



Graminia Flyover

January 2024

Principal's Message

Graminia School

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Kim Duchaine

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Shelley Kent

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<https://graminia.psd.ca/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PSD70GRM/

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024!

We hope everyone had a well rested and relaxing Winter Break and have been staying warm this week. The month of December was certainly busy at Graminia with all of our seasonal events. The concerts were wonderful to see everyone come together to support our students and enjoy their hard work. A reminder that **Report Cards go live on Powerschool January 30**. A huge thank you to our staff that made all of the events possible. We would also like to thank our Basketball coaches and our Athletic Director for kicking off the Basketball Season, which continues now until March. Thank you for your time!

In January, we will be continuing our Hawk Spirit Assemblies. The Graminia Outdoor Rink is up and running and will be used by classes now that we are back in school. Please check with your child's PE teacher to find out more. We are looking for donations of gently used or new skates and goalie equipment to replenish our stock. Additionally with the weather turning cold, we ask families to ensure students are coming to school with boot, snow pants, winter jackets, toques and mitts! Procedure 750 states we will be going outside until the weather is colder than -23 including the wind chill, this includes all of our students kindergarten to gr 9.

A reminder that there is **NO PARKING or DROP OFFS in the bus lane. This is at anytime during school hours. There has been an increase since winter break and this is a safety concern.**

The Graminia staff would like to thank our families for all of the support that you provide for us and your children. We are appreciative to all of our School Council and Foundation parents and participants who give of their time for monthly meetings, and volunteering in our classes, and at field trips and events!

Treena Neumann-
Principal

School Events and Calendar

Check out our [school website](#) to see our school's monthly calendar. Here you can filter by type of event and you can also add our calendar to your own iCal or Google Calendar. Please note there is **no school February 8 & 9**.



PARKLAND
SCHOOL DIVISION



General Information cont.

Staffing Update - Farewell to Ms. Wolff

We would like to announce the news of Gloria Wolff's retirement from Graminia.

Ms. Wolff has served our students and community for many years and we wish her well in the next phase of her journey.

Her dedication to her students was evident in her classroom as well as through the many school-wide activities she generously gave her time to facilitating such as Remembrance Day Ceremonies and the Annual Terry Fox Run.

In her place, we welcome Ms. Lorena Silva to Graminia. She will be starting on Monday, January 15.

Stronger Together Newsletter

Each month, Parkland School Division's Learning Services team compiles a newsletter for parents and guardians of students. Inside you will find information, opportunities and strategies to help you and your family connect with us on your child's educational journey. Each month we will provide you with information about mental health and ways we can work together to support your family. [Please click here to see the latest issue.](#) You can also access the [Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#) to learn more information and find sessions regarding child/youth mental health and parenting topics.

Staffing Update - 8J/2K

Please welcome Ms Michelle Merkus to Graminia. She will starting on Monday, January 15 and be covering for Ali Jacobs while she is on a leave.



Kinettes Hamper Program

Wow! Thank you Graminia for all of your contributions to the Kinettes Hamper Program and thank you to Mrs. Duncan for her time and leadership on this incredible initiative.

Special shout out to the 3R, 5S and 1K classes and the Hudson family for their contributions to the Hamper Program.



General Information



Assessment and Reporting for the 2023-2024 School Year



Term 1 Sept 5 - Jan 30		Term 2 Feb 1 - June 27	
Student Led Conferences	Term 1 Report Cards	Student Led Conferences	Term 2 Report Cards
November 7 & 9 3:30-6:30 pm	Live on PowerSchool January 30, 2024	April 9 & 11 3:30-6:30 pm	Live on PowerSchool June 27, 2024

Regular updates and ongoing communication of student progress via PowerSchool take place **throughout the year** for grade 1-9. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. For a video tutorial of how to access PowerSchool as a parent, [please click here](#). Call us at 780-963-5035 if you need support with your parent portal username/password. We will also be running a parent session at the December School Council meeting.

IN PARKLAND ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

In PSD, we help support families who need help getting their child(ren) to school. We know there are many factors that affect attendance:

- Parents' work schedule
- Transportation
- Family events
- Appointments

Often families don't realize how much school their child is missing and the impact that has on everyone. They are more behind than you think.

1 DAY MISSED = 2 DAYS BEHIND



19 or more days

Missing just **TWO** days every month can add up to **19** days in a school year. This is the equivalent of missing an ENTIRE MONTH of instructional days.



10 to 18 days

Students who are absent an average of 15 days per year miss **1 YEAR'S WORTH** of school by their graduating year.



9 or fewer absences

Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.



General Information continued

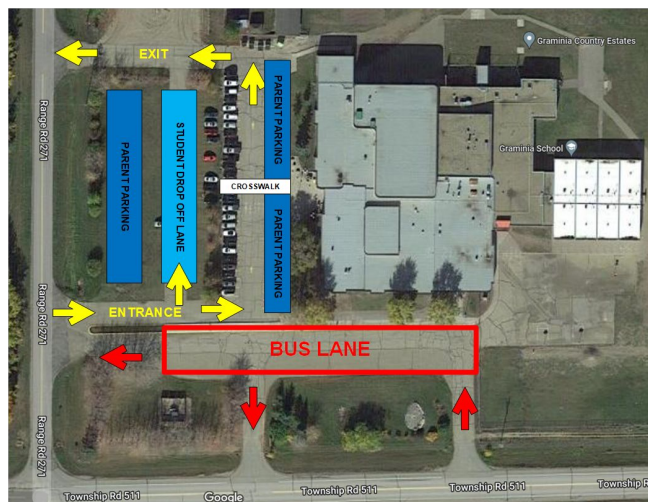
Parking Lot Safety

For those families that are new to Graminia it is important to note that our parking lot is a **one-way street**. The entrance is at the South and the exit is at the North. It helps us to keep everything safe when traffic flows in this direction. In order to ensure the safety of students during pick-up and drop-off we would ask you to follow the following rules:

- If dropping off students in the lane closest to the school, please park in a parking stall following all traffic rules. No dropping off in this lane without correctly parking (**no drop and roll**).
- If dropping off students in the grass/gravel lane (in front of the totem pole), you may drop students off without parking (drop and roll). **This can only happen in this lane, not in the lane closest to the school.**
- It is critically important that students, parents and staff use the crosswalk when crossing the parking lot in front of the front doors. It is not safe to cross from in between parked cars and the Parent Parking areas have cars constantly backing up and moving. As the adults, we can model this for the kids!
- Please **do not park in the bus lane to drop students off!** As the weather turns chillier we typically have buses arriving later and it is not safe for there to be students disembarking from buses along with cars coming in and out.

Thank you for your cooperation. Ms Neumann and Ms Chessor will be out to support a safe drop off and pick up each day.

Please make sure that anyone dropping your child off is aware of the rules.





Hawk's Athletics

Basketball/Athletics Update and Calendar

Upcoming Basketball

- Monday, January 8th
 - **Sr. Girls/Jr. A Boys** Practice, 2:45pm-4:30pm
- Tuesday, January 9th
 - **Sr. Boys** Practice, 11:45pm-12:15pm
 - **Jr. B Girls** Practice, 12:15pm-12:45pm
 - **Sr. Away Games**
 - **Boys @ Duffield. 3:45pm.**
 - **Girls @ STA. 4:15pm.**
- Wednesday, January 10th
 - **Jr. A Girls** Practice, 11:45am-12:15pm
 - **Jr. A Away Games**
 - **Boys @ High Park. 3:30pm.**
 - **Girls @ Wabamun. 3:30pm.**
- Thursday, January 11th
 - **Sr. Boys** Practice, 11:45pm-12:15pm
 - **Jr. B Boys** Practice, 12:15pm-12:45pm
- Thursday - Saturday
 - **Sr. Boys** Tournament @ Thelma Chalifoux/Millwoods Christian
 - Thursday Game @ TCS. 6:30pm. [Click here for the full draw.](#) We will play Thursday, Friday, and twice Saturday.
 - **Jr. A Boys/Girls** Tournament @ St. Thomas Aquinas
 - Click [here for the Girls Draw](#) and [here for the Boys Draw](#). You will have games on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



Reach out to your coaches if you're going to be missing practices/games:

- Sr. Girls - kara.holst@psd.ca
- Sr. Boys - sidney.lewis@psd.ca & kiran.kawa@psd.ca
- Jr. Girls - sidney.lewis@psd.ca & Coach Melissa
- Jr. Boys - isabela.ramos@psd.ca & laura.duncan@psd.ca
- Jr. B Boys/Girls - hailey.weiland@psd.ca

As always - keep an eye on the [continually updated Athletics calendar](#) for info on all things Athletics



General Information cont.



GRAMINIA'S ANNUAL LEARN-A-THON

The Graminia Foundation will be hosting its 15th annual Spell-a-Thon with a newly added Math-a-Thon creating the new Learn-a-Thon. Our brilliant teachers have created an option for the kiddos to choose either math or spelling. The test will consist of: 20 words or 20 numeracy questions for grades 2 - 9, and 10 words or 10 numeracy questions for K - 1. This fundraiser always creates a lot of excitement around the school. It's a great incentive for students to practice their spelling and now math. Another new change we are including all grades!

Learn-a-Thon tests will be done online with the exception of Kindergarten. There is website created where you can access all this fundraiser's information
<https://sites.google.com/psd.ca/graminialearn-a-thon/home>

Important dates to put in your calendar:

January 15th @ 11:15am: Kickoff Assembly @ 11:15, Pledge Forms sent out

February 15th (February 14th for KM): Test Date

ANYTIME BETWEEN January 15th & February 23: Return Pledge form/money
back to your teacher

February 29th: Prizes and Parties



General Information cont.

Graminia Library News

REMINDER: Once books have been overdue for 90 days they are considered lost and the replacement cost is added to your students Power School account. Lets get those overdues in!

Click on this link to see what books are in our library and to check on your students account!
[Destiny Discover - Graminia Library](#)

Use school email and password to log in

Stay warm with a good book
 The Perfect summer by Julien Neel
 Pete at the beach by James Dean

This month we are talking about VISUALIZING when we read. Get your student to tell you how they do this :)

Rink Society Updates

Save the Date! The Annual Rink Day event is set for **Sunday, February 25, 2024.**

50/50 Draw

It's Here! Our Annual Winter 50/50 is here to add some pep to your New Years!

Help us as we work towards Phase 2 of the rink rebuild, with two major milestones; a permanent Rink Shack and upgrading the tennis courts. We thank you for your support and hope the weather gets a little more winter-esque, so we can get the ice down!

Visit the announcement section on www.graminiarink.com to get your tickets or our RaffleBox page <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/GraminiaRink>

Draw will take place **Jan 28th** at **2pm** LIVE from the rink! See website for all terms and conditions.





School Council and Fundraising Foundation

Upcoming School Council Meeting (with Short Playground presentation!)

All Graminia Families are invited to our School Council meeting of the school year on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:30pm**. This meeting will be held in person in the Graminia Library. Attendees are welcome to bring their children if necessary. An agenda has been sent via email prior to the meeting.



Mabel's Labels and Tru Earth
Graminia also has ongoing fundraisers with the following companies:
[Mabel's Labels](#) and [Tru Earth](#)



West Edmonton Mall Waterpark Fundraiser

Our first playground fundraiser is coming up January 26 and we'd love to see you there! We have lowered our capacity to 750 tickets down from 1800 so this will be an extra private event.

If you would still like to buy tickets you [can click here](#), check our [FB page](#) or we now have a [FB event page](#). We would also love it if you could share this event with your family and friends.

We have 300 tickets left to sell to fill our capacity of 750.

Thanks so much for all of your support.

Event Date: **January 26th 2024**

Event Time: **5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Ticket Price: **\$40.00 (regular \$64+tax)**

Any questions or concerns please contact Anna @ anna@alwaysoccasions.com or Sheila @ 780-554-0656

Graminia Foundation AGM

Foundation's AGM will take place in the Library on **January 24 @ 6:30**, followed by the regular monthly meeting.

School Council and Fundraising Foundation cont.

Please consider taking a moment to spread some joy and gratitude to a school staff member - your kind words make a world of difference! [Click here to visit the form.](#)

A graphic for the "One Small Thing" campaign. It features a black background with a red banner at the top containing the text "One Small Thing" in white cursive. Below the banner, the text "SHOWING GRAMINIA STAFF OUR APPRECIATION" is written in white. A paragraph follows, explaining the purpose of the campaign. At the bottom, there is a red heart with the text "SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ONE SMALL THING!" and a white arrow pointing to a QR code. The QR code has "GRAMINIA ONE SMALL THING" written below it. The bottom left corner of the graphic is decorated with white floral line art.

One Small Thing

SHOWING GRAMINIA STAFF OUR APPRECIATION

We know the staff at Graminia, including the administration, teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodial staff, librarian, and our counsellor are working hard everyday to make Graminia an amazing place for our children. Let's fill up their buckets and send them words of support and encouragement throughout the year! Please share this link with other Graminia parents and come back periodically throughout the year to send a new message.

SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ONE SMALL THING!

GRAMINIA ONE SMALL THING

SCAN this QR code!

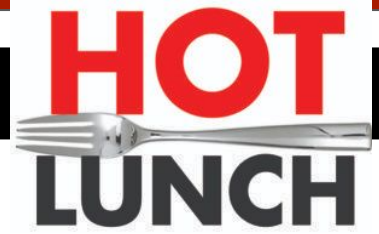


to get the most updated
information on Graminia
School Council &
Foundation





School Council and Fundraising Foundation continued



2023/2024 Hot Lunch Program

The hot lunch program will be running similar to last year. We will be offering hot lunch on Fridays with food being provided by local vendors. We strive to offer a variety of options and try to offer gluten free and vegetarian options when available by our vendors. For any dietary questions please contact the vendor directly.

Communications

Please note that there will be weeks when hot lunch needs to be offered on a different day to accommodate the PSD calendar (e.g., non-instructional days, holidays, etc.). The hot lunch program will communicate regular updates through email, the Graminia Flyover, and the Graminia Community School Foundation (GCSF) Facebook page.

How To Register

Visit graminia.hotlunches.net to register and to create a profile for your child(ren).

To order, please register your child(ren) into the classes they are in. All families, new and returning, must register each year. Please note if this is your first time ordering, please send cutlery to school with your child(ren) as we do not provide this to them.

Orders can be placed starting on Saturday, with the cut off being firm at 1pm on Thursday for hot lunch the following week. Payment can only be received through PayPal. Payment must be received by Thursday at 1pm, for your order to be accepted. Note, that a PayPal processing fee will be added to your order.

Cancellations & Refunds

Unfortunately, your volunteers will not be able to handle any refunds or cancellations. If your child is absent, we will accept a transfer request to another student by 10:00am on hot lunch day by email to: graminiaparentcommunity@gmail.com.

Donations

One of the menu items weekly on our menu is a donation. The money collected from this will go towards purchasing a hot lunch for a child in need at our school.

Please be patient with your hot lunch volunteers. The hot lunch program was a huge success last year. Our goal is to run a program with a variety of appealing options for the kids that will also generate funds for the school. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for the hot lunch program please email us at: graminiaparentcommunity@gmail.com.



Graminia Swingin' Band Society

Who Are We?

The Graminia Swing'n Band Society (GSBS) welcomes students back to Graminia! What is the GSBS? Starting in 1995, a group of parents created this non-profit organization to sustain the Graminia Hawks Band program. Our efforts to fundraise, over the years, have allowed students to reap the benefits of receiving a high quality musical education.

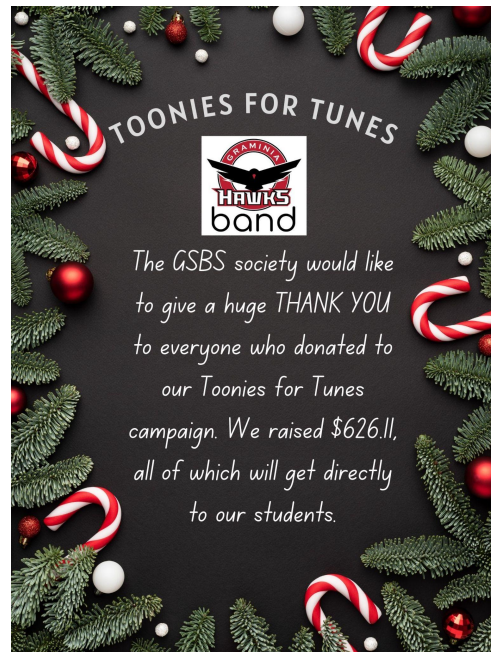
Please consider following us on Facebook at:
-search "Graminia Swing'n Band Society"-
<https://www.facebook.com/GSBS2022>

Or on Insta: @graminiaband
You can ALWAYS email us at:
graminiaband@gmail.com



Congratulations!

GSBS sends out a warm congratulations to students in the Junior High Band, who performed wonderfully at last month's Christmas concerts!



GSBS' AGM will be Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm

We are looking for an new executive team: President & Treasurer are a must to keep the society active.

Duties are minimal: 3-5 meetings per year, you decide; fundraising: up to you, but usually do Toonies for Tunes & Value Village, casino in 2025

President holds meeting when decided and usually communicates with band teacher when needed. Treasurer does basic bookkeeping, like writing cheques and yearend statement.

Message us if you're interested. Current team is unable to continue so if GSBS closes, no funds will be available to assist students with instruments and field trips. Please message us if you're interested.