



**GESS
COYOTES**

GEORGE ELLIOT SECONDARY COYOTE NEWS

Principal: Mrs. Kathy Weninger **Vice-Principals:** Mr. Russ Bischoff ♦ Mrs. Michelle Relova



Principal Message,

Winter break is only three Fridays away. At this time we think it is important to recognize all of our accomplishments over the past 3 months at George Elliot Secondary School. Student learning is obviously at center stage. From Grade 7-12, innovative teaching strategies that lead to deeper learning for our students is happening each and every day. Teachers and students are collaborating, participating in cross curricular opportunities and students are becoming a bigger part of their own assessment in the redesigned curriculum. We are confident that the new teaching and learning will be of great benefit to all of our students.

In the athletic arena, our track and field team represented very well in the fall meets. The Rugby team had a fun-filled season that provided many opportunities for growth and development. Our volleyball teams were very competitive this year, with our senior boys' team winning the valley championship and advancing to the Provincial Championships. None of this would be possible without the volunteer coaches that provide support along the way. A very grateful thank you goes out to all staff and parents who made this season possible.

On the social front, our Leadership and Kindness Ambassador students have been organizing amazing events that promote kindness and appreciation. The kindness tree is an amazing example of this. You really have to see this fantastic tree. Spirit Week was a great opportunity for all students to get involved in the Coyote culture at George Elliot. We are only a few short weeks away from yet another Spirit Week that ends with the fan favorite Ho Down. This tradition is always a great way to head into the winter break.

From the Fine Arts department, we would like to extend an invitation to our Band Concert on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm in the main gym. This is our bands first opportunity to publicly showcase all the hard work they have been putting towards these festive pieces. We hope to see you at the show.

On behalf of the staff at George Elliot, we would like to extend our warm wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the new year.



Kathy Weninger

Michelle Relova

Russ Bischoff



SCHOOL FEES

Fee statements were distributed with report cards on November 24. All school fees are due now. Please pay on-line www.ges.sd23.bc.ca or cash/cheque in the office. If you require assistance with fees, please contact Mrs. Robinson in the office.

SCHOOL VISITORS

All visitors must report to the main school office. Please do not go directly to a classroom without setting up an appointment. You may call the teacher or e-mail directly, to set up an appropriate appointment time and date. All staff email addresses are listed on our website. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 19	Band Performance 7:00 pm
Dec. 22	Last day of classes before winter Break
Jan. 8	Classes resume
Jan. 11	Dance Showcase 7:00 pm
Jan. 15	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan. 15-16	Grad Photo Retakes
Jan. 16	Gr. 12 COBSS applications due 12:00 pm
Jan. 17	Gr. 12 MAP Meeting 10:30 am
Jan. 24	Last day regular classes Gr. 10/11/12
Jan. 25-26	Provincial Exams (Gr. 12)
Jan. 25-26	Regular Classes Gr. 7-9
Jan. 29	Semester 2 Begins

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DECEMBER 2017



FINE ARTS

DANCE NEWS:

Parents, grandparents, friends... we invite you to support our George Elliot Dance students by coming out to see their **Dance Showcase**, which is the culmination of their semester in Dance and Dance Academy. The show will be **Thursday, January 11 at 7 PM in the Creekside Theatre!** Tickets will be sold at the door, with proceeds going to support our Dance program. We will also be featuring a number of performing artists within the school in both the music and drama programs.

DRAMA NEWS:

We currently have a Drama Club running every Thursday after school (3:30 - 4:30) in the Drama Room. All students who are interested in Drama and acting/writing, are welcome to join us! We are beginning to write a collective piece which will be performed in the spring as one of the acts for our spring production.

AUDITIONS: Auditions for the musical production of "Aladdin" will be held in early January. Any students interested in auditioning please sign up and attend auditions in the Drama Room - January 16, 17 and 18 after school.



Stefanek's Mathletes for November:
Riley Nelson—Grade 8
Lily Robinson—Grade 10



**KIDS4KIDS
CHILDMINDING**
by donation



Bring your child(ren) to the George Elliot community gym on December 15th, any time from 3:30-9pm, and we will provide fun, games, and quality childcare while you go Christmas shopping; go for dinner; go to a movie; or just have some quality adult time!!

Watch a Christmas movie in the Creekside theater!
Baked goods for sale-cash only.

Brought to you by the **GESS SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB**



All proceeds going to the



To sign up or for more information please email tanya.elliott@sd23.bc.ca

School Goal

At George Elliot Secondary School, we strive to create a community of learners, thinkers, innovators, collaborators and contributors by fostering a culture that promotes **belonging, resiliency** and **engagement** for each student.



CAREER LIFE PROGRAMS

Dual Credit programs allow students the opportunity get a head start on a career while earning both high-school credits and post-secondary credentials while in high school.

This week, we will be showcasing the Mount Boucherie Senior Secondary **Hair Stylist Program**. The program is composed of applied skills hairdressing courses which make up 990 training hours. Students must attend MBSS for the school year. Students have the option of completing English 12 while enrolled in the program. Upon completion of the program students can be entered into an apprenticeship with a salon as a hairstylist to complete a maximum of 3600 hours.

Upon completion of the in-school training and apprenticeship (work) hours, students can apply for their Red Seal certification in Hairdressing.

- Required courses for entrance: core graduation subjects
- Recommended courses for entrance: none



This program is open to all Central Okanagan Public Schools students in grades 11 & 12 and we are currently accepting applications for the September 2018 program start date.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXcnAsSB5EU>

We will also be showcasing the BCIT **Heavy Mechanical Trades Foundation Program**. This program provides students with the theory and practical skills needed to become proficient in **the** basic mechanical maintenance and repair of commercial transport trucks and heavy duty equipment. Students will become familiar with servicing and maintaining engines, drivelines, drive & hydraulic systems, air brakes, winches, blades, accessories and more.

The Heavy Mechanical Trades Foundation program earns students Industry Training Authority (ITA) recognized training for Level 1 apprenticeship in the following 4 trades:

- Heavy Duty Equipment Technician** - <http://www.itabc.ca/program/heavy-duty-equipment-technician>
- Truck and Transport Mechanic** - <http://www.itabc.ca/program/truck-and-transport-mechanic>
- Diesel Engine Mechanic** - <http://www.itabc.ca/program/diesel-engine-mechanic>
- Transport Trailer Technician** - <http://www.itabc.ca/program/transport-trailer-technician>

This program is open to all Central Okanagan Public Schools students in grade 11 & 12 and we are currently accepting applications for the February 2018 program start date.

For more information please contact Doug Gunn at douglas.gunn@sd23.bc.ca or (250) 870-5110 ext. 4720



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CAREER LIFE PROGRAMS CONTINUED

RCMP Jean Minguy Memorial Youth Academy: May 6 – 12, 2018

The RCMP Youth Academy is a wonderful opportunity for students in grade 11 or 12 to participate in a unique work experience in policing. Students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement will get very good insight in the training and demands placed on police officers. Students will be personally challenged in their leadership abilities, physical abilities, and mental toughness. Up to 40 students are involved in a mini training camp which involves seven days at the Vernon Army Camp where students are instructed in law, procedures of law, and the role of police officers in the community.

Who is eligible?

- Attending Gr. 11/12 high school
- 16 to 18 years of age (as of April 1, 2018)
- Able to pass fitness test
- Able to pass criminal and driving record check
- In good academic standing
- Good attendance record in school
- Displays a willingness to work
- Candidate is interested in Law Enforcement or Supporting Careers
- Completes the application package in full
- Recommended by school staff
- Non-smoker



ATHLETIC NEWS

Volleyball is wrapping up and GESS has had another very successful volleyball season. Highlights include:

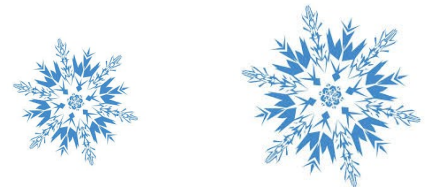
Jr. Boys Volleyball – 9th place at the Provincial Championship. This is a great finish for the jr. boys! They dominated the Okanagan Valley throughout the season and competed very well at the BC Championship in West Kelowna.

Sr. Girls Volleyball – The Coyotes went undefeated in pool play and needed to win one more match to qualify for the BC Championship. Unfortunately the team lost a close 2-1 match to Valleyview (Kamloops). It was a great season and the future looks bright for the sr. girls as all of them are eligible to return next season.

Sr. Boys Volleyball – The Coyotes won the Valley Championship and are heading to the BC Championship in Langley as the #3 ranked team in AA. Hopes are high that the team can repeat their amazing run of a year ago when they won the jr. boys provincial championship. Competition will be fierce but the boys are up to the challenge and will make GESS proud. Go Coyotes!

A big thank you to the following coaches for all their hard work and dedication to our student-athletes:

- ◆ Gr. 7 Boys volleyball Jenni Duff (parent-coach) and Chris Kennedy (parent-coach)
- ◆ Gr. 7 Boys volleyball – Ms. Hammond, Ms. Squair
- ◆ Jr. B Girls volleyball – Ms. Stefanek, Ms. Heinzelmann
- ◆ Jr. A Girls volleyball – Mr. Frechette
- ◆ Jr. A Boys – Randy Duff (parent-coach)
- ◆ Sr. Girls – Mr. Meraw
- ◆ Sr. Boys – Mr. Frehlick



Basketball season is starting! Go Coyotes!!

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ARC PROGRAM NEWS

Youth Substance Use & Counselling is available in your child's school!

ARC Program's Youth Substance Counsellors provide a continuum of services including education, prevention, counselling, referral and community liaison for youth who want to learn more about substances and the effects on overall wellness and functioning.

To contact ARC Programs directly at 250-763-2977 if you have questions or concerns.

Tips & Tricks for Talking to Your Teen About Drugs & Alcohol

Try not to panic. While you may feel angry, frustrated, and concerned, it doesn't help to yell, show anger, or lecture.

Talk with your teen in an open, supportive way. Invading their privacy, or using bribes, threats or guilt may only make the situation worse. Let your teen know that you care about them and your concerned with their health and safety.

Get informed about what your teens using and how often. Find out as much as you can and about your teens experiences and attitudes about what they are using or drugs they are exposed to. Ask them to help you understand their perspective.

Educate yourself. Learn about alcohol and other drugs and let your teen know that you are studying up on substance use (see list of resources below).

Seek Help. Often it can be helpful to talk to someone about your child's behaviour. Use your available resources (i.e. School counsellor, ARC counsellor, Mental Health Clinician, Family counsellor)

Collaborate – If you are a two-parent family, speak with your partner about how you want to proceed, identify appropriate consequences and rules so you are on the same page when you speak with your teen.

For more information:

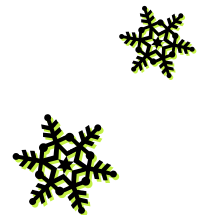
- **Parenting: The Drugs Question (CARBC – Helping Schools)**
- ***The Road Ahead: A Guidebook for Parents of Young Teens* (heretohelp.bc.ca)**
- **Cannabis Use & Youth: A Parent's Guide (heretohelp.bc.ca)**
- **National Cannabis Prevention & Information Centre (www.ncpic.org.au)**
- **Checklist of Warning Signs of Substance Use Problems for Families and Teachers**

(www.heretohelp.bc.ca)

What's the Deal? Talking with a Young Person About Cannabis (www.ncpic.org.au/)



**Season Greetings from all of the
staff of George Elliot School.**



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