



## Newsletter November, 2023

Dear Parents and caregivers,

It is official, the first snow of the year is here. We have changed the format of our newsletters. Although they will have some reminders to families, we also hope to share out some of the learning and events happening at Raft River Elementary. Enjoy!



### Happy Halloween!

Students enjoyed showing off their costumes in our Costume Parade on the 31st and intermediate students enjoyed a dance in the gym!





*We hope you and your family had a happy and safe Halloween!*



### **Breakfast Program**

Great news! Our breakfast program will extend to 5 days a week starting on November 20th. Please remember that this is meant to **provide additional snacks** to students. This program is not intended as breakfast. Additional snacks are available should a student need. **Volunteers are needed** to continue to help support this program. If you can support anytime in 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 that run this program!

### **Remembrance Day Ceremony**

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on November 10th at 9 a.m. We will have guests from the Legion and Veterans join us for this event. Parents are welcome to attend, we ask that adult visitors sit in the chairs in the back of the gymnasium.

### **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 they are 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 as our mornings are cooler. 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!



### **Grade One Numeracy**

Grade one teachers had a wonderful Numeracy Workshop and classroom support time with the District Numeracy Resource Teachers a few weeks ago. After learning new math games, Corbyn Rorison took it upon himself to play the dot plate game with his classmates. We love to see students sharing skills they learn in the classroom!



### **First Snow!**

It was an enjoyable first snowy recess on November 2nd!



### **Land Acknowledgement**

Mrs Green's Grade 1/2 class worked hard last week to learn about land acknowledgments with Ms. Sills, our Aboriginal Education Worker. The class wrote this heartfelt land acknowledgment in their own words



### **Seasons Learning**

This month, Ms. Jaya's grade 1/2 class learned about the seasons and how the change of seasons allows for many different types of work, food, celebrations and types of recreation.

### **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.

### **Come Read with Me Session**

On November 1st at 10:30 in the Library at Raft River, we hosted a Come Read with Me Session for our grade 1 Parents. This was a great opportunity to learn some great and fun ways to read at home with children.

### **Skating Sessions**

Thank you to PAC who has organized opportunities for classes to participate in skating at the arena. The first session starts on November 1st. 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 teachers.

### **Reporting Updates**

Updates to the Ministry Reporting Order mean students will now be receiving three written progress reports throughout the school year and two informal progress reports. Informal progress reports may be in the form of Points of Progress meetings, phone calls, emails, student led conferences, self-assessments, etc. Teachers are reaching out to parents and guardians now with the initial informal student progress information. Please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher with any questions about learning progress.

### **Busing**

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

### **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]

### **Student Pick Up and Parking**

Thank you for parking in a safe space in the front of the school, near the annex building when picking up your child(ren) after school. Please do not park at the back courtyard as this creates congestion and safety hazards for our buses.

### **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 **November 14th at 6:00 p.m.** in the school library. We are always looking for new members to support our school!

### **Leadership Team**

At the end of October, we had our first spirit week of the school year. Students loved dressing up for Twin Day and getting to play BINGO with all students in the school. Thank you to Ms. Harvey who helped organize and support this event!

The leadership team is working hard to develop a recycling program for all classrooms. We will notify all families about this program once it is set up.

### **Volleyball Team**

Our volleyball season is off to a great start! Both teams are enjoying going to Kamloops to play against other schools. The players are learning new skills and showing great sportsmanship! Thank you to Mr. Wilkes and to Ms. Harvey who coach our teams.

### **Battle of the Books**

We have three age groups of students (Gr 3/4, Gr 5, and Gr 6/7) participating in this year's district Battle of the Books competition. Students meet at lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays. They must read 12 assigned books before the competition in April, discuss the books, and practice answering questions which involve matching a quote from a book to the correct title. Thank you to our coaches - Mrs Scrivner (Gr 3/4), Mrs Green (Gr 5) and Mrs Cooke (Gr 6/7).

### **'Hands to Self' School-Wide Plan**

Raft has a 'hands to self' school-wide plan to support students in playing while respecting others' personal space and bodies.

When a 'hands-on' incident occurs at recess, lunch, or while in class, staff use a recording sheet to document the incident. Incidents at Level 1 are kept by the classroom teacher and dealt with by attending staff and teachers. When these Level 1 incidents become frequent for a specific child, Admin. will follow up with families to make a plan of action to support the child in playing with 'hands to self'. Incidents deemed Level 2 will be immediately referred to Admin.

We try to work with students restoratively, having them think through situations and plan for different actions in the future, rather than relying on consequences only. At the end of this newsletter, you will find a number of 'think pages' we use with students at school. Possibly they are of use to you at home!

### **October-November Calendar Events**

Oct. 2- Nov. 10	BC Ministry of Education Foundation Skills Assessment takes place for students in grades 4 and 7
Nov. 6	Raft Fire Drill #2
Nov. 8	Indigenous Veterans' Day
Nov.10	Remembrance Day Ceremony at Raft River at 9 a.m.
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 13	No School - Stat. Holiday for Remembrance Day
Nov. 14	Raft Fire Drill #3
Nov. 16	Louis Riel Day
Nov 20-24	Scholastic Book Fair
Nov 22	Book Fair Family Night in the Library from 5-7 p.m.