Ralph's legacy was the role he played in allowing Indigenous children to attend Grassy Plains Elementary rather than being sent away to Lejac Residential School.

During a time in our country's history when Indigenous children were being separated from their families, languages, and cultures, Ralph helped make it possible for children in our community to remain closer to home and attend their local school.

There is something incredibly powerful about how life can come full circle.

We Are...

Grateful

Respectful

Accepting

Supportive

Successful and we

Yearn for Truth & Knowledge

REMINDERS TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

Please remember to report your child's absence to the office, whether or not it is illness related.

Thank you.

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough."

-Anonymous

Hot Lunch Menu

Mondays—Soup and bun

Tuesdays—Taco salad

Wednesdays—Casserole

Thursdays—Pasta

Fridays—Pizza

UPCOMING DATES:

Oct 15th—Earthquake Drill

**Oct 20th—Lockdown Drill
@ 10:00am**

Oct 21st—Talk about learning
1/2 Day of school

Oct 23rd—Pro-D Day **NO
SCHOOL**

Oct 30th—Halloween parade

Nov 4th—**PICTURE DAY!**

Nov 9th—PAC Meeting at GPES

Nov 10th—Remembrance Day
Assembly at 1pm

REMINDER TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

The doors of the school will remain locked for the safety of staff and students. Please ring the doorbell and wait patiently for it to be answered. Students are NOT to answer the door for adults, so please do not ask them to do so.

Next PAC Meeting:

November 9th at 3:30pm
in Room 3 or, if weather
permits, in the back field.

**ALL PARENTS ARE
WELCOME**

Today, we have the tremendous privilege of welcoming Helen Michelle into our school to share her Indigenous language, culture, knowledge, and traditions with our students. Helen has shared with our learners that her grandparents were granted special permission to attend Grassy Plains Elementary because the principal allowed it.

To think that a decision made by a young principal more than 70 years ago is connected to the relationships and learning opportunities we are blessed with today is truly remarkable.

What a beautiful reminder that the decisions we make as educators can have an impact that reaches far beyond our own lifetime.

Ralph's story also reminds us that the history of education in Canada includes painful chapters that we must acknowledge and learn from. It is our responsibility to ensure that every child who enters our school feels a sense of belonging, that their identity and culture are valued, and that they know they have a place here.

Over the years, Ralph shared many wonderful stories and offered me words of encouragement. During some of the more challenging moments of school leadership, his thoughtful emails would arrive with a few simple words of support. Those words meant more to me than he probably ever realized.

As someone who grew up in Grassy Plains and attended this very school, I feel an especially deep connection to its history. I am incredibly honoured and blessed to have had the opportunity to communicate with Ralph, hear his stories, and learn from someone who helped shape the early years of our school.

His friendship reminded me of three things I hope I never forget: what an amazing community we are privileged to be part of, the lasting impact we can have as educators, and the importance of living a life filled with purpose.

Our school theme this year is *"Growing into Greatness,"* and I cannot help but think about how beautifully Ralph's life reflects that message.

Greatness is not always found in big accomplishments or public recognition. Sometimes, it is found in the quiet decisions we make, the kindness we extend, the opportunities we create for others, and the courage to do what is right.

We may never fully understand the impact of the seeds we plant today. But sometimes, if we are fortunate, we are given a glimpse of how those seeds have grown.

Ralph was given more than 70 years to look back on his time in Grassy Plains with love and affection. And I have been given the incredible gift of hearing his stories and seeing how some of those seeds continue to grow in our school today.

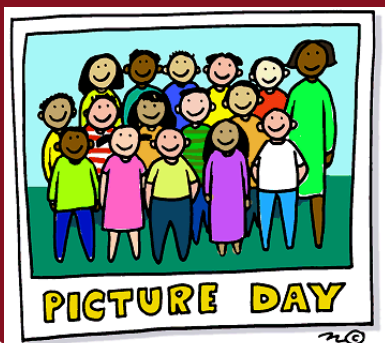
My hope is that we continue to build a school and community where every child belongs, where every person has something valuable to contribute, and where the seeds we plant today will continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Thank you, Ralph, for reminding us that a life lived with purpose can leave a legacy far greater than we may ever know.

Staying Southside Strong,

Ginger Moyah

Principal



PICTURE DAY!

Picture Day is coming up on **November 4th!**

This year, our PAC has been fortunate to secure a talented local photographer, Keepsake Photography, to capture our school photos. Classroom photos, class photos, and the whole-school photo will all take place on the same day, making for a busy day filled with smiles. Students may find their cheeks getting a bit of a workout by the end of it!

We look forward to seeing everyone dressed up and ready to say "cheese!"

FRIENDLY REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Drop off and pick up procedures:

When dropping off or picking up your child, please check in with the office upon entering the school and make your presence known to office staff.

We ask that parents and guardians remain in the front lobby rather than proceeding down the hallways or to classrooms. Having visitors in or near classrooms can be very exciting for students and may unintentionally disrupt learning for the entire class.

If your child needs assistance getting to or from their classroom, school staff will be happy to help.

Changes to dismissal routine:

We would also like to remind families that any changes to a student's regular dismissal routine must be communicated to the office, either by sending a note with your child or by calling the school. We greatly appreciate receiving these notifications **before 2:30 p.m. whenever possible**, as this allows sufficient time to ensure messages are delivered to students and staff.

If the school does not receive notification of a change, students will be dismissed according to their **regular dismissal routine**.

Toys at school:

We understand that bus rides can be long and sometimes boring for students. While children are welcome to bring a small toy to help pass the time on the bus, all toys must be stored in their backpacks and remain there throughout the school day.

Recently, there have been a number of disagreements and conflicts related to toys brought from home being used in classrooms and on the playground. To help minimize disruptions and ensure a positive learning environment, please remind your child that any toys brought for the bus ride must stay in their backpack while they are at school.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students. Thank you!

HALLOWEEN PARADE, OCT 30TH

Our Halloween Parade will take place in the gym at **1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30th**, and parents and guardians are welcome to attend!

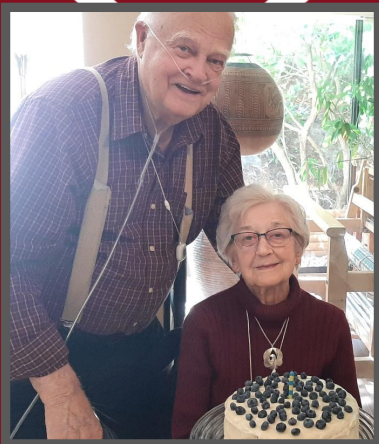
To help minimize distractions during the school day, please **do not send students to school in their costumes**. Students will have time to change into their costumes beginning at **12:45 p.m.**

Parents and guardians are welcome to come at 12:45 p.m. to assist their child with getting dressed, if needed.

We look forward to seeing everyone's creative costumes and celebrating together!

Important Notice

Ralph Gardner and his wife, Elsie Gardner



TALK ABOUT LEARNING APPOINTMENTS

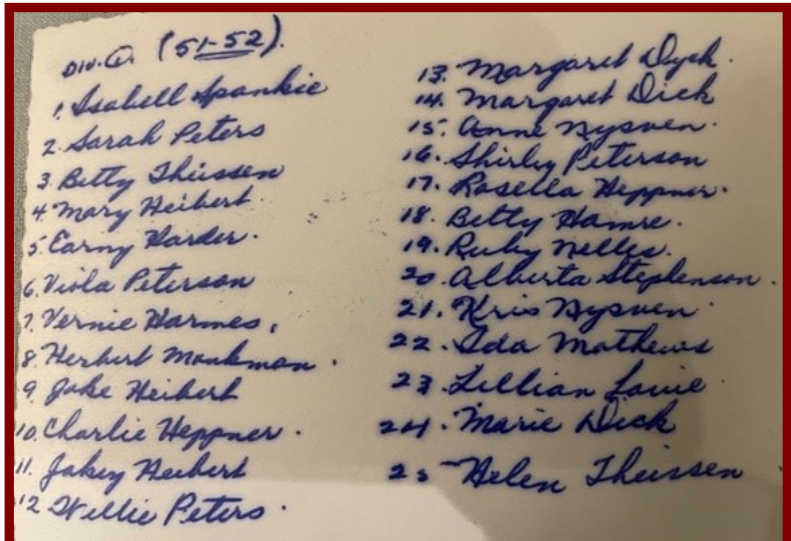
Mrs. Rutchka's class will be available for appointments from **12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** If you require a later appointment time, please book as soon as possible, as spaces may fill quickly.

Ms. Deane and Mrs. Hogarth will be available for appointments from **2:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

Families with more than one child attending GPES are encouraged to book early to help secure back-to-back appointment times.

To book an appointment, please call the **GPES office at 250-694-3396**. To help us avoid scheduling conflicts and double bookings, **please refrain from booking appointments directly with classroom teachers.**

We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's learning and progress.





SKI LESSONS FOR KIDS!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Ski lessons for ages 4-12 with
certified coaches!

Program runs January to March

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Once an age group is full
your child will be placed on
a waitlist.

\$25

Seasonal ski rentals
available!

Training available for
NEW coaches! We are
always looking for new
parents to coach or be a
parent-helper!

For more information:

Jenny Kathriner

(250) 581 0015

or DM me on Messenger



Register here

Bunnies (ages 4-5) and **Jr. Jackrabbits** (ages 6-7) = Sundays only
Sr. Jackrabbits (ages 8-10) and **Track Attack** (ages 10-12) =
Sundays and an additional evening during the week.



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