



## March Newsletter, 2024

Dear parents and caregivers,

We want to take this opportunity to thank the school families for their continued support and encouragement. We would also like to thank teachers and staff for their continued contributions to school life. We encourage you to use this Spring Break, not only as an opportunity to take a break from school, but from the other routines that separate us from quality time together as families. Hold your kids close. We look forward to finishing the year strong when we return in April.

~ Principal Mathieu

### **Term 2 Report Cards**

Report Cards will go home with students on **Wednesday, March 13th**. Parents are an integral part of a child's learning. We encourage you to reach out to share any questions you have about your child's progress with your child's teacher.

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

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.

### **Gr. 4-7 Young Authors' Virtual Conference**

The "For the Love of Writing" Young Authors' Conference launched on February 14th and was a great success. Over 70 classes attended virtual writing workshops across the district with celebrated BC and Alberta writers. Students honed their craft and, hopefully, were inspired to consider attending the in-person conference on May 3rd at TRU!

Grades 4-5 students joined Lee Edward Födi as he shared his photos from visiting fascinating libraries around the world. Then students helped Lee brainstorm key fantastical features to draw in his modeled magical library as they, too, designed their own with talking books, flying bookworms, bottomless book drops, and even broom rentals! The idea is that students' illustrated brainstorm "maps" could provide a foundation for future story-writing. Unfortunately this virtual session experienced some technical difficulties and students were not able to participate in all activities.

Grades 6-7 students teamed up with Miranda Krogstad and had immense fun writing short, detailed responses to scaffolded challenges. Perhaps without even realizing it, students used sensory imagery, metaphors, and hyperboles. One Valentine's Day activity asked students to

compare a loved one to an object, and many were witty! One read, "My love for you is like the old dog couch. It's worn yet comfortable. Sometimes it's annoying, but I can't throw it away!" When writing is fun, time really does fly!

How do Grades 4-12 students get involved with the in-person Young Authors' Conference on May 3rd? They express interest to Ms. Gauthier or Ms. Mathieu who have all the details and then submit a creative writing manuscript!

### February 6th Recognition Assembly

Our school community came together to celebrate students and staff doing that little bit extra this past month. We thank Ms. Sills, Ms. Graffunder and Mr. Furlan for leading Ms. Green's class in performing the Welcome Song to begin our gathering!

Students and staff were recognized for:

- Leadership
  - Announcements
  - Lunch Monitoring
  - Basketball
  - Annual Legion Remembrance Contest
  - Young Artists
  - Young Authors
- Supporting students in all ways (staff)!



**Blue River Annual Andy Aufschnaiter Memorial Cross Country Ski Race**

K-7 students from Raft River, Vavenby, Blue River, Barriere and Valemount Elementary schools participated in the Annual *Andy Aufschnaiter Memorial Cross Country Ski Race* in Blue River on February 22! Students enjoyed the fresh snow, groomed trails and outdoor fun with friends! Congratulations to all who participated!



*River Shook smiling with his second place medal from the January 22 Blue River Ski Race!*



*Violet, Taya, Karsyn and Simone getting ready for their race.*

**Final Results:**

<p><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forrest Eliason, 1st</li> <li>Eric Elliot, 3rd</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leeza Volk, 1st</li> </ul>	<p><b>Grade 3</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Tobin, 1st</li> <li>Ryder Dooley, 4th</li> <li>Jacob Johnson, 6th</li> <li>Carson McGilvery, 8th</li> <li>Tristan Frost, 9th</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tori Harkies, 1st</li> <li>Poppy Scrivner, 2nd</li> <li>Aurora Acheson, 3rd</li> <li>Emma Elliot, 4th</li> <li>Jacqueline, 6th</li> <li>Freya Pope, 8th</li> <li>Olivia MacKenzie, 9th</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grade 1</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ellery Tobin, 1st</li> <li>Ewan Scrivner, 2nd</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Grade 2</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Olin Fullen, 2nd</li> <li>Luke Wall, 3rd</li> <li>Wyatt Graffunder, 4th</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kira Klassen, 2nd</li> </ul> <p><b>Grade 4</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Carter Mann, 3rd</li> <li>● Kason Van Gameren, 7th</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Olivia Bonnamour, 1st</li> <li>● Mira Fullen, 2nd</li> <li>● Amy Elliot, 3rd</li> <li>● Holly Frost, 5th</li> <li>● Seersha Marshall, 7th</li> <li>● Elisha Jeck, 9th</li> </ul>	<p><b>Grade 6</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dominic Mann, 1st</li> <li>● Gabe Helmer, 3rd</li> <li>● Eric Jeck, 5th</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grace Jahnke, 1st</li> <li>● Bree Bonnamour, 2nd</li> <li>● Alexis Ludtke, 3rd</li> <li>● Sophie Scrivner, 4th</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grade 5</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● River Shook, 2nd</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Simone Colborne, 2nd</li> <li>● Taya Cooke, 4th</li> <li>● Natalie Wicks, 5th</li> <li>● Allison Masse, 8th</li> <li>● Violet Martin, 9th</li> <li>● Savannah Halko, 10th</li> <li>● Sophie MacKenzie, 11th</li> <li>● Reese Poisson, 12th</li> <li>● Karsyn MacDonald, 13th</li> </ul>	<p><b>Grade 7</b></p> <p>Boys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Richard Onslow, 1st</li> <li>● Cohen Cooke, 2nd</li> <li>● Lucas Choney, 3rd</li> </ul> <p>Girls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emelia Rotzetter, 2nd</li> <li>● Nature Knight, 3rd</li> <li>● Anna Jean Roy, 4th</li> <li>● Taya Noble, 5th</li> <li>● Savannah Collins, 6th</li> </ul>

### **Indoor and 'Heely' Shoes At School**

For safety, we require students to have indoor shoes on their feet while in the building. Students also need non-marking indoor shoes in the gym. Please ensure that your child has a separate set of indoor shoes at school to wear. Reach out if there are cost concerns around having this second pair of shoes at school.

We also have an increasing number of students arriving at school with Heely shoes. For safety, and to protect school floors, students are expected to put their wheels in the locked 'wheels up' position while in the building.

### **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 practice 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>

### **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.

### **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 the end of March, 2024.

### **Parking**

Just a reminder that there is no parking in the front or back staff parking areas, 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 **April 9th 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 planned a number of activities to share with classes this past week for Friendship Week! Thanks to Ms. Harvey and to Mr. Wilkes for the work that goes into this! This month, students participated in a Pink Shirt day coloring contest, buddy kindness coloring sheets, Pink Shirt Day, making friendship bracelets out of fruit loops and twinning day with a friend!

### **School Learnings: *Did You Know?***

We have added a new addition to our newsletter. Over the next few months we will be adding a "Did You Know?" portion to create a better understanding for parents of school processes and procedures. This month is School Based Team Meetings.

**What is a School-Based Team?** A School-Based Team (SBT) is a team of people that support a student to meet their learning goals. Each member has a formal role to play as a problem-solving unit in assisting classroom teachers to develop and implement instructional and behavioural strategies and to coordinate support and resources for students that are presenting with difficulties. The team meets in both scheduled and on an as-needed basis. The School-Based Team usually includes the Principal or Vice Principal, a Learning Assistance Resource Teacher and the Classroom Teacher. The Classroom Teacher, Parent/Guardian(s), or Administrator may initiate the meeting. This meeting will have a problem-solving focus. The purpose of the SBT at the school level is to review a student's strengths and challenges, and to decide the steps that might be taken to ensure a child develops his or her potential. As a parent, you are always welcome to attend these meetings.

### 6/7 Basketball

Thank you to our Basketball coaches, Taylor-Rae Harvey, Ryan Wilkes and Erika Rotzetter and to Referee, Danny, from Clearwater Secondary School for providing our grades 6/7 students with the opportunity to participate in this year's basketball season. Team sports provide learning opportunities for collaboration, risk taking and skill development. Both our boys and girls teams will have lasting memories from this season!

### Grade 3/4 Cross-Curricular Learning

Students in Mrs. Shook's Class create "Wild" Robots to finish up their cross-curricular unit in reading, science and Applied Design Skills and Technologies.



### Grade 3 Math Focus

Ms. Scrivener's students read a book called "Sharing Our Stories" which illustrates Aboriginal ways of living and knowing from the lens of geometry. Students read, looked at the pictures and used mixed tiles, tangram shapes, pattern blocks, wooden shapes and geo mirrors to replicate the patterns and shapes they saw, such as powwow scenes, tipis and traditional clothing. Students explored lines of symmetry and noticed how solids may be made up of 2D shapes.



## Gr. 4/5 & Gr. 1/2 Big and Little Buddies



Ms. Cathy's Big Buddies traced Ms. Johnson's Little Buddies. Students took turns writing kind notes about each other on their cut outs. These are hung in the gym for a few days during Friendship Week.



## Standing Up To Unkindness As A Team During Pink Shirt Day!

*Ms. Green's class pose in front of their kindness chart, where students recognize others in the class and school for kind acts!*

*Nature and Milo lead our Pink Shirt Day assembly!*





### **March 6 Zoom Session: Supporting Children in a Digital World**

As a parent/caregiver, you lead the charge as a digital role model. Help your child develop a strong digital citizenship foundation while reminding them that their digital tattoo reflects their real and online selves by joining this district session via Zoom on March 6th, 2024.

The session will cover:

- The most current apps and trends in your child's social media lives
- a digital parenting strategy on how to have important conversations with your child about social media safety
- what is a digital footprint and how it can impact reputation
- recommendations for a family tech plan including parent controls.

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 **register [here](#)** and a Zoom link will be sent two days prior to the event.

### **Connecting with Your Child's Teacher and/or Admin.**

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 your child's learning journey.

If you have items you would like to discuss with Carmella Mathieu (Principal) or Alyssan Gauthier (Vice Principal), you are always welcome to contact them by phone at 250-674-2218, by email at [[cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca) or [agauthier@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:agauthier@sd73.bc.ca)] or to set an appointment to meet at the school.

### **March Calendar Events**

Mar. 6	Zoom Session: Supporting Children in a Digital World (see above to register)
Mar. 8	International Women's Day
Mar. 10 - Apr. 9	Ramadan Holiday
Mar. 10	Daylight Savings
Mar. 13	Term 2 Report Cards go Home & PAC Meeting at 1 p.m.
Mar. 14	Pi ( $\pi$ ) Day
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 18 - Apr. 2	Spring Break
Mar. 20	Spring Equinox Holiday
Mar 29	Good Friday
Apr. 1	Easter Monday
Apr. 3	First Day Back to School after Spring Break
Apr. 3-30	DEWERS SD73 Survey Period

RAFT MOUNTAIN  
SKATING CLUB  
PRESENTS

# 50 YEARS ON THE BIG SCREEN

*Skating Gala*

MAR 7,  
2024

SHOW AT  
6PM

NORTH  
THOMPSON  
SPORTSPLEX

