



## December Newsletter, 2023

Dear Parents and caregivers,  
We hope you enjoy our November newsletter. This month we're featuring photos from our student-led Remembrance Day service, as well as from our school garden and outdoor classroom fundraisers, which connect to our School Learning Plan goal of increasing students' sense of belonging at school.

### **"Social Media Awareness"- A family Online Safety Session**

This session is being held on **December 5th at 6:30 p.m. virtually**. Everyone is welcome! This session is recommended for parents/caregivers/grandparents and youth aged 10 and up. This 60 minute session will be held virtually via zoom. **To register for this session, please [click on this link](#).**

### **Breakfast Program**

Thanks to our dedicated PAC, our breakfast program now runs 5 days a week! Please remember that this program meant to **provide additional snacks** to students. This program is not intended as breakfast. Additional snacks are also available should students need them at any time during the day. **Volunteers are needed** to continue to help support this morning program. If you can provide support anytime during the month, please connect with Simone Volk at 250-674-8856 or by email at [info@volktrans-canada.com](mailto:info@volktrans-canada.com). A big thank you to our PAC and to the current volunteers who run this well-attended program!

### **Remembrance Day Ceremony**

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony took place on November 10th and was hosted by Mr. Gauthier's Grade 6 class. Guests from the Legion, as well as Veterans and parents, joined us for this event. Students participating received positive feedback from Veterans regarding their respectful professionalism in hosting this student-led event.





### **Cold and Flu Season**

Cold and Flu season is upon us. We continue to teach and practise proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at school. As families and caregivers, **you can do your part by not sending your child to school if he/she is sick. In addition, when you notify the school to let us know your child will not be attending due to illness, it helps our tracking the spread of illness if you share information on the type of illness your child has (flu, cold, COVID19, etc.).**

### **Cold Weather Clothing**

Please help your child learn to dress for the weather by sending clothing to suit the day's forecast. This means a warm jacket, toque, gloves and adequate footwear should now be packed daily. Please note students are outside from the time they arrive in the morning until school starts, as well as at recess and lunch recess. Appropriate clothing makes outdoor time more enjoyable for everyone!

### **100% Wool Clothing Donations Requested**

Our Grade 5-7 ADST (Applied Design Skills and Technology) classes will be studying textiles in the Spring and are looking for donations of 100% wool garments (non felted). If you are cleaning out your closet and are looking to rehome some of your wool sweaters, please consider donating them to our school! We will be taking donations until March, 2024.

### **Book Fair Success!**

THANK YOU to everyone for supporting our Raft Book Fair! This year was our most successful book fair in recorded history. This means a treasure trove of new books for our school library!



## Grade 6/7 Art Contest & School Garden Fundraiser



Grade 6 and 7 students participated in an art contest to design labels for dried herbs. The herbs were collected from the school garden and local community gardens and then freeze dried by our fantastic parent and school garden helper, Cara Elliot!



Student volunteers sold the herbs at last week's Farmers Market and raised \$300 for our school garden. More grade 6 and 7 volunteers will be at the next Farmers Market on December 9th to sell more dried herbs, sunflower seeds, squash seeds and more! Come on out and support our students at the Farmers Market and get yourself some fantastic home-grown Christmas gifts! Thanks to Ms. Shook for organizing these student-centered events!

## Outdoor Classroom

The long-awaited outdoor classroom structure is making its appearance in the corner of our field and oh wow is it ever a thing of beauty and excitement. The students are enjoying watching its progress through the fence while they play. There is still a lot of landscaping to be done and finishing touches, but things are looking great for a spring reveal.



## Skating Sessions

Thank you to PAC who has organized opportunities for classes to participate in skating at the arena. Many classes are now booking their second skating session. Teachers will reach out if they need support from volunteers - remember ALL volunteers are required to have their Criminal Record Checks. Watch for communication coming home from your child's teacher.

## Volunteers

ALL volunteers at school need to have a Criminal Record Check completed. If you completed one last year, it is still valid. There are two ways to complete your record check. The first is online through the following link:

- Online Link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
- Access Code: [6FB4LXN6PS]

## Term 1 Formal Reports

Updates to the Ministry Reporting Order mean students will now be receiving three written progress reports throughout the school year. You can expect your child's first written report card to go home on December 15th this year.

## Busing

Thank you for your continued support around reminding your child of the busing expectations. We are seeing reduced Bus Pupil Reports come to the office from drivers. Please continue to communicate after school changes to both your child's classroom teacher and the bus garage. A note also needs to be sent to your child's teacher if you intend to pick your child up from school and if there is a change in busing.

## School Messenger/Lates and Absences

Please remember to continue to use the School Messenger App or phone in your child's absence.

## Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

All parents are welcome to attend this month's PAC meeting on **December 12th at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. We are always looking for new members to support our school!

## Leadership Team

***Festive Fridays in December!*** Every Friday in December is a festive activity to get students ready for the holiday season!

**December 1st:** Just Dance Day

**December 8th:** Christmas Clothing - wear your favourites!

**December 15th:** Secret Santa Candy Canes

**December 22nd:** PJ Day - cozy up!

## Food Drive

The Leadership team is hosting a Food Drive from December 5th to 15th to collect non-perishable food items for the food bank. Please make sure that donated food is not expired or it has to be thrown out.

### December Calendar Events

- Dec. 1 Festive Friday: "Just Dance" Buddy Class Spirit Day Dance Activity
- Dec. 4 No School - Teacher Professional Development Day
- Dec. 5 PAC Poinsettia Fundraiser Pick Up Day
- Dec. 8 Brain Injury Prevention Presentation to participating classes  
Festive Friday: Christmas Clothing - wear your favourites!
- Dec. 15 Term 1 Report Cards Go Home  
Festive Friday: Secret Santa Candy Canes
- Dec. 15 Secret Santa Candy Canes Festive Spirit Day Activity
- Dec. 19 1:15 p.m.** Raft Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 20 6:45 p.m.** Raft Christmas Concert Evening Performance  
(2 tickets provided per family to attend. Tickets must be presented at door)
- Dec. 21 1:05 p.m.** Raft Christmas Concert Afternoon Performance  
(2 tickets provided per family to attend. Tickets must be presented at door)
- Dec. 22 Festive Friday: PJ Day - cozy up!