



GOLDSTONE PARK ELEMENTARY

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Upcoming Dates in May:

Apr 24th - May 23rd Happy Ramadan
Sun, May 10th Mother's Day

2020-2021 School Year

It is that time of year when we need to start making plans for next years classes. As of right now, the landscape for what the next school year will look like is unclear. We are going ahead with making up our class organizations as we normally do at this time.

Class organization is a very time consuming process and the staff work hard to provide the best learning environment possible for each student. Teachers have knowledge of the academic needs of children, keep the "big picture" in mind and therefore, can best decide where individuals should be placed. The following is a list of the criteria involved in organizing classes:

- Academic Ability/Performance
- Gender
- Class and Group Dynamics
- Learning Styles
- Special Needs Consideration
- Social Compatibility
- Ministry/District Policy Guidelines
- Behaviour/Developmental Level

From time to time, parents request specific placements. It is important to understand that for a variety of reasons, many requests cannot be accommodated

Please do not expect that your son/daughter will be placed with a specific teacher or with particular friends. Friends can always see each other at recess, lunch or after school. You might feel more comfortable with teachers that you know from previous years, but I can assure you that the new staff members are also talented teachers. Goldstone Park Elementary has a sound-learning environment!

We are a very large school with limited space. which often leads to combined classes. Many students will be in classes that have combined grades and ***there is no guarantee that if a child was in a combined class this year that he/she will be in a class with a single grade next year.*** Please understand that even in a single grade there is still a range of ability. Teachers are well qualified to teach both grades in a combined class. We view students as a community of learners all striving to move forward in their learning.

With the trust and support of home, we are confident that all children will placed in classes that will allow them to have a productive and rewarding school year. Your patience and understanding regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

Chalo Baat Karein - New Online Parent Resource

A recently launched resource this past Tues, May 5th is available every Tues evening for the next 12 weeks from 6:00-7:00 pm.



A virtual series of conversations where South-Asian parents, caregivers, and professionals can connect about topic's driven by parents for parents. Everything from community resources, parenting during the pandemic, financial supports, school and stress management. A safe space to discuss, share, inquire, and provide feedback on current topics of concern.

Please click here: [SAFE South Asian Group Flyer](#) for more information.

Parenting through COVID-19 video series

Roots of Empathy Founder and President, Mary Gordon, is recording several videos for a series "Parenting through COVID-19." You can find them [here](#). Each video will be available in 18 languages, including Ojibwe, Mohawk, Cree, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq and Inuktitut.

In this video about **parents as teachers**, Mary talks about the opportunity this brings. As she says, your role as teacher isn't that new. **You were your child's first teacher – and you always will be.**

Mary Gordon also wrote a blog on how being home together is an opportunity.

You can find her blog post [here](#).

"This is not just a chance for children to spend time with you, it's a chance for you to look at your children – really watch them and listen to them."



Supergalactic
Readers
Home Reading
Reading takes us out of this world
MAY

READING RESEARCH

Becoming a knowledgeable reader takes time and many experiences with many kinds of reading choices.

Skilled readers know that strategies for reading change with different purposes. When you're going to Greece on vacation, you don't read a pamphlet the same way you would read the same pamphlet to write a research paper.

Skilled readers also recognize that different types of reading materials will require different approaches in order to comprehend, interpret and evaluate what they are reading.

Motivation is also essential to becoming a skillful reader. Students who are not effective readers tend to not have a personal connection with what they are reading.

Learning to develop a purpose for reading that will benefit their personal life, requires reading away from the school setting.

Motivators include books:

- which are of personal interest
- as gifts
- about personal prior experience
- by favourite authors
- which come in a series
- which have been advertised
- which friends recommend



GOOD READERS

Good readers read between the lines, making inferences and increasing their understanding. They use the information in the book to figure out the message.



NEW STRATEGY

I figure out the messages.

Practice Activity

After reading the story, answer one or more of the following questions:

Fiction

What events led to _____?

Why did _____ happen?

What do you think the author was trying to tell you?

Non-Fiction

What did you learn about _____?

Why is it important to know about _____?

How will you think differently about _____ now?