



## Pacific Way Elementary

2330 Pacific Way, Kamloops, BC V1S 1Z3

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<http://pacificway.sd73.bc.ca>

Newsletter

December, 2016

December 5<sup>th</sup> – Non-Instructional Day – No School for Children

December 7<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Concert dress rehearsal @ 1:00

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert @ 6:00

**Please bring a Food Bank item Donation to the Concert**

December 9<sup>th</sup> – Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Last Day before Winter Break

January 3<sup>th</sup> – First Day Back after Winter Break

**Parent Volunteers:** Thank you so much to all our volunteers. We have parents that volunteer for noon hour supervision, classroom assistance, baking, and parents that help coach school teams and drive on field trips. You work so hard to make our school a better place to learn and work!

### **Scent Aware**

Please remember that we are a **scent aware school**, as are all other schools in our district. Your consideration in not wearing perfume, cologne or strong scented items makes our school a safer place to be. A sign is posted at the entrances to our school.

### **Cold Weather on the Horizon!**

Please send indoor shoes and cold weather clothing with your children. Winter coats, hats, mitts, snow pants and boots are appropriate for winter weather in the Highlands of Aberdeen. Don't forget to label all clothing with your child's name; it helps us return it to them when lost. We (yes, adults too please) take off our winter boots at the door to help keep the floors dry.

Students are expected to be outside for recess and lunch, with the rare exception of extra cold days. The school doors open at 8:20 am, and please remember that students are not supervised outside before this time.

### **Safe Arrival:**

Just a Reminder: Parents please remember to call into our safe arrival number 1-844-350-2647 before 8:30 in the morning when your child is going to be away from school or late for any reason. After this time – during school hours – call the general office number (250) 851-0632.

### **Lost and Found:**

Please check this now and before the holidays. It will be donated to charity if you do not claim it by the 16th of December!





### **Parking Lot**

Our parking lot has become a safer place since the beginning of September, but there are still concerns. I am going to continue to place pylons in front of the no parking signs as a stronger visual reminder to not park in this area. Please also remember to never leave your vehicle unattended if waiting in the loop.

### **Volunteers**

We are still in need of Noon Hour Supervisors at Pacific Way Elementary. Please let us know if you can help us out. The hours are 12:00-1:00 daily. If you are interested, even if you can only work on certain days, please contact Mrs. Dacho or Mr. Rempel.

### **Report Cards**

Term 1 report cards are being sent home on December 9. Please take the time to read your child's reports both on your own and together with your child. This is an opportunity for you to celebrate their growth and

accomplishments, and also to set goals to address some of the challenges they are experiencing. Your involvement in this process is crucial to your child's success. The teacher will have some good suggestions for how you can support your child with their education. And please remember NOT to compare your child to others. Each child is unique in the way they learn and the rate that they learn at. Instead of making unfair comparisons, focus on realistic goals that are achievable, and celebrate each step along the way!

### **Honour Roll**

For a number of years now, the practice at Pacific Way and a number of other schools in our district has been to celebrate the academic achievements of students by way of an honour roll system. In this system, students would be recognized for achieving a certain number of points based on the letter grades they had achieved in their report cards. In addition to this, an effort honour roll system would recognize those students who may not have achieved the criteria for the academic honour roll, but had maintained a G (G= Good, S = Satisfactory, N = Needs Improvement) standing in all 8 components of the Work Habits and Social & Personal Development section that is no longer part of our School District report cards.

As a staff, we have taken a long, hard look at the practice of honour roll at our school and have decided to discontinue it. As we move as a province to change our curriculum we are also working on aligning our reporting and grading practices. This process may be moving us away from traditional grade based policies and environments that are reflected in traditional honor roll practices. We want to adjust in order to better reflect these new pedagogues and philosophies by looking at different ways to celebrate learning. The evidence in this shift of mind set are the number of elementary schools that no longer practice honour rolls, but instead have presentations of learning as a key component to their school learning plans, Pacific Way included.

John Hattie, in his extensive research on what actually works in schools to improve learning, discovered that effective feedback is one of the most powerful influences on achievement. The research is clear that extrinsic rewards, such as honour roll awards, do not have a significant impact on learning. Rather, “effective feedback provides cues or reinforcement to the learner, and is received and acted upon by students.”

Another way to look at it is from the perspective of the message we are sending. Michael Fullan, in his work entitled *Coherence: The Right Drivers for Schools...*, warns against schools inadvertently sending a message that summative grades are valued over deep learning. He goes on to say that “the carrots and stick approach does not work for anything that requires initiative, judgment, and ongoing commitment.”

At Pacific Way, and in schools across our district and province, we want to be developing policies that are designed to focus importance on the actual learning process, not just on ‘making the grade’. We want our learners to be motivated to take more learning risks and persevere to choose challenging tasks, not for the sake of a letter grade, but for the satisfaction and fulfilment of deep growth in their own personal journey of learning.

### **Volleyball Season Wrap-Up**

A huge thank you to our coaches this season, Mrs. Ridley, Ms. Wiwchar, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Jumaga, Mrs. Alm and Mr. Boice, who all poured their efforts into our athletes these past two months. There was a lot of exciting volleyball played down the stretch, with over 50 players involved on the five teams that competed. You did us all proud!

### **Basketball**

League play for School District 73 basketball begins in January, but we are already starting to prepare for the season now. We are looking for coaches for our boys and girls teams, at the Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 level. If you have a passion for basketball and would like to have the opportunity to coach one of our teams, please contact Mr. Rempel or Ms. Wiwchar.

### **Library News:**

Thank you for participating in Teddy Bear Days Nov. 16 - 17. We had 160 stuffies on display in the library! Students voted on their favourites:

Cutest Bear: #107 Evan Brodie  
Most-Loved Bear: #27 Paige Butler  
Tiniest Bear: #46 Maya Swan  
Best Dressed Bear: #96 Lily Purnell  
Largest Bear: #64 Haley Darling  
Best "Non-Bear: #58 Ava Read

On Nov. 25, we said goodbye and good luck to Mrs. Gail Kipp, our wonderful Library Assistant. Mrs. Kipp is retiring after a long and successful career in our school district. Her retirement is sure to be filled with exotic travels and family adventures!

**Leadership Group:**

In October the leadership group held a haunted house and food drive for the Kamloops Food Bank.

November leadership group had a fundraiser for prostate cancer by purchasing stick on moustaches for Movember. All participating students donned their moustaches on Friday, November 18th. We donated \$90.00 to the Movember fundraiser. Thanks for your support

Also, student from the Grade 6/7 classes participated in WE BAKE for CHANGE; A fundraiser to raise funds for sustainable resources in a third world country of their choice. Students baked shortbread and sugar cookies that were sold at the school's craft fair on Nov 26th.

**Dec. 16th Spirit Day - Santa hat and red and green day.**

**Toy Drive:**

As a school, we are supporting the “Toys for Kids” event sponsored by the 97.5 The River Radio Station. If you have the means to do so, please send a new toy to your child’s class on any day between November 29 and December 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a great way for us to spread some Christmas cheer and help out some of the less fortunate in our community.

**PAC Corner**

Next PAC Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.



# Board Notes

## ***From the Board Meeting of: November 7, 2016***

1. Principal Grigg, Aboriginal Education Worker Shane Camille, and students of Haldane Elementary School provided the Board with an Aboriginal Education presentation that included a welcome song with dancing and drumming. Packages of sage were also provided to the Board, district administration, and members of the public who were present.
2. The Board enjoyed a presentation on Problem Based Learning from Teacher Telisa Johnston and students from Chase Secondary School.
3. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with a report on the activities of the Superintendent's Council for the month of October.
4. *Notice of Motion* was provided on Policy 306.3 Assessment: School Completion (Evergreen) Certificate.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, November 21, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.



# Board Notes

## ***From the Board Meeting of: November 21, 2016***

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
  - a. Finance and Planning Committee Report;
  - b. Policy Committee Report;
  - c. Notice of Motion – Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct;
  - d. Notice of Motion – Policy 612.1 Student Dress Code.
2. The Board enjoyed '*Presentations of Learning in Elementary Math Classrooms*' by District Numeracy Coordinator Amanda Russett, Teacher Lisa Carr, and two grade 3 students from David Thompson Elementary School.
3. The Board received an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination presentation from Graham Specht, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Kamloops Immigrant Services. The Board signed an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Declaration to show support for programs and initiatives promoting diversity and inclusivity in our communities.
4. The Board approved the District's 2016-2017 Interim School Learning Plan process and the school staff development focus areas for all schools.
5. The Board received and reviewed a report on the 2016-2017 graduation ceremony schedule.
6. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the 2015-2016 CommunityLINK Funding and Information Report;
7. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the Enrolment Comparison Report for their information.
8. The Board received an update from Secretary-Treasurer Stretch on Ministry of Education Rural Education Strategies.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday December 12, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.