

# GEARY GAZETTE

At Geary Elementary Community School:

“We C.A.R.E.”

September 15, 2014

<http://geary.nbed.nb.ca>

## School Photos

Harvey Studios will be taking our students' photos again this year. You will be able to select your own background with this year's package.

## Home and School

The first meeting of the Geary Home and School Association will be held at the **Geary Lion's Club on Thursday, 18 September – 6:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there! Our new hot lunch coordinator, Debi Saulnier has already sent home the first order. Those are due tomorrow, Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will count the money and prepare the tick sheet for classes after the children arrive on Tuesday. **Late orders will not be accepted.** We need volunteers willing to distribute the meals to classrooms (Gesner only) each day. It doesn't take much time – half an hour tops! Thanks!

## Student Drop Off

If you have to drop your child off, please do not enter the bus drop off zone. At Gesner Street School there is a dedicated student drop off for children. You need to park your car beside the portable classrooms and walk your child into the school. Sign in is required if your child is arriving late or returning from an appointment. There is a nice sidewalk across the front of the school and this is the safest way for you and your child to enter the school. Summerhill Street School has the student drop off at the main entrance of the school. Please do not use the end door as this is the bus zone and we want to keep the children safe. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Safe Schools Week

The week's agenda will be sent home for each school on Friday! Safety at school is a priority!

## Bullying Awareness Information

At school, we are making an ongoing effort to teach children about bullying and how to respond if it happens to them or someone else. It is important to keep our school families aware of the information so that you can provide reinforcement at home. Some of the key messages we are giving the children are:

### What is Bullying?:

1. Bullying is different from the usual problems children have. We know that there may be times when they will have conflicts, make poor choices, and play too rough. Helping children learn to socialize successfully is a big part of elementary school.
2. It becomes Bullying when harm is done on purpose, is repeated, and one person

is trying to have power over/ intimidate the other.

3. Bullying can be in the form of **physical**, **verbal** (name-calling, threats, put-downs), **social** (exclusion, rumours, encouraging others to not play with someone), **cyber** (using technology to bully i.e. texting, facebook, msn).

### What Can We Do...

#### If it happens to us?

**Use our WITS: Walk Away** (and play in a safe area where adults are present), **Ignore** the behaviour of the bully, **Talk It Out** (explore points of view), **Seek Help** (from any adult that can help offer suggestions and strategies).

#### If we see someone else being bullied? (bystanders)

Make an effort to include others (move over on the bus seat, ask someone to play with you and your friends), don't laugh or join in at someone being mean because they will like the attention and keep doing it. Speak up if it's safe and you are comfortable to do so. Tell the adults what is happening– kids see it much more than adults. It's important for adults to respect 'confidential reporting' so children will feel comfortable telling.

#### How do we know when it's tattling or telling?

**Tattling** is when we are trying to get someone in trouble (“Susie didn't clean up her mess”) and **telling** is getting HELP when we see something hurtful or unsafe happening (“kids are teasing Susie on the playground and making her cry”).

**Follow-up:** We respond to the reporting with several levels or steps. These include close monitoring, documenting, meeting with students, talking to families, setting up plans for safety, teaching skills, imposing consequences and other interventions.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER	
ASAP	Registration/Transportation/RITIPPA forms are due back
Cross Country September 15 <sup>th</sup> (Mon.-Thurs.)	Grades 3-5 interested students can run at lunch recess
Thursday, September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Home and School Meeting Lion's Club 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hot lunch begins.
Monday, Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast Program begins
Monday, Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Harvey's Picture Day
Tuesday, September 30 <sup>th</sup>	PSSC Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Gesner Street School
Friday, September 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Terry Fox Walk</b>
September 29 <sup>th</sup> - October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Safe Schools Week – Schedules will be sent out
Thursday, Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Learning- <b>NO SCHOOL for student</b>
Friday, Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Learning- <b>NO SCHOOL for student</b>
Monday, October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Thanksgiving Day! <b>NO SCHOOL for student</b>
October 14-17	Registration for Kindergarten 2015-2016