



Upcoming PSG Meetings: November 14th & December 5th @ 5 pm

October 20th, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are very excited to welcome all Parents to the 2023-2024 school year. For those who may not know, the Parent Support Group (PSG) is a group of parents who endeavor to promote open communication and understanding between parents and the school. We hope to create an environment where teachers and the administration can do their best work and in turn students can achieve their full potential. The PSG is looking forward to meeting with parents and hosting events throughout the year to build school spirit and fundraise with parent support.

The current elected representatives would like to thank the outgoing members for their hard work and dedication over the past school years. On that note we are pleased to introduce our PSG members for this year. **Your new PSG members for 2023-2024 are as follows:**

President – Lovepreet Boparai: I have completed my Grade 12 in India. I have a Hotel Management Diploma from the U.K. I moved to Canada when I got married. My child is in Kindergarten at G.A.D. I am currently working in the financial industry, but I have flexibility in timing which has allowed me to join the PSG. I have always wanted to contribute my time as much as possible for the school. I am looking forward to motivating and encouraging parents to contribute their time in school activities and volunteering. I believe I have the spirit to encourage other parents to join too!

Vice President – Navpreet Sivia: I moved to Canada in 2006 and completed Grade 12 from Sullivan Heights Secondary School. Since 2015 I have been working as a LPN Supervisor with Fraser Health. I have two children, a daughter in Grade 7 and a son in kindergarten. I joined the PSG group last year and I enjoyed a lot by volunteering for every event that happened. I think it's great to get involved in the school for your own growth as well as for your children. They are excited that I am involved in the school, and I noticed a difference in my daughter and how proud and confident she feels in saying that her mother is part of the PSG.

Vice President – Harmeet Toor: I work as an IT Project Manager for Provincial Health Services Authority. For my education I did a Bachelor's in Technology and I have a PMP. I am a mother of two children, a daughter and son. I love to spend time outdoors and quality time with my family. I have volunteered for PSG for the last one year and I'm looking forward to the PSG group to grow and thrive by collaborating with other members. Additionally, by being part of PSG I would like to engage with other parents within the group and foster a sense of connection and community to come together to work on more PSG led initiatives for the school year.

Treasurer – Satwinder Matharoo: I am a proud mom of a 7-year-old son and a 4 year old daughter. My son is currently attending GAD. I enjoy walking, shopping and taking my kids to activities. By profession I am a Mobile Mortgage Specialist with TD Canada Trust, and I am passionate helping people make the right decision. By taking part in the PSG, it will allow me to grow and learn about the school and the programs that are offered and help people in our community.

Secretary – Maninder Lall: I feel honoured to be part of the PSG. I am a proud mom of a 10-year-old son and a 5-year-old daughter. Both of my children are students at this school. I enjoy nature walks, gardening and music. For my education, I hold a Master's Degree in Science and a Bachelor of Education from India. I am a B.C. Certified Teacher and was an elementary school teacher for a few years. Currently, I am working as an Insurance Advisor. I took this position in the PSG so that I can create long lasting relationships with other parents and build a valuable support network for the school and children. Thank you for having me as a part of this wonderful community.

Secretary – Gurminder Deol: I did my engineering in electronics, and I hold a Diploma in Business as well. I am successfully and happily working with Canada Post in the Control Room and Tech Department. I am a busy working mom with three kids who are currently studying at G.A.D. I believe sports and outdoor activities are just as important as studies and I am trying to have my kids benefit from both. I love participating in my kid's activities, whether it's field trips, concerts, sports events or watching their games. The PSG will give me a chance to bring more opportunities for all the kids with the help of the school, staff and parents. I love this bridge of the PSG group between parents and the school staff and how they will work together for the benefit of our children.

Executive Member – Nadim Sayani: I run a Software Architecture consultancy firm in Surrey, with 22 years in Software/IT/Project Management, and fluent in 250 programming languages. I moved from Calgary, Alberta to Surrey many years ago. I am so impressed with Surrey and G.A.D. and I am proud to call Surrey my home and G.A.D. my daughter's school. I hope and strive to become a successful parent, volunteer and a positive member of the community. I am a very involved father, so you'll see me around quite a bit, always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to anyone and everyone.

Executive Member – Jaspreet Sekhon: I am an Educational Assistant with the Surrey School District, and I am also involved in the builder and managing construction business. I live in a joint family. My husband is businessman. I am a mom of one child in kindergarten. My first and foremost reason to join the PSG is that I am highly interested in learning about the working curriculum of the organization, how it operates and what kind of support it provides for the upliftment of children. Secondly, it's my heartily wish to contribute in the best ways for the grooming and betterment of kids. Finally, being a mother, I am very elated to be part of such kind of organizations where my child is learning. I want to walk hand in hand for building my son's and the future of other students.

Upcoming PSG Meetings

Parents are invited to meet with the PSG monthly. Meetings will be held each month on a **Tuesday evening at 5 pm in the cafeteria** and run for approximately 1 hour. Please mark the following dates in your calendars for upcoming meetings - **November 14th & December 5th**

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar for our first fundraising initiative - **Spirit Days!** from **Monday, October 30th to Wednesday, November 1st**, beginning with **Pajama Day on Monday, Halloween Dress Up on Tuesday**, and finally **Mismatch Clothes & Wacky Hair Day on Wednesday**. Students will need to bring in **\$2 to participate in the Spirit Days**.

The Purpose of the PSG

The primary objective is to openly listen and communicate issues of importance regarding the school by the parents and teachers. In addition, we will host different events throughout the year with the hope it will enrich and maximize the experience of every student and to benefit the school. Although academics is of great importance, the PSG would also like to promote fun recreational activities for students to enjoy during and outside of school hours. To meet this important objective, we will often fundraise. However, to meet these goals we need active participation from parents, and this is where you come in!

Why Join?

There have been hundreds of studies done over the years about parent involvement. When parents get involved in their children's school, they get better results and have few disciplinary problems. The PSG is a team effort in which we cannot succeed on our own. Please join us and contribute to your child's experiences at G.A.D. by attending meetings and/or volunteering during school events and fund raisers.

In addition to fostering open communication, hosting events and fund raising the PSG's role is to also:

- To encourage parent involvement in the school and to support programs such as, Hot lunches, Book Fairs, Sports Days etc. by volunteering.
- To promote a sense of community between school and home.
- To assist the Administration in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the students at G.A.D.
- To raise funds to support the goals of the PSG as determined by the committee members.

It is important to note that the PSG is **not** a forum for discussion of individual staff members or students. Such discussions should be arranged privately with the teacher and/or principal. Parents are encouraged and invited to bring forth concerns, suggestions and solutions relating to the needs of our school community. An agenda will be set prior to meetings and minutes will be displayed on the school website and/or newsletters.

Warm Regards,
G.A.D. Administration & Parent Support Group