# PARENT HANDBOOK

Georgetown Elementary School  
(home of the “Hornets”)  
2013-2014

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code of Conduct (student and parent responsibilities)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Students</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Entrance</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision of Students</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook Care</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of School Property</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Electronics Devices</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Supplies</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Logs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockers</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycles and Wheeled Vehicles on School Property</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Use of School Facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Insurance</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intramural and Interscholastic Sports</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Room / Healthy Eating Policy / Energy Drinks</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Canteen</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Breakfast Program</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Act, Notifiable and Communicable Diseases Regulations</td>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing of Schools - Storm Days</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Work and School Work</td>
<td>12 &amp; 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades One to Six Report Card</td>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Terms</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting - Grades Seven and Eight</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home and School Communication</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Get the Most From Parent-Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>15 &amp; 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown Home and School</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Volunteers</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Environment</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown Elementary School Staff, 2013-2014</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell Schedule</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from Administration

The entire staff wishes to extend a sincere welcome to new and returning students and their parents. The school handbook provides an overview of Georgetown Elementary’s rules, routines, and programs. Students will also find within, information about extracurricular activities. We recommend that parents and students review the book together so everyone will be informed about school life at Georgetown Elementary.

In an increasingly competitive world, a good education is extremely important. Achieving this requires a positive attitude about learning, and a commitment to regular attendance, hard work, and good study habits. It is the responsibility of students to try their hardest and treat themselves, others, and their school property with respect. Teachers have the responsibility to create healthy classrooms where learning can occur for all their students. Parents also assume the responsibility to ensure that students make this commitment to learning. Parent involvement improves student achievement, promotes positive attitudes toward school and motivates students to succeed.

Successful schools are communities: communities of learners, teachers and parents. We ask for the support of parents and students to help make Georgetown Elementary an effective school and a successful community.

For safety reasons, we are requesting that all parents, guests, and visitors report to the office when entering the school.

Code of Conduct

As in any community, rules are necessary for the successful operation of that community. Throughout life we will be subject to rules and regulations which have been put in place for our benefit. In school, we try to base our rules on common sense with the purpose of ensuring that each individual’s rights and privileges be protected.

Over the last number of years, the students, parents and staff have worked together to establish a common set of beliefs that guide us in our school day at Georgetown Elementary School.

Student Responsibility:

1. We will come prepared to listen and learn.
2. We will act in a safe and courteous manner.
   - We will play and work following safety rules.
   - We will play fair.
   - We will walk about the school in a quiet safe manner.
   - We will use respectful voices and language.
3. We will respect ourselves and others.
   - We will speak kindly about ourselves and others.
   - We will act kindly towards others.
4. We will take responsibility for our actions.
   - We will admit our mistake(s).
   - We will accept consequences.
5. We will respect the school and its property.
   - We will clean up and place personal items where they belong.
   - We will help keep the school in good repair.

If a student is unable to follow this Code of Conduct, the following possible actions could be taken...

1. A teacher talks to the student, who is placed on “time out” or stays with the teacher.
2. The student is sent to the office.
   - Student writes up what he/she did.
   - Student receives time out during the next recess or noon.
   - A phone call is made to parent/guardian, if deemed necessary.

Mission Statement

Encourage and motivate students to strive for educational and personal success in a caring, supportive environment that fosters positive self-esteem.
3. The student receives suspension from the activity, i.e. playground and/or equipment, lunchroom, and/or extra curricular activities.
4. The student receives in-school or at-home suspension.
   - Parent/Guardian is asked to accompany student to meet with principal and teacher before resuming classes.
   - Student Services Team will follow up.

Parental Responsibility:
1. Parent play a vital role in developing student behavior and conduct. It is our expectation that parents:
   - be aware of the school’s code of conduct
   - work with the school to resolve student behavior issues when they affect their children
   - cooperate with the school’s or district’s recommended course of action for the student
   - model appropriate behavior and language for their children
2. All parents / guardians are reminded that they are subject to the school’s code of conduct, as are all students and staff.

Dress

Students at Georgetown Elementary School come to school well dressed. This indicates a sense of pride that the students and parents have in the school. Rapidly changing styles and fashions make it impossible to suggest a definite standard of dress. School is a place distinctly different from a beach, for example, and we request discretion in the choice of t-shirts (especially wording and suggestive pictures). Students should not come wearing clothing that does not cover their body, for example: spaghetti straps or open shirts of any nature.

Generally speaking, all students should continue to dress in a manner appropriate to the education goals and activities at our school. At times, special days will be announced and specific dress will be requested. i.e. Hat Day, Summer Day, etc. Students are required to remove jackets and hats upon arrival to school.

Bus Behavior

Traveling to and from school on a bus is a privilege and a service provided by the English Language School Board.

Bus drivers are considered in charge of operating the bus and must have the cooperation of all students. The bus driver may assign and/or reassign seats to students throughout the school year if she deems it necessary for safety reasons.

Students travelling on the bus are expected to board and leave in an orderly manner. When the bus is in motion all students are to be seated. Only when the bus comes to a complete stop, may students be standing, and then only those who are departing or boarding. Students whose behavior on the bus is deemed detrimental to the safety of the other passengers may lose the privilege of travelling on it.

Walking Students

Students who walk to school are encouraged to think and act in a safe manner. Always look both ways before crossing the street and stay off the streets and away from moving cars whenever possible. Children should come directly to school from home and once they arrive on school property even before classes begin they are not allowed to leave the school grounds.

Walking students who arrive or leave school by crossing Kent Street must use the Crosswalk located at the front of the school. Students should not cross the street while the bus is being loaded.

School Entrance

This year students will continue to enter the building at the rear entrance. Please note that staff are not on duty prior to 9:05 and that students should not be arriving too early in the morning and should not be in the building prior to the bells without permission or to attend a school related activity. At the day’s end only bus students will exit through the front door. I thank you for your cooperation on this matter.
Supervision of Students

The school day for students is from 9:10 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. We encourage all students to return to their homes as soon as the school day is over, as the playground will not be supervised after school hours.

The students will be supervised outside during the following times:
- 09:05 to 09:10 a.m.
- 12:20 to 12:45 p.m.
- 03:10 to 03:20 p.m. (bus loading area)

Students are not permitted to enter the school for any reason until after the first bell in the morning. This means that students are to keep their kit-bags with them while waiting outside on the playground.

A short break provides the opportunity for students to use their lockers and change books for the remaining classes of the day.

NOTE: Students arriving at school prior to 9:05 a.m. are not supervised and therefore the school and the ELSB assume no responsibility.

Textbook Care

The province of Prince Edward Island provides each student with the necessary text books for learning and study. These textbooks are expensive and all Island taxpayers provide the funds for this program. The actual cost to outfit a Georgetown student with all the texts they require would exceed $100.00.

It is, therefore, very important that students take good care of their texts. Georgetown Elementary School will uphold the Department of Education’s suggestion that students who destroy or lose school text books will be charged a minimum of 50% of the replacement costs. Textbooks must be returned to the teacher in June. If a textbook is not returned or is damaged, the student will be charged for the book before they will receive a report card.

Care of School Property

Students are expected to respect school facilities and equipment. Any student who damages school property will be held responsible for replacement costs and disciplinary action may also be taken.

Use of Electronic Devices

The English Language School Board has a policy pertaining to the use of electronic devices such as cell phones, digital cameras, I Pods, and the like. Such devices are not permitted in class or on school property without the authorization of staff and administration. The school assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged electronic devices.

Student Supplies

Supplies such as scribblers, pencils, erasers, glue, scissors, pens, etc. are the responsibility of the student.

In order that parents might take advantage of the pre-school bargains, the school sends out a list of supplies required for the coming year.

Students will be able to purchase scribblers and pencils at the school through the year if they should use up their supply.

Homework Logs

We strongly encourage our students to purchase a homework log as a tool for recording homework. In the past the school has ordered enough for every student. However, many of our students chose not to purchase one. As a result, we have been left with older versions of school agendas. Therefore, we have bought a limited supply of School Agendas for this year and will sell them until our supply is exhausted. Note: other agendas types, or notebooks can be purchased at stores and used.
**Lockers**

Students in Grades Five to Eight will be supplied with a locker at the beginning of the year. Each student may purchase a lock ($3.00) from the office. The money is returned to the student upon the return of a lock in good working order. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers neat and organized and should not reveal their lock combination to anyone.

**Bicycles and Wheeled Vehicles on School Property**

The school assumes no responsibility for bicycles and other wheeled vehicles brought to the school grounds. This responsibility lies solely with the owner of the bicycle! Students taking their bicycles or other wheeled vehicles to school do so at their own risk.

Bicycles and other wheeled vehicles (i.e. scooters, skateboards) taken to school are for transportation to and from school and are not for riding around the school yard. They are to be parked directly in the bike rack, and are not permitted inside the school building. Certain restrictions need to be placed on the use of bicycles and other wheeled vehicles in order to ensure the safety of all students at school. Bikes, scooters, and skateboards must be walked or carried on school property. Failure to comply with the above will result in individuals being refused the privilege of bringing their wheeled vehicles on the school grounds. Students are not permitted to use their skateboards.

**Skateboarding**

Skateboards are not to be used during school hours, this includes recess time.

**Community Use of School Facilities**

Georgetown Elementary School welcomes community groups to use the school for various activities. To be able to use the facilities, a responsible adult or adults must be prepared to sign a contract and assume responsibility for any damage incurred. Proper documentation is available at the school office.

When the school is available free of charge, the groups involved are to leave the building as they found it. That is to ensure that no extra janitorial work is involved. In short, they must sweep, mop, or whatever is necessary to clean up their mess. If the above is not done then the group will lose the privilege of using the facility. For any function where rent is paid, the cleaning up is the responsibility of the school. No smoking is allowed in the building.

**PEI's School Accident Insurance Program**

Students in Grades 1 to 12 now receive basic accident coverage at no cost to parents. Visit the English Language School Board web site @ www.edu.pe.ca/esd for more information on what is included in basic accident coverage and how you may purchase additional coverage.

**Intramural and Interscholastic Sports**

Intramural and Interscholastic sports programs are offered throughout the year for students. These programs are privileges and not the rights of students in the school. The opportunity to participate can be taken away if a student shows poor sportsmanship and inappropriate behavior during school hours.

Intramural and interscholastic sports can be a valuable part of a student’s education if entered into with the proper attitude. It teaches one to be a graceful winner as well as a good loser and provides an opportunity for people to participate in a variety of activities. At the interscholastic level, it gives the student a chance to participate, improve, and test their skills against others. It provides an opportunity to practice self-discipline, a skill valuable throughout life. Finally, it gives the student the opportunity to meet new friends from other parts of the province.

**Lunch**

Lunch period is each day from 12:25 to 12:45 p.m. While a teacher supervises the classroom, the responsibility for maintenance and clean up of this area rests solely on the students who use it. Leaving School Property at Lunch: Students who ordinarily eat their lunch at school and wish to leave the property on occasion to visit local establishments must have an English Language School Board risk form completed and returned to the office at the beginning of each school year. Students leaving the property are expected to be respectful and be proper representatives of the school.

The lunch break is short. Students are encouraged to bring items for lunch that are nutritious, healthy and quick to eat, no Mr. Noodles due to health and safety concerns.
Cold sandwiches, fruits and vegetables are better and faster to eat and digest than microwavable foods. *Microwave space is limited.* Due to a short lunch break we are encouraging parents to help provide their child with food that can be reheated versus frozen dinners that need to be cooked for long periods of time. This will benefit all children so everyone can have a chance to eat and help clean up the classroom.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase a lunch item three times a week.

**Healthy Eating Policy:** At Georgetown Elementary we adhere to the healthy eating policy designed by the English Language School Board. Therefore, we encourage our students to eat healthy lunches and snacks that reflect the guidelines outlined in Canada’s Food Guide.

**Energy Drinks** - Currently at local stores students can purchase a variety of energy drinks containing a high concentration of caffeine and other stimulants. Such drinks are not deemed healthy and are not permitted on school property. Furthermore, pop and sports drinks are not permitted in class.

**School Canteen**

Canteen items are available Monday to Friday during the morning recess break. Students can buy a variety of Healthy snacks for a reasonable price.

**Morning Breakfast Program**

A morning Breakfast Program is operated by volunteers and a schedule will be set-up shortly and will run from 8:40 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Students need to proceed directly into the Breakfast Program when they arrive at school to ensure they will be served and won’t be delayed arriving for classes. The Breakfast Program is unable to serve students after 8:55 a.m. and closes promptly at 9:00 a.m. Students need to arrive on time, eat promptly and tidy their area before going outside. Students need to show respect at all times and will receive one portion of breakfast food only. There is no playing in the gym or halls at this time.

**School Attendance**

Regular Attendance = Success! Research is increasingly showing that attendance at all ages is incredibly important and is directly correlated to student success and graduation rates. It is very important to attend school on a regular basis and make every attempt to eliminate unnecessary absences. When absences are unavoidable, efforts should be made to communicate with your child’s teacher about missed work.

A student who is absent from school is required to bring a note explaining that absence on the first day returning to school. A phone call to the school secretary is also acceptable. Students are also responsible for catching up on missed work, assignments and homework.

**Public Health Act**

**Notifiable and Communicable Diseases Regulations**

All persons, and in particular those holding responsible positions in public-contact settings such as schools, child-care facilities and health-care or residential institutions, who have knowledge of or reasonable grounds suspecting an instance of or condition associated with a notifiable or other regulated disease in such circumstances to pose risk to the health of others, have an obligation to report the matter to a health officer and to provide such further information as may be requested. A person holding a responsible position in a public-contact setting such as a school, child-care facility, camp or residential institution, shall report any known or suspected case of a nuisance disease in the facility to the Division of Nursing, Department of Health and Social Services.

A person with a nuisance disease and his/her family shall comply with such treatment and control instructions as may be given by a health officer.

**Communicable Disease in School:**

1. Where a principal is notified or suspects that a student may have a communicable disease, he/she shall notify a health officer at the earliest opportunity.

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Page 9
2. Where a pupil (a) has been examined by a health officer under the Public Health Act; and (b) found by him to be affected with an acute communicable disease; the principal shall exclude the pupil from school immediately.

3. Where (a) pupil is suspected of being affected with an acute communicable disease; and (b) the services of a health officer are not immediately available; the principal may immediately exclude that pupil from school.

4. Where a pupil has been excluded from school under this section, unless he produces to the principal Medical Certificate of freedom of contagion, he is not to be readmitted.

**Closing of Schools - Storm Days**

In the event that schools are cancelled or delayed in opening due to bad weather, the announcement will come over Q 93, CFCY, OCEAN, Hot 105.5, CBC-FM (CBC PEI's Stormwatch), C102, and Bonjour Atlantique by 8:00 a.m.

This philosophy is designed with these two objectives in mind:
(1) The safety of students committed to our charge.
(2) The education of these students and in order of priority noted above.

Thus, if there is any question in our minds regarding the safety factor - we will close.

In any case, the primary decision maker as to whether a child attends school is the parent; Secondly, each bus driver is responsible for deciding whether or not his or her bus should be on the road at any particular time.

If we have to close during the day, we will have the announcement made over the radio. In the case of bus students, parents should make arrangements for their children to be let off at another house if they know they will not be home.

Note: Georgetown Elementary is included when an announcement refers to the Montague Family of Schools.

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**Home Work and School Work**

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments on time. Students are expected to phone a classmate to learn of assignments when absent from school. In the event of an extended illness, students should make arrangements through their teacher. Students are expected to have a homework log in which both the students and teachers will write. This is helpful for both students and parents to ensure all homework assignments are completed on time.

Aside from project work which is spread over a number of days, homework assigned on a daily basis is designed for reinforcement of skills taught in school that day. As the students pass from grade to grade, you can expect that the time spent on homework will increase.

The ability to study on one’s own is in itself an important skill in the learning process. It has been shown that those students mastering this skill will do well in school. Therefore, it is important to develop this skill both at school and at home.

The length of time spent on lessons is in itself not a valid measure of high quality results; however, if your child is spending too much time doing homework, please communicate your concern in the homework log or by phone/email.

One possible guide for studying is outlined below...

1. **PLACE FOR STUDY** - A Student should:
   a) find a quiet room away from any kind of distraction, no T.V., or radio while studying.
   b) have a study desk and chair.
   c) have the necessary materials for studying such as books, paper, pen, pencils, dictionary, etc.

2. **PLANNING HIS/HER TIME** - A Student should:
   a) provide ample time in advance to work on compositions, book reports, research projects.
   b) allow time for weekly reviews.
   c) allow time for library work.
   d) provide for daily periods of relaxation.
   e) schedule social activities for weekends (seniors especially).
   f) include periods of pleasure reading or relaxation before going to bed.
3. KNOWING HIS/HER ASSIGNMENTS - A Student should:
   a) keep a special notebook for recording assignments.
   b) write down every assignment at the time it is given.
   c) look over the assignment material to get the general idea of what is to be studied.
   d) use a dictionary to get the meaning of new and unusual words in assignments.
   e) review his/her notes before class.

**Grade One to Six Report Card**

The Atlantic Provinces have developed a common outcomes-based curriculum in language arts and math. Outcomes are statements describing knowledge, skills/strategies and attitudes expected of students at particular grade levels. Because it is important that progress reports reflect these curriculum outcomes, a common English Language School Board report card is used.

**Rating Terms:**
Parents should note that Achievement Keys on report cards are used to describe students’ progress:

- **Achievement Key:**
  - Strong Grade Level Performance .................. 4
  - A+ Grade Level .................................. 3
  - Approaching Grade Level ......................... 2
  - Experiencing Difficulty .......................... 1

- **Programs Followed:**
  - A Regular Program has prescribed curriculum for grade level.
  - An Adapted Program has changes in format, instructional strategies and/or assessment procedures. (e.g. books on tape, oral tests).
  - In a Modified Program, the curriculum is changed to meet students’ needs.
  - An I.E.P. is an individualized education plan.
  - Reading Recovery is an early intervention reading program.

**General Comments:**
If an area of the report card appears to have been left blank, the subject has either not yet been covered, or was covered previously in the year.

**Recommendations:**
At the end of the school year each child will either be Promoted (passed by meeting grade level requirements). Placed (passed but not fully met grade level requirements but will continue with peers and may follow adapted / modified program or I.E.P. Retained (student requires an additional year at grade level.

**School Terms**
For 2013-2014, Georgetown Elementary School’s academic year will consist of 3 terms. At the end of each term, students will receive a report card. The first term, from September to October, and the second term, from November to February and the third term, from March to June. Parent-Teacher interviews will be held in November and March.

**Reporting - Grades Seven and Eight**

Students in Grades Seven and Eight will be marked over a three term year in the areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, French, and Industrial Arts. Promotional Requirements for these two grades are outlined below:

1. Students must maintain an overall average of at least 60% for promotion to the next grade level.
2. Students must not fail more than two subjects.
3. Students must not fail both English and Math.
4. 50% is considered a pass mark in any subject area.

Consideration will be given to placement of students who do not meet promotion requirements. In cases where students fail to achieve the necessary requirements for admission to a subsequent grade level, teachers will advise parents of the appropriate action.

Students with an overall average of 85% and no yearly average mark in any subject below 75% will receive an Honors Certificate at the end of the school year.
Home and School Communication

Don't wait for a Parent-Teacher Conference if you have a concern - phone the school. Parents are encouraged to contact the school when important matters come up. Because our teachers teach nearly all the time, it is usually difficult for them to come to the phone during the school day. A single message asking for a return call should ensure a response from the teacher when he or she is available. Parent-teacher conferences are held two times a year when the school sets aside a block of time for parents and teachers to meet to discuss mutual interests.

However, if at any time, the parent or the teacher feel that they should discuss a concern they must not put it off until the next scheduled conference. All teachers encourage parents to become involved in their child's education and will welcome the opportunity to discuss any concern with you.

Please! Give us a call before coming to the school, so we can be sure that the teacher will be available.

How to Get the Most From Parent-Teacher Conferences

"Be prepared" is good advice for getting the most of a parent-teacher conference.

Whether the conference is meant to supplement your child's report card or to replace it, talking to the teacher face-to-face will give you a chance to get an accurate and complete account of his/her progress. You can, for instance, learn how a particular grade has been determined, whether that grade reflects your child's true ability and effort or whether the teacher feels the child is working above or below his capabilities. And, you can give the teacher information about your child's attitudes, activities, habits or health that will help her/him understand what your child is really like.

A Parent-Teacher Conference is an ideal opportunity for you to ask any questions that may be puzzling you and to learn what you can do at home to help with your child's education. Decide before you go exactly what you want to ask. For instance, in what areas does the child need improvement? What is his attitude in the classroom? How does he get along with other children? The teacher will welcome and encourage your questions. You should also talk to your child about the conference beforehand and find out what he feels might be problems that could be ironed out by a discussion with his teacher.

Be sure to ask what, if any, help you should give at home with schoolwork. This is important because helping with homework can confuse rather than help a child if your teaching methods are different from the teachers. On the other hand, the teacher may welcome your help with drill work because he/she often does not have time for this during class. Remember not to do homework for children. You are not being marked.

When you go to your meeting, take along a pad and pencil so you can take notes during the conference and be sure to be on time for your appointment. Often the allotted time for the discussion is barely adequate; but if you are punctual and prepared, you can make the most of the time you have. The teacher, too, will prepare for the conference by gathering samples of your child's work that show how he is progressing. She will also have a record of her own observations on your child. Some questions he/she might ask you are: How and where does your child do homework? How does he/she respond to rules and responsibilities at home? What special interests or hobbies does he/she have?

If there are any problems, the teacher will ask for your aid in solving them. For example, if your child's behavior poses a problem, and you tell the teacher what kind of discipline seems to work best at home and, together, you can decide what measures the teacher might take. Or, if the teacher feels your child could do better homework, she may suggest that you be sure he does it right after school, or that a quiet corner at home be set aside for him to work in. After the conference, follow up with any action you discussed and arrange to call or meet again within a week or so to see that everything is progressing as it should. Do not hesitate to call a teacher any time you feel a problem beginning.
Georgetown Home and School

Georgetown Home and School Association is Georgetown’s parent group. Our goal is to work cooperatively with the school staff and administration to ensure our children the best learning and social environment.

The Home and School Association holds regular meetings and will use the school newsletter to keep parents informed of its activities. All parents are welcome to be involved.

If you would like to know more about Home and School, please contact the school office.

Parent Volunteers

The use of volunteers is a valuable dimension of our school program. School activities that benefit from volunteering:

- BREAKFAST CLUB
- VOLUNTEERS FOR LITERACY - SENIORS READING TO STUDENTS
- TRANSPORTATION AND SUPERVISION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS
- ASSISTING IN THE LIBRARY AND COMPUTER FACILITIES
- VARIOUS SPORTING ACTIVITIES
- SPECIFIC ANNUAL EVENTS - CHRISTMAS FAIR, HERITAGE FAIR AND SCIENCE FAIR

Schools know and appreciate the adage that it takes a community to raise a child. It is this philosophy which propels this initiative to reach out and attract new volunteers. When volunteers are seen in the school it also teaches youth about the value of giving ones time to others. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the school office or your child’s teacher.

Healthy Environment

The following measures will be taken to help secure a healthy, comfortable and safe work and learning environment.

*All products used in English Language School Board facilities will be fragrance free.* All employees, students and visitors are asked to abstain from wearing fragrance products while attending an English Language School Board facility. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.