



# GIRLS' TALK

Calgary  
Girls' School

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## Voices of Our Girls

Popular culture, particularly the icons of our time, and the messages it communicates have always been a powerful shaping force in our society. During the month of January the grade seven girls have developed a heightened regard for what is perceived to be beautiful and popular, a subject we all have viewpoints and opinions, yet we are rarely given the chance to think about how these have been formed.

During this Go Girls inquiry, the grade seven students visited the Glenbow Museum, exploring the Life as Legend: Marilyn Monroe exhibit, a popular iconic figure, with artist, educator and actress Chester Lees as she portrayed the aging Marilyn. During this experience the girls tackled issues of self-esteem, pop culture and the ideals of beauty through one of the following activities: portraiture collage, mask-making or visual journaling.



*Ms. Monteith's Grade 7 class making mask with Marilyn at the Glenbow Museum*



*Ms. Pascoe's Grade 7 Class*

*“Beauty remains a relatively elusive concept. Is it physical appearance, emotional strength, kindness, generosity? When a class of 13 year olds were asked about the question most responded with examples of glamorous celebrities or natural phenomenon’s, and, I’ll admit, I was one of those girls. The answer mostly led to the conclusion that beauty is only skin deep ... true or false? How can we help our society better dictate the meaning of this word? Is it even possible that we can help them, or is our superficial meaning set in stone like so many other rituals that our media says will always be “in”.*

*~Maradyn H., Ms. Monteith’s Grade 7 class*

*“Beauty is about happiness, it’s about joy, love, colour, serenity and so much more.”  
~Rachelle J., Ms. Monteith’s  
Grade 7 class*

# Beauty

*“Beauty cannot always be the most polished piece of silver. Beauty doesn’t mean you have to stand out; it can be original and ordinary.”*

*~Lauren A., Ms. Monteith’s  
Grade 7 class*

*“In my opinion I think that pop culture has altered my opinion of beauty ... when I watch the fashion channels and the media about celebrities of today, they focus on clothing, weight and their face and body.”  
~Kyleigh O., Ms. Monteith’s Grade 7  
class*

*“Here in Canada, as people sit and watch T.V. or browse through a magazine, they observe our culture’s household names and comment on how they look and what they’re wearing. When you constantly see thin celebrities, it forces pressure on young women to be the same ... you feel bad about your weight and wish you were more like them. If you wear a certain brand name you think people will look up to you like you do to the stars. ... If you live in Africa, their culture expresses beauty in different ways. It is not important to be skinny or to have brand name clothes. They have their own ideas of what beauty is. There are so many more crucial things than being perfect and it can be hard to find them because of the media and the way beauty is continually expressed in this culture. Wherever you look you will find advertisements showing and telling you how to look better and how to be a more popular version of yourself.”*

*~Caley M., Ms. Monteith’s Grade 7 class*

*“There really isn’t a definition to what beauty is, it’s what you think is truly beautiful and I don’t think anyone should be able to put a label on that.”  
~Reilly B., Ms. Monteith’s  
Grade 7 class*

*“I do not think that beauty is based on symmetry and balance because everyone is unique and different. No one is the same as someone else. ... Comparing yourself to a formula is a form of symmetry because you are trying to match yourself to someone else’s opinion of beauty.”*

*~ Olivia S., Ms. Monteith’s Grade 7 class*

*Beauty Beauty Beauty*

# Thoughts on Marilyn Monroe

What is the significance of Marilyn Monroe?

*Well, for the obvious reasons: entertainment and sex appeal. But also, she was admired and looked up to by many younger, and older women. She was a great actress and an amusing one at that, and if we didn't have entertainment, even back then, we could become very bored! I think Marilyn was looked up to because what little girl wouldn't want to be a gorgeous actress like Marilyn Monroe!*

Why, so many years later, is she still so popular?

*Does a great song ever age? No! The same thing could be said for a great actress. If you are loved in your own time as much as Marilyn, you tend to be more understood and appreciated with time and the passing of generations. She is also still popular because of her sense of fashion, and even though styles have changed, everyone still seems to appreciate her amazing dresses.*

How did Marilyn influence history and society?

*She has influenced our society because she was such a fashion icon, and so many people have tried to reenact her various famous scenes. She was an absolutely beautiful woman, and many women have tried to look like her. She is admired so much that people are willing to spend millions of dollars on pictures of her.*

~Rebecca W., Ms. Frid's Grade 7 Class



*Ms. Frid's Grade 7 Class at the Glenbow with Marilyn Monroe*

## MESSAGE FROM CGS STAFF

### One to One Computing is Coming to CGS

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, parents were invited to attend an information evening around one- to-one computing /pervasive learning technologies at CGS. This initiative will bring a laptop (MacBook) into the hands of every CGS student, 24/7 – an exciting prospect! The leasing and insurance fees are reflected in the fee sheet included in the 2009-10 Registration Packages that are being sent out February 2<sup>nd</sup> (return date of February 17<sup>th</sup>).

The school will be hosting additional parent sessions in the fall as no laptops will be released to girls until parents have a fuller understanding of how to best support their daughters' use of the laptops.

### Accountability Pillar Surveys

Alberta Education is conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Surveys from January to end of February 2009. For Charter schools, all parents of students grade 4 and above will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In addition to English and French the survey will be available in Mandarin/Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. Parents wishing to have surveys in a language other than English or French can contact Caroline Parker.

In February, students and teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experiences they have had at their school.

In the past weeks, there have been several instances where students have been arriving at school early. As well, there have been occasions where school staff members have been delayed from leaving school until well into the evening because students have not been picked up. Parents are reminded of the following passage that is contained in the parent handbook:

*For safety reasons, please ensure your child does not arrive at school prior to 8:15 a.m., as supervision by authorized personnel is not scheduled until this time. Students **should not** arrive at school before supervisors are on duty. After school pickup should be by 3:30 p.m. or else the student will be sent to POOSCA and parents will be billed for the fee.*

Before and after school care through POOSCA is available at the Bel Aire campus with transportation to the Lakeview campus in the morning and from Lakeview after school.

## HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION UPDATE

### Student Tours and Open Houses

Calgary Board of Education:

- Henry Wise Wood – Tours – Feb. 6 – 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Open House – February 5 – 7:00 p.m.

Calgary Catholic School Board:

- Notre Dame High School – February 2 – 6:30 p.m.
- St. Francis High School – February 4 – 7:00 p.m.
- Bishop Carroll High School – February 10 – 6:30 p.m.
- St Mary's High School – February 10 – 7:00 p.m.
- Father Lacombe – February 10 – 7:00 p.m.
- Bishop O'Byrne – February 18 – 6:30 p.m.
- Bishop McNally – February 19 – 6:00 p.m.
- Bishop Grandin – February 19 – 7:00 p.m.

Westmount Charter School: - February 10 – 7:00 p.m.

Other Charter and Private Schools: Check their websites for dates and times and application and registration procedures.

## **International Baccalaureate Programs**

Calgary Board of Education: Application deadline, Jan. 16

Calgary Catholic School Board: Application deadline, Feb. 20

Charter and Private Schools: Contact individual schools for info

## **High School Registration**

Calgary Board of Education

All CGS students who will be registering in Grade 10 at a CBE school will receive their registration packages at our school. I will work with the girls in their “high school groupings” but the course selections will need to be approved by the parents. Teachers will be required to make recommendations as to the course placements for the academic subjects based on the policies of the individual high school.

I anticipate that we will begin this process in February and it will be completed by March 16, which is the registration deadline.

Registrations received after this date may result in students not receiving the options that they have selected.

Students who have submitted applications to the International Baccalaureate program should have received notification of acceptance by February 21. If they are not accepted or change their minds about entering the program, they will still have lots of time to register at their designated high schools.

Calgary Catholic Board of Education

Specific information regarding the registration procedures is not available at this time for any school other than Bishop Carroll High School.

Bishop Carroll requires that students who are planning on attending there in fall begin the actual registration at the Open House on February 10. If you think that your daughter might benefit from the Individualized Learning program at that school, I encourage you to attend the Open House and discuss it with the school staff. It is a very non-traditional setting and has had tremendous academic success. Bishop Carroll accepts students from all over the city and the school does not require that the students are Catholic. Because this is a “school of choice” no transfer procedures are required. It is definitely worth considering.

## **Transfer Procedures**

Calgary Board of Education

Should you want to have your daughter attend a school other than her “designated” high school you must go to the requested school and pick up a “request for transfer application”. This must be completed and returned to the requested school by Friday, March 13 at noon. Some schools will begin working on their transfer requests that afternoon. All students will register in their “designated” high school to ensure that they have a program for the next school year. If the transfer request is approved, the original program will be cancelled and a new one will be designed at the receiving school. Please note that parents and students requesting a transfer must do that on their own. At CGS, we will only be doing the registration process for girls and their designated schools.

Calgary Catholic School Board

All students are expected to register in their designated schools unless they are requesting a program (e.g. IB or AP) that is not available in that school. A parent who would like to have their child move to a different school for personal reasons must contact the principal of the designated school to discuss the request.

Keep watching the website or talk to your daughters for new information that might come about. Remember that I can be reached at the school by phone or email ([vicki.brown@calgarygirlsschool.com](mailto:vicki.brown@calgarygirlsschool.com)).

Vicki Brown  
Grade 9 Counsellor



### Grade Nine Europe Trip

The Europe Fundraising Committee is extremely grateful to all who made donations and purchased tickets for the "All Things Italian Basket." The winning ticket was drawn by Mr. Fisher and the lucky winner is Lorraine Williamson.

Congratulations to Lorraine and thanks to all who made this a successful fundraiser.

### School Lunches

The Lunch Bell Ltd. is a private company delivering hot lunches to the students at both campuses of the Calgary Girls School on Wednesdays. On those days you can leave the chore of lunch preparation to someone else and be assured that your child is receiving a nutritious, hot lunch. The response to the Lunch Bell programme so far has been overwhelming! The order form and registration form were sent home to each family at the beginning of January however if you would like a second copy or did not receive the original, please contact us and we will make arrangements to have one sent home with your daughter. In March the menu and order forms will be available on our website [www.lunchbell.ca](http://www.lunchbell.ca) for downloading as well the opportunity to place your order online.

Please contact us with any questions, comments or feedback. Also, if you are interested in helping us serve lunches at the school, please let us know.

Susan Lee and Tracie Ontko  
[hotlunches@lunchbell.ca](mailto:hotlunches@lunchbell.ca)  
403.240.0606



### Uniform Consignment Store

Here are the dates and times the UNIFORM CONSIGNMENT STORE will be open for the balance of the school year:

Friday - Jan 23 – 2:30PM – 4PM

Friday - Feb 27 – 2:30PM – 4PM

Wed/Thurs Mar 18/19 4:30 – 6:30PM

Fri - Mar 20 – 9AM – 11:30PM

Fri – Apr 24 – 2:30PM – 4PM

Fri – May 22 – 2:30PM – 4PM

We are accepting for consignment and sell the following pieces:

blazers, cardigans, vests, kilts, hoodies, track pants, shorts, dress pants, golf shirts, ties and dresses. We will not be selling the t-shirts with student's names on the sleeves, or white blouses since these items soil very easily. The Uniform Consignment Store is run by volunteers (which are needed) therefore we are a **CASH** only store. Items placed on consignment will be dated and logged in when you place your item for sale. When your item sells we will contact you to make arrangements to pick up your money. We will be charging a \$3 fee for each item that sells to cover costs and provide uniform items to families in need.

Anyone wanting to volunteer can contact Karen McGhee at 403-241-0065 or email me at [karen@calgarysunsetgourmet.ca](mailto:karen@calgarysunsetgourmet.ca)!!