



# January Newsletter, 2024

Dear parents and caregivers,

Happy New Year! We hope you have enjoyed a safe holiday season filled with family and friends! In addition to necessary information for parents and guardians, our newsletter this month features student stories around building a sense of belonging and increasing proficiency in number sense - both of which are our school-wide learning goals for the year. Enjoy!





### **Holiday Concert Fun!**

We're sharing a few snapshots of our students (and staff) enjoying participating in our annual holiday concert! Thank you to those who were able to make it! The concert provides students the opportunity to practice and perform in front of a large audience, which builds self-confidence. The two performances were a smashing success!

### **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.).**

### **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>

### **Cold Weather Clothing**

Students are expected to remain outdoors in colder weather. Please help your child learn to dress for the weather by sending clothing to suit the day's forecast. Many students are not coming dressed for the day's weather. If you need support with winter clothing, please let your child's classroom teacher know or let Carmella know at the school. Appropriate clothing makes outdoor time more enjoyable for everyone!

### **Orange Allergy**

One staff member at Raft River Elementary has a very serious allergy to all types of oranges. ***Thank you for your cooperation in keeping oranges out of the school, for your child(ren) to enjoy at home.***

### **Connecting with Your Child's Teacher**

Parents are an integral part of a child's learning. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about his/her learning journey.

Likewise, you are also welcome to contact Carmella by email at [cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca) or by phone at 250.674.2218.

### **Breakfast Program and Lunch**

Thank you to our breakfast volunteers who continue to provide breakfast items 5 days a week. Please know that this is not a full breakfast; it is meant to be additional food for students who need it.

Although we do not have a lunch program at Raft River at this time, we do have healthy food items that are brought to classes. Again, this is meant for students who need extra food, who may be hungry, or who do not have food that day.

### **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.

### **Just Be4 Preschool Program**

We are continuing to take registrations for the JustB4 Preschool program that will take place at Raft River Elementary School. It is a creative learning opportunity for children ages 3-4. The program will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30-2:30 pm. The cost is \$133 per

month, with the affordable child care subsidy welcome! If you have questions, please contact the school at 250-674-2218.

The program will provide the following learning and opportunities: early literacy and math skills, problem solving skills, fine motor and large motor skills, self-esteem building, decision making, independence and will provide an opportunity for social interaction with other children.

### **Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week - Loonie for Literacy Drive**

During UnPlug and Play Week, January 22nd - January 26th, we will also be supporting a Loonie for Literacy Drive. We ask that you send a loonie to school with your child. There will be a container at the front office. The funds raised will be matched and go to support programs for the 2024 Raise a Reader Campaign. These programs include: One to One Reading, Come Read with Me and the Bright Red Book Bus.

### **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 **Jan. 16th at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. We are always looking for new members to support our school!

### Leadership Team

We want to thank our Leadership team, Ms. Harvey and Mr. Wilkes, for running a number of festive activities in December to bring the holiday spirit to Raft!

### Kamloops Brain Injury Association Presentation

On December 8th, participating classes received a presentation on traumatic brain injuries. Along with the main presenter, two people who suffered brain injuries in life spoke about the importance of wearing a helmet and protecting our brains.

### Experiential Number Sense Learning, gr. 1/2



As we step into a new season of learning, Ms. Jaya's grades 1/2 class is diving into the fascinating world of plant growth right in the classroom! 🌱 Students will embark on a hands-on journey to explore the secrets of how plants grow. Students got their hands dirty by planting their own seeds, fostering a sense of responsibility and care. They have now set observation stations to closely monitor the different stages of plant development, encouraging scientific inquiry while they engage in group activities and discussions to share observations, ask questions, and learn from one another.

Connecting to math learning, students will explore the geometric shapes of leaves, flowers and seeds and will count the number of leaves/petals on different plants to compare and to create charts and tables to organize and analyze the data!

### **District Event: January 16th Virtual Presentation by The White Hatter**

Gaming is a massive industry that, for many young people, is their primary mode of entertainment and hobby. For some, gaming can even lead to a career in the industry. However, this activity is not without problems that can lead to challenges in having a balanced lifestyle. Harnessing gaming in a safe and effective way can provide many opportunities for gamers of all ages.

For more details and to register for this virtual session please click on the link below:

<https://calendar.sd73.bc.ca/default/Detail/2024-01-16-1800-Gaming-Concerns-Balance-Addiction-amp-Opportunitie2>

If you are interested in attending, click [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive a presentation link and password to the meeting.

### **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](#)

### **January Calendar Events**

Jan. 8th	School Reopens
Jan. 15	Intermediate District Numeracy Assessment Starts
Jan. 16	Raft PAC Meeting
Jan. 22	Loonies for Literacy/Unplug & Play Week Begins
Jan. 2	Cultural Arts Presentation at Raft: Afro-Indigenous Arts Of Brazil
Jan. 16th	6:00 - 7:30 pm The White Hatter Virtual Presentation (see above)
Jan. 31st	6:30 - 7:30 pm Kindergarten RoundUp (see above)