



GIRLS' TALK

Calgary
Girls' School

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MESSAGE FROM CGS STAFF

As this newsletter submission is being written, it is 27 degrees outside! Oftentimes in the midst of the “typical” Calgary spring, it feels debatable if temperatures will ever rise or if the snow will ever stop. The good news is that they have and the better news is that families will have a week together to enjoy this beautiful spring weather. By the time that you are reading this message, the Victoria Day break will be a distant memory and we hope that it was a fine and good one.

June is always a busy month at school: Provincial and other end of year tests, grad luncheon and graduation itself, Brianne’s Run, classroom assignments for next year, report cards, and finally, the last day of school. Please check the June calendar for the specific dates of these events.

You will also find in this newsletter, a **REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR**. After the Board of Directors approved our calendar for 2008-2009, Alberta Education changed the dates of the Provincial Achievement Tests, thus necessitating revisions to the CGS calendar. The revised calendar was approved by the Board of Directors at its May meeting.

The Calgary Girls' School is proud of the achievements of the past year: work with hands-on science has really demonstrated that girls can be scientists, too; increased access to technology through the provision of carts of Macbooks has given girls the opportunity to more fully integrate technology as a learning tool; and girls’ work in band, music and extracurricular sports has resulted in many awards and accolades. Girls are to be congratulated for their commitment to personal best and the fine work that has resulted. Teachers, too, are to be commended for their vision, their care, and their commitment to high standards.

Enhanced opportunities for girls have been made available as a consequence of the dedication of the School Council and their fundraising and volunteer initiatives. Funds for technology, for performances, presentations and plays have enabled the school to offer a richer program for students. Women’s Eve Gala, always a highlight of the school year, was “bigger and better than ever” with \$16,000 being raised for scholarships and other girl-focused programs. On behalf of all, sincere appreciation is offered to the School Council Executive for their wise counsel and good advice offered to support all students.

In Mid-May families received an invitation to make a request for their daughter’s classroom placement for next year; many families took advantage of this opportunity. Teachers and administrators are now proceeding to build class lists. As you will recognize, parental input is but one factor in this complex process. In the instance where there were more requests than were able to be accommodated, the school used a lottery system to create the class lists. Each request was, however, considered, but not all were able to be honoured.

You will be receiving a short newsletter at the end of the month with information related to school start-up in September. Please look for this with your daughter’s June report card.

Warmest regards,

CGS Staff

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View this newsletter in full colour online at www.calgarygirlsschool.com under What’s New

A REMINDER FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS AT CGS

Hello parents.

I just wanted to remind everyone that **you must fill out new Volunteer Forms each year your daughters are at CGS**. If you completed forms for the 2007-2008 year, you must complete new forms for the 2008-2009 year. People's circumstances often change from year to year (new jobs, new babies, new responsibilities) so I assume you are no longer available to volunteer if you do not submit new forms each year.

The Volunteer Forms were sent home earlier with the registration packages. If you need another set of Volunteer Forms please contact the school office and the forms can be sent home with, and returned by, your daughter. I also wanted to remind everyone that **Police Security Clearances must be completed if you want to volunteer in your daughter's classroom or on school field trips**. The details for applying for a Police Clearance can also be obtained by contacting the school office.

Remember that our lucky students enjoy the benefit of many field trips and these field trips begin as early as September. If you need a Police Security Clearance, begin the application process ASAP. Once you obtain your clearance send a copy into the school office as soon as possible or bring it in in September and I can update our records then.

If you are uncertain whether or not you have a Police Clearance on file with the school, please call me (contact information listed below) and I can check for you.

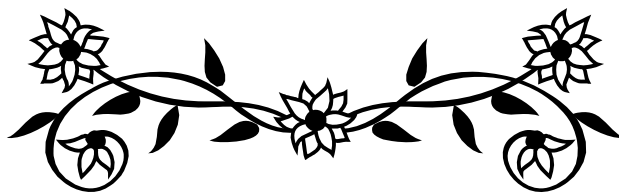
Some good news, **parents can now apply for Police Clearances at the 17th Avenue SW precinct as well as the downtown Police precinct**. This is great news for parents who dreaded driving and parking in the downtown core! Tanice in the Lakeview school office has the details on hours and days during which they will accept applications for Police Clearances.

Any other questions about volunteering at CGS, please contact me and I'll do my best to help you. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at CGS in any way this year. Our girls and our staff appreciate it greatly!

Kathryn Evans

Volunteer Coordinator 246-8082 (home)

bkevans@telus.net (email)



LEARN TO TYPE

Some parents have been asking for typing programs so their child can learn how to type properly. This would be a great summer activity to do for a few minutes at a time on a regular basis. "Mavis Beacon Typing" is a tried and true program that can be purchased from www.amazon.com or www.broderbund.com. On Amazon you will see many other entertainment style typing programs that will work just as well.

Your other option is to search "learn to type" or "typing program" on the internet and either download a program to your computer or use an internet based program that remains on the internet while you use it. In these cases, be prepared to monitor the type of advertising your child will be exposed to.



Yummy Lunches Program: Coming to CGS

In September, Yummy Lunches Ltd. will begin providing healthy lunches one day per week at both Lakeview and Bel-Aire Campuses. This is an optional program to provide affordable, fun and nutritious meals as an alternative to brown bag lunches or unhealthy fast food choices. The nut-free meals will be \$7.00 per child and consist of a hot/cold entrée, fruit/vegetable, desert and bottled water. More details regarding the program at our school will be provided in September meanwhile, please visit www.yummylunches.ca.

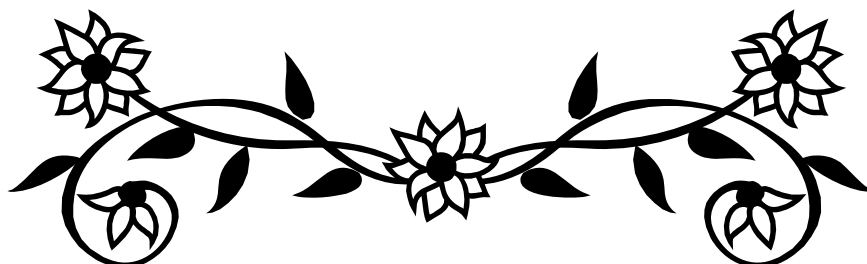
"PERFECT JOB FOR THE STAY AT HOME PARENT WITH CHILDREN IN SCHOOL"

Yummy Lunches currently has Part-time openings for service staff. Duties will include light food preparation, set-up and serving of catered food to school children.

All Applicants must:

- Have a strong command of the English Language.
- Be committed, reliable, and courteous.
- Have good organizational skills and love to work with kids.
- Knowledge of food service is helpful but not necessary, as all training will be provided.

Please contact Kathy at 242-4855 or email us at yummylunches@gmail.com.



Congratulations to Laura M. in Grade 5. Laura is the winner of last month's newsletter tear-off. A book will be donated to the school library in her name.

Tear-Off Sheet (please print this form if you receive your newsletter online)

Please complete and return this section of the newsletter.

STUDENT NAME: _____

GRADE/ROOM: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

All returned slips will be put in a draw for a book donation to the library.

CGS SCHOOL COUNCIL

It's time to give our selves a pat on the back and a roaring round of applause! Another year the Calgary Girls School has gone down in the books as one of the best yet! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents, grand-parents, teachers and staff who have gone out of their way to help with the growing number of events that we host at our school. We again were top in sales for the city in the sale of the Coupon books adding close to \$25,000.00 to our bottom line , and with that we have purchased more computers in an effort to get the computer/student ratio down to 1:2. Not bad for a school that is only 5 years old! We hosted another casino which has afforded us the opportunity to buy many things that we would not otherwise have. It also allows us to apply for matching grants for work done on our ever aging infrastructure. Without matching grants we would have to wait until we managed to make all of the money ourselves. We made \$104,000.00 for the two days of work and I thank every volunteer from the bottom of my heart. Without YOU.....we would be merely another school. We then moved on to the Gala which took an amazing number of man hours (womanhours) to conquer. We had a group of volunteers who worked endlessly and with all their heart, and the end result was nothing less than fabulous! If you didn't have a chance to get to the Gala this year, make it a priority for next year. We raised almost \$16,000.00 for the scholarship fund, which is a legacy that will support many girls in their dream to educate themselves for many years to come. The biggest group of grade nine girls ever, then packed up and flew across the world to a destination that many can only dream of. Their memories and friendships will carry them forever.

We have had a year of great accomplishment, but not without a little stress. The ever growing need for volunteers remains one the most talked about topics at Parent Council. We would love your input and respect your opinions, but can't do that unless you come out. The meetings will be listed on a calendar that you will receive at the beginning of the next school year . Please do your best to come out and help with even a few hours a month. Every little bit helps and it makes it easier on those that depend on us! We will be doing the coupon books again at the beginning of next year and the gala is scheduled for March 7, 2009. The casino is not until the third quarter of 2009 so that will take us into the following year. One of the NEW FUNDRAISERS that we will be doing next year is grocery coupons. We have a small group of parents (3) who has stepped forward and is going to start the ball rolling on the application and administration of a NEW PLAYGROUND FOR THE LAKEVIEW SITE. The grocery coupons will start the process and I hope that you will support this event. We realize everyone must eat so we are trying to make this as easy as possible for you to help the school without digging into your pockets for something you don't want. Details will follow. Patti Paccagnan will be your new Chair of Parent Council and I hope that she gets the support she needs to complete her term. Please join me in wishing her a great year, and great experiences. Thank you to the many people that have helped and given so graciously of your limited time. You have not only made a difference, you have made memories that no-one can erase.

JUDY – CHES – DIANE – SUSAN –CAROLINE- The absolutely most amazing team of administrators that I have had the pleasure to work with. You have made a difference in so many lives that a simple thank you doesn't seem enough but for now I bid you sunny skies and the wind at your back. TANICE – LAURIE – JAN –MYRTLE - This team picture should be in the dictionary when you look up great people in history. Individually you have talent, charm, brains, and an uncanny way of making everyone around you feel like they are the most important person around. I have been blessed to have worked with you for so long. To my two friends DEB MCGINN & MELISSA DOWNEY who started with me at the first parent council meeting five years ago and have always been there to help when no-one else was. The powerhouse team with class and a sense of humour. Life goes on but friendship remains. To all of the teachers who I have been blessed to have in my life – thank-you for making this a wonderful experience and a fabulous education for my daughter.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead a great team of volunteers in Parent Council, and thank you too for supporting the fundraising ventures that we have had at CGS.
Until our paths meet again.....

Carol McCarthy
Chair Parent Council

