

Raft River Elementary School Newsletter R²2U

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**"Inspire CURIOSITY and COMPASSION
 Build CONFIDENCE and COMPETENCE"**

November 2016



**MESSAGE
 FROM
 THE VICE PRINCIPAL**

Who decided to put Halloween on a Monday?!?
 The school was a sea of costumes and everyone enjoyed the dance organized by our Leadership Students – all went very well! This past month has been filled with so much energy, excitement, and wonderful events here at Raft! To begin the month, we had an assembly featuring the virtue of Compassion. We enjoyed the Harvest Soup Day containing vegetables from our own school garden – a fitting activity just before Thanksgiving. The Cross-Country Running season culminated with hosting our first-ever Dan Coleman Classic Run which was a great success. Volleyball season started with amazing effort by all teams. The skating program also got underway. It was great to see so many parents and guardians along with our students at the Meet and Greet open-house. We concluded the month with the Smash Hunger food drive. Best of all, students continue to engage in meaningful learning with our talented staff!

- WHAT'S COMING UP IN NOVEMBER?**
- 8th - PAC Meeting, 7pm (change to evening meeting)
 - 9th - Jr Volleyball Mini Tournament
 - 10th - Remembrance Day Assembly
 - 11th - Remembrance Day, no school
 - 14th and 15th - Rocks and Rings
 - 14th to 18th - Scholastic Book Fair
 - 25th - Term 1 Report Cards issued to go home
 - 30th and Dec 1st - Early Dismissal @ 12:40pm

| 2016-17 STAFF | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Administration</i> | | |
| Mr. McKenna | Principal | |
| Mrs. Whitney | Vice Principal | |
| Ms. Noble | Secretary | |
| <i>Teachers</i> | | |
| | <i>Division</i> | <i>Grade</i> |
| Ms. Carter | 1 | K |
| Miss Weddell | 2 | K/1 |
| Ms. Rushton | 3 | 1 |
| Mrs. Green/Mrs. Cooke | 4 | 1/2 |
| Miss Farris | 5 | 2/3 |
| Ms. Horne | 6 | 2/3 |
| Mrs. Weatherall | 7 | 4 |
| Ms. Gormley | 8 | 4/5 |
| Mrs. Allan | 9 | 4/5 |
| Ms. Holowaychuk | 10 | 6/7 |
| Mrs. Lau* | 11 | 6/7 |
| Mrs. Fraser** | 12 | 6/7 |
| Mrs. Graffunder* and Mrs. McDougall** are on maternity leave. | | |
| <i>Specialists</i> | | |
| Mrs. Bishop | Learning Assistance | |
| Ms. McQuarrie | Social-Emotional | |
| Ms. McFadyen | Aboriginal Ed Worker | |
| Ms. Wright | Speech Pathologist | |
| Ms. T. Thompson | Library Clerk | |
| Mrs. Phillips | Strong Start | |
| <i>Certified Educational Assistants</i> | | |
| Mrs. Biagioni | | |
| Ms. Chapman | | |
| Mrs. Kailley | | |
| Mrs. Kjenstad | | |
| Mrs. McGill | | |
| Ms. Pigeon | | |
| Mrs. Reid | | |
| <i>Custodians</i> | | |
| Mrs. Gale | | |
| Mrs. M. Thompson | | |
| Mrs. Williams | | |



Brrrrrrr... It's getting cold out there!

A reminder that the doors open for students to enter the school building at 8:30am. If students arrive earlier, they need to wait on the playground until then. Please help your child(ren) dress warmly.

Raft River Bell Schedule 2016 - 17

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Warning Bell | 8:35 am |
| Start of the Day | 8:40 |
| Start of Recess | 10:20 |
| End of Recess | 10:35 |
| Start of Lunch Outside | 12:11 pm |
| End of Outside Time | 12:40 |
| Warning Bell | 12:55 |
| End of Lunch | 1:00 |
| End of Day | 2:40 |

MONTHLY ASSEMBLY – Here are the upcoming dates:

| Date | Virtue | Class Performance |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Dec 2 nd | Perseverance | |
| Jan 9 th | Responsibility | Mrs. Cooke/Mrs. Green |
| Jan 30 th | Fairness | Mrs. Weatherall |
| Feb 27 th | Trustworthiness | Ms. Gormley/Ms. Rushton |
| Mar 17 th | Sportsmanship | Miss Farris/Mrs. Lau |
| May 1 st | Self Control | Ms. Holowaychuk/Mrs. Allan |
| May 29 th | Citizenship | Mrs. MacDougall |
| June 29 th | Respect | |

On the topic of threats...

As you have been made aware through the media of the extremely disturbing intruder incident in Abbotsford, please be aware that all school districts in BC have, through the ERASE Bullying Strategy, received training in assessing and responding to threat related behaviour. Some threats, such as the “clown-specific” ones, appeared through social media platforms primarily through Instagram and Snapchat accounts.

It is important to talk to your child(ren) about reporting any threat if they become aware of anything unusual or see threats on social media. Please bring them to the attention of school officials and/or law enforcement. Many students see this as a prank and not as a criminal behavior that it is. If you require any further information, please talk to your school administrators.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

One-to-One Reading Program: If you are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, 10:30 to 12:00, please consider becoming an alternate for when a regular volunteer is not available. For more information on how and when you can help out, please contact Literacy Coordinator, Kerry Cairns at 250-674-3530 ext. 102 or kerry.c@yellowheadcs.ca

Breakfast Program: 7:45am - 8:30am. Are you available once a week? Please contact Cherie Yurkiw at clyurkiw@telus.net

Skating Program: On-ice help needed for 3.5 hours for the following Fridays: November 18 and 25. Contact Cherie Yurkiw at clyurkiw@telus.net

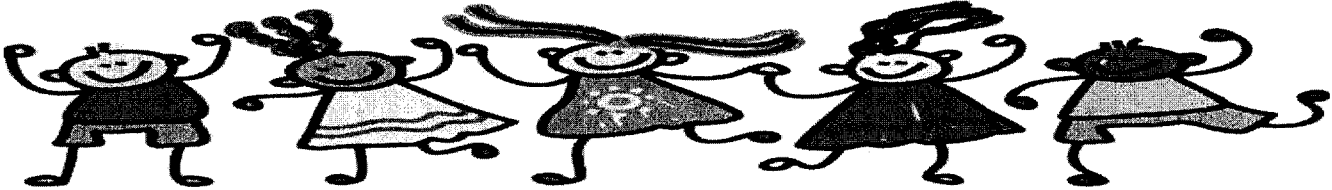
Salmon Eggs are coming...

Miss Weddell and Mrs. Weatherall's classes are looking forward to the arrival of the Coho Salmon eggs on Nov 14th. The students will take care of the eggs and watch for them to develop into fry sometime in the new year. Please remember to walk quietly passed the tank and do not touch. Thank you!

Did you know...

We are now playing Baroque Classical Music at Raft for the 5 minutes right after the start-of-the-day bell. It helps to get everyone ready for the day as Baroque music has been scientifically proven to help calm the brain for learning.

Social and Emotional Learning



Staff at Raft have been engaged in Mindfulness for the past year as Social Emotional Learning is now a part of BC's revised curriculum. Mindfulness helps with self-regulation – to calm the mind and focus.

The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the center of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Through provincial consultation, three core competencies were identified: Communication, Thinking, Personal and Social. For a quick read (a poster) on Mindfulness, see:

<https://mindfulnessinschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/what-is-mindfulness.jpg>

PAC NEWS

Our next PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, Nov 8th at 7:00pm. We are trying out an evening meeting hoping to enable participation from parents who are not able to attend meetings during the day. October PAC minutes are on the school website and the school bulletin board. Of special interest is the Technology Plan proposal.

A message from our Aboriginal Education Worker – Ms. Michelle McFadyen

Aboriginal Girl's Group is held every Thursday from 9:35am-10:20am. Some of the topics that are specifically designed and developed for this group (but not limited to) are: cultural identity, self-esteem, nutrition, and self-care. This program has been very successful throughout SD 73 for the past 7 years and Raft is very excited to have the opportunity to deliver this program to our Aboriginal Girls.

We will be holding **Lunch Homework Club**, 12:11 - 12:55pm, in The Gathering Place (Ab Ed office) for intermediate students every Monday, Tuesday and ALL intermediate students are welcome on Friday – there is a sign up sheet at The Gathering Place. There will also be an **Aboriginal Craft Club** for ALL primary students on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:11 - 12:55pm; the sign-up sheet is located at the main school office. Students also have the option to eat their lunches during club times.

November is Adoption Awareness Month...

A message from Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Family Development

British Columbia is making history as the first province in Canada to design and launch an online tool that will streamline the adoptions process for waiting families and help ensure kids find the loving homes that they deserve, sooner.

Created with input from the Adoptive Families Association of British Columbia (AFABC), 'Adopt BC Kids' provides a personalized and user-friendly platform for adoptive families to view their application process, track what documents have been received and better understand next steps. A built-in matching service ensures that matching criteria between a prospective parent and adoptee is automatically flagged, connecting waiting children and teens with forever homes, faster. Anyone interested in becoming an adoptive parent can begin their journey online at: www.gov.bc.ca/adoptbckids.

In your community and across the province, there are young people right now hoping for a family to call their own. Over the past 10 years, an annual average of approximately 270 children have been adopted in British Columbia, but there are still approximately 1,000 children and youth in government care who are waiting for a forever home. Some are part of a sibling group, some have special needs, and some are teens. Regardless of personal circumstances, each and every child deserves a family to belong to, a place to grow up, help with preparing for the challenges of adulthood, and someone to rely on for support, encouragement and love.

Together with the AFABC we are working to find those 1,000 families. The 1000familiesbc campaign is our joint effort to connect waiting children with caring families. Please help us raise awareness on Facebook and Twitter by using the hashtag #1000familiesbc or by directing families within your school district to 1000familiesbc.com.

There are many other ways you can celebrate adoptive families and help raise awareness of adoption, for example by creating adoption displays in your schools or helping to promote the celebration events for adoptive families in your community throughout the month of November.

The AFABC representative for your area can provide you with more information on these events, or about adoption in general. Their contact information, as well as contact information for the four licensed adoption agencies in British Columbia, can be accessed at: <http://gov.bc.ca/howtoadopt>.

On behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, thank you for helping us raise awareness about adoption and find loving homes for British Columbia's waiting children and youth.

SD73 Board of Trustees - Notes of Oct 24, 2016 Meeting is available on the school website and school bulletin board.

The Ministry of Education Community Meeting on Report Cards is on Jan 30, 2017 – More information to come.
