



February Newsletter, 2024

Dear parents and caregivers,

February finds us celebrating being together as a school community, despite some unnerving events to close the first month of 2024. We are grateful to live in a small community and to have the enduring support of our local RCMP detachment. Part of our School Learning Plan is centered on student belonging, which you will see fostered in this month's newsletter through cultural learning and outdoor connections with classmates. Thank you for being part of our Raft school community. Together, we are stronger.

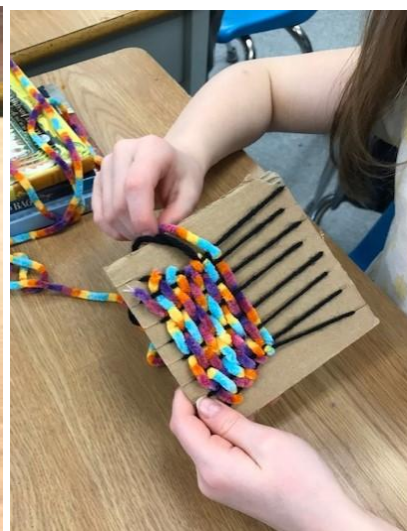
****New Processes for Picking Up Students****

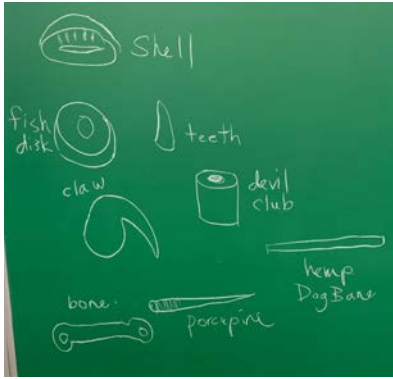
Please note, effective immediately, students being picked up will remain on the little kids' playground within the fenced area. This is to enhance our ability to supervise the large number of students who are now being picked up daily. We ask that you please park your vehicle and walk to pick up your child within the gated playground at the front of the school. Your child will not be permitted to run out to the parking lot alone for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation with this new pick up procedure.

Cultural and Math Learning with Bernice Jensen

Ms. Scrivener grade 3 & Ms. Jaya's grade 1/2 classes participated in lessons on weaving and beaded bracelet making with Bernice Jensen, SD73 Cultural Coordinator, and Skylar Richard of Spirit North this month. Part of this learning is connected to the mathematical concepts of patterning, symmetry and equivalence.

Bernice also shared information with students about the traditional materials that would be used locally to create these pieces of art.





X-Country Skiing

You can feel the joy students felt this month as many classes had the opportunity to x-country ski together while we still had ample snow!





Blue River Annual Andy Aufschnaiter Memorial Cross Country Ski Race

K-7 students interested in participating in the Annual *Andy Aufschnaiter Memorial Cross Country Ski Race* in Blue River on February 22 need to join the first meeting on Monday, Feb. 5th at Lunch in the Library to express their interest. Help your child remember to join this meeting if he/she is interested. Please note that students in grades 5-7 will participate in competitive race heats. Students do not need to own x-country ski equipment to participate as the school can supply this. Look for permission forms to go home soon with students who have expressed interest.

Donations of Gently Used Books Requested

Teachers will gratefully accept donations of gently used books for all age levels to supply classroom libraries. Donations can be dropped off at the front office to be sorted by age level.

Cold and Flu Season

We continue to teach and practise proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at school. As families and caregivers, **you can do your part to reduce the spread of illness 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.).**

Starfish Pack Program

We are supporting the Starfish Pack Program at Raft River. We understand with the rising costs of living, some families may be struggling. The program provides food for your child/children on the weekend. A back pack consists of non-perishable items, which includes two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners and snacks. In order to access the program please fill out the information in

the link below. If you can not access the link, please email Carmella or phone the school and ask to speak to her.

<https://forms.gle/Wb13skgb6qTHcgMX6>

February Learning Updates/Points of Progress Meetings

Over the next two weeks teachers will be setting up meetings to talk about your child(ren)'s learning progress. The new reporting process in School District 73 this year includes two informal Learning Updates (Points of Progress) and three written report cards. The February Learning Update is the second for this school year.

Parents are an integral part of a child's learning. Students and teachers are eager to share the learning that is taking place. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions. We highly encourage you to attend these important meetings.

Call Out to Local Musicians

We have a number of students who would love to take part in a music club. The school has Ukuleles, drums and rhythm instruments that could be part of this programming. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in volunteering to support something like this for students at Raft, please contact Alyssan Gauthier at the school (250.674.2218) to discuss ideas and opportunities. Please note: all school volunteers need to have a valid Criminal Record Check. The cost for this process is covered.

Indoor Shoes

We require students to have indoor shoes on their feet while in the building. This is for safety reasons. Students also need indoor shoes in the gym. Please ensure that your child has shoes at school to wear. Reach out if there are cost concerns around having this second pair of shoes at school.

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.

Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week - Loonie for Literacy Drive

Thank you to everyone who participated this past month! It was interesting to hear all types of conversations around the school on goal setting!

Parking

Just a reminder that there is no parking in the staff parking area, behind staff vehicles or in the disabled parking spot. We ask that you park in the side parking lot or across the street.

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]

Moving?

Please ensure you connect with the office and with the bus garage (if applicable) if you are moving so our address records are accurate.

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 or if there is a change in busing.

Lates and Absences

Please remember to continue to use the School Messenger App. or phone in your child's absence. **Please also ensure you wait with your child at the front office until he/she receives a late slip. This is essential for our accurate record-keeping of attendance, and for your child's safety.**

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

All parents are welcome to attend this month's PAC meeting on **Feb. 13th at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. We are always looking for new parent members to support our school!

Leadership Team

The 6/7 leadership team is busy planning kindness activities to teach and to share with younger schoolmates. Thanks to Ms. Harvey and to Mr. Wilkes for the work that goes into this!

6/7 Basketball

Thank you to our Basketball coaches, Taylor-Rae Harvey, Ryan Wilkes and Erika Rotzetter for providing our students with a fantastic start to the season! They have been thrilled to show off their skills on the court!

District Event: January 31st Virtual Presentation: Kindergarten RoundUP

if you have a child who will enter Kindergarten, you are invited on January 31st from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. to listen and ask questions to community partners and School District 73 about Kindergarten 2024. This is a virtual session - [Register here](#)

Parent/Guardian Session - Presented by Chelsea Jelic of POPARD

Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. via zoom

Title: Effective Communication between Parents and Schools

Families and school teams work together in a variety of ways throughout the year. Research shows that promoting family-school engagement leads to increased trust and collaboration, as well as improved student achievement and development. This session will:

- Briefly review research and the new “family-school engagement playbook” to highlight important themes
- Provide strategies to enhance collaboration and communication between family and school
- Discuss connections between the roles, rights, and responsibilities of teaching staff, administrators, and parents.
- Review how to work towards solutions in times of conflict or differences
- Information on advocacy steps and supports.

This workshop will be held via [Zoom on Thursday, February 22, 2024, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.](#)

If you are interested in attending, you are asked to [register here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.

Shared on behalf of Deanna Brady, District Principal - Inclusive Education

February Calendar Events

Feb. 1 - 15	Learning Update -flexible format reporting
Feb. 2 - 11	Carnival (Quebec)
Feb. 5-9	Kindergarten Registration - please contact the school office for registration forms
Feb. 6	Student Recognition Assembly (9 a.m.) 6/7 Girls' & Boys' Basketball Games at Raft VS Aberdeen
Feb. 10	Lunar New Year
Feb. 13	6/7 Girls' & Boys' Basketball Games at Raft VS St. Ann's PAC meeting 6 p.m. in the Library
Feb. 14	Young Authors Virtual Workshop - Intermediate & Valentine's Day
Feb. 16	National Random Acts of Kindness Day
Feb. 19	No School: Family Day
Feb. 20	6/7 Girls' & Boys' Basketball Games at Raft VS RLC
Feb. 22	Blue River Cross Country Ski Race Day
Feb. 27	6/7 Girls' & Boys' Basketball Games at Ralph Bell VS Ralph Bell
Feb. 28	Pink Shirt Day - Bullying Awareness
Mar. 5	6/7 Girls' & Boys' Basketball Games at Raft VS Juniper

CIRCLE OF SECURITY

A relationship based early intervention program designed to enhance attachment security between caregivers and children. The program assists caregivers to better understand and respond to their child's needs and improve confidence in their parenting skills.

This is a free, 8-week program for caregivers of children between the ages of 4 months to 6-years. Childcare & a meal are provided!

We will begin our next session in February 2024.

TO REGISTER

Jaimie Peebles

Family Development Program Coordinator

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