



Great Expectations School News

A Message from Director Rachael

Have you ever wondered what our school vision looks like in action? Let me share a story.....

The Otter students oversee composting here at school. When school began this year, they encountered a problem.....the compost bins had been dismantled to make room for our new accessory building, fondly referred to as Mindy's Cabin. Where should all our compost go? A decision was made that we needed a long-term solution for composting, and until that solution was found, our food waste would go to a local farmer with hogs.

Once the final decision was made on the building footprint of the expansion, the Otters were given a draft of the plans. With the guidance of Environmental Education teacher, Emma Adams, the Otters surveyed the campus to come up with possible compost bin locations. Students then evaluated the options, considering the future relocation of our play spaces, accessibility, and the ingredients needed for successful composting.

The Otters agreed that the space between the Cabin and Recycling Shed would be the best long-term location for the compost bins. Their next step was to decide which method of composting would best meet the school's needs. Ultimately, they decided upon two types: open bin and barrel.

With funding secured (Thank you SHIP and Great Lunch!) the Otters will soon be purchasing materials, building, and installing the new compost bins!

The vision for our school is for each child to develop:

- A strong sense of self
- Mastery of the academic building blocks
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- The ability to nurture meaningful relationships with others
- An understanding and appreciation of the natural world
- A strong commitment to being a contributing member of a community
- A lifelong love of learning

Important Dates, Information & Events

- [jmc family login link](#) (for lunch, fees and back to school forms)

March:

12: Daylight Savings Time Starts: Clocks ahead 1 hour

14: Evening Conferences

15-17: Compass Music Workshop: Nanilo

Nanilo will be visiting March 15 thru 17. They will be working with Lynx and Otter students and playing a concert for the whole school on the 16th! Check out this link for more info on Nanilo: <https://www.compas.org/artists/nanilo>

16: Evening Conferences

22: Evening Conferences

23: School Spirit Day: PJ Day

24: **No School:** Independent Work Day

27 thru 31: **No School Spring Break**

April

3-7: Paraprofessional Appreciation Week

7: No Students Professional Development Day

10: **No School:** Independent Work Day

11: Evacuation Drill (originally scheduled April 12)

12-13: Compass Music Workshop: Aimee Bryant (K-4)

Aimee Bryant, <https://www.compas.org/artists/aimee-bryant>, will be working with the Bear Cubs, Fawns, Beavers, and Wolves.

25-27: Lynx to North House Folk School

27: Writing Celebration

May

1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week

5: Great Lunch Staff Appreciation Day

17: Evacuation Drill

19: School Spirit Day: Celebrate Summer Day

26: Step Up Day

29: **No School:** Memorial Day

31: Portfolio Night

June

1: Beach Day

2: **Last Day of School**

5-7: Teacher Workshops

8: Independent Workday

Community Opportunities

- **GIRLS ON THE RUN RETURNS!** [Flyer](#) Registration link, below:
<https://www.gotrmn.org/3rd-5th-grade-program-details>

Volunteer Opportunities

- Did you know that by volunteering at First and Second Thrift Store you can support GES? This year GES received **\$5091** from supporters who volunteer!

First and Second plans to reopen in June and will need Volunteers to fill 30 shifts a week. They would like volunteers to consider committing to work a shift each week. But, if you can't do that, they will put you on the list as a substitute. Clerk shifts are 2 hours long and backroom worker shifts are 3 hours long. They will be needing more volunteers, so if you know of anyone who'd like to help, please contact Ann Mershon at annmarie@boreal.org.

- No time to volunteer? You can still help GES raise funds by saving your aluminum cans and dropping them in the trailer in the side parking lot. Your help is appreciated!

In the Classrooms

GES is proud to announce that Ben Nichols has begun teaching music at GES. K-4 students now have music once a week!



Today the Bear Cubs got to look at Chik-Wauk's telescope to start learning about stars. (No stars were reported being seen inside the Bear Cubs classroom)!



Community Health

With the uptick of Covid in our community, we want to remind families that there are test kits available in the front entry at school. Feel free to help yourself, as needed.

OR

Register [online](#) for Covid Testing at the Community Center.

School Lunch



The transition to the national school lunch program has been going well and includes a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and salad bar available daily. Chris and Abbyzak like to surprise us by making some special, fun pizzas (black olives, mushrooms, kale)! And besides the submarine sandwiches today, they also served gyros on pitas! Students reported that they were delicious!

Please use this link to add funds to your child's lunch account: [jmc family login link](#). Call the office if you need a how-to refresher. We are happy to assist!

Lesia

Lesia Hofer

Office Administrator

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