



Pacific Way Elementary
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Newsletter

Mid-January, 2017

January 18th – Schools of Choice Information Night at HGEC (6:30 pm)
January 20nd – In Service Day – No School for Students
January 23rd -27th – Literacy Week (see article below)
January 30 – Student Reporting Open House at HGEC (5-8 pm)
February 6th – Young People’s Concert
February 9th – Kindergarten Information Night at HGEC (6:30 pm)
February 13th – BC Family Day – No School
Feb 14th – Feb 17th – Kindergarten Registration – 9 – 12 and 1 - 3
February 23rd – Parent Teacher Interviews – Students Dismissed at 12:30
February 22nd – Pink Shirt Day
February 24th – Non-Instructional Day – No School for Students

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It turns out that January is a significant month in the history of Pacific Way Elementary School. Our beloved secretary, Mrs. Dacho, is retiring, and her final day of work will be Friday, January 27th. Mrs. Dacho has been the secretary here for the past 9 years, and she has served our school and our district with great distinction over her career. Although this in my first year as principal here, I am having a hard time imagining life without her helping to steer the ship. Please join me in thanking her for putting her heart and soul into our school community. We all wish her the very best as she embarks on the next leg of her voyage!

Basketball News: Basketball league play will start up next week. We have 70 student athletes who will be representing Pacific Way over the next couple of months. Thank you to the following coaches and teacher sponsors.

Tier 1 boys: Coach - Mr. Aujla, Teacher sponsor – Mrs. Morrow

Tier 1 girls: Coach – Mr. Egdell, Teacher sponsor – Mrs. Anderson

Tier2 boys: Coach – Mr. Ollek, Teacher sponsor – Mr. Rempel

Tier 3 boys: Coach – Mrs. Ridley and Mrs. Jumaga

Tier 3 girls: Coach – Mrs. Nikkel and Mrs. Macauley, Teacher sponsor – Mr. Bigham

Go Coyotes!

Library News: Soon, your child will be bringing home information about "Unplug and Play" Literacy Week in the city of Kamloops, January 23 - 27. We will be doing many special literacy-based activities in our school during that week, as well. Get ready for our annual Book Swap and book donations to the Heap the Honda Book Drive, "Read Me" day, book clue contests, book giveaways, and the "Unplug & Play" challenge! It's going to be a great week!

PAC News: On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank our PAC for funding our new Pacific Way Coyote team jerseys, resplendent in maroon and white, and sporting our new Coyote logo on the front. Our basketball teams will be clad in their new duds when the season starts next week. Thank you to all parents for your part in the fundraising process that helped make this a reality!

The Second Annual PAC Grand Raffle ticket will be going home with students shortly. There are some fantastic prizes this year! If you do not wish to have a booklet to sell, please return it to the school. If you require more books of tickets please email the PAC at pacwaypac@gmail.com

The next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Assessment/Reporting Open House: The Ministry of Education is hosting a Public Engagement Presentation on Student Reporting from 5 - 8 pm on the evening of Monday, January 30 at the Henry Grube Education Centre. BC's new school curriculum is making sure students are ready to succeed in our changing world. The Ministry of Education wants parents to share how they want to learn about their child's progress from kindergarten to Grade 9. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please visit engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/

Kindergarten Registration: This is taking place earlier than in previous years, to help with planning for September. Schools of Choice registration dates are taking place from January 30 to February 3, from 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 3 pm. Regular kindergarten registration dates for neighbourhood schools takes place from February 14-20 (same times apply). If you are interested in finding out more about Schools of Choice, there will be an information night at the Henry Grube Education Centre on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30. Our school district is also hosting a Kindergarten information night on Thursday, February 9 at HGEC at 6:30. This is for all parents of children who are entering kindergarten and is an opportunity to learn more about Kindergarten and child care. See posters near the front office for information on both of these events, or go the school district website. (sd73.bc.ca)

To be eligible for attendance in Kindergarten in September 2017, a student must be five years of age by December 31, 2017. Please bring your child's original birth certificate, CareCard, and a proof of address with you when registering.

Student Transfers for 2017/2018: Requests for student transfers that will commence in September will be accepted starting on March 1, 2017, and ending at 12:00 noon on September 1, 2017. All submissions must be made in writing and forwarded to the receiving school's principal. All decisions regarding student transfers will be in accordance with Board Policy 300.1 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests.

Message to Parents Regarding FSA Tests

Our students will again be participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) this year. The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning basic skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy. The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and to make plans to improve student achievement. The skills tested are directly linked to the provincial curriculum and student performance is measured against provincial performance standards. The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in the public and provincially funded private schools.

The FSA is designed and developed in BC under the guidance of the Ministry of Education using professional test-making processes and protocols. The ministry employs teams of practicing BC teachers and subject specialists, led by test-design specialists, to develop the assessments. The assessment design and development process is rigorous and continuous and results in a test that is relevant and congruent with provincial curriculum and standards.

The ***Student Learning Assessment Order (School Act, sections 81 and 168)*** provides the legislative authority that mandates administration of the FSA to **all** Grade 4 and Grade 7 students. Students are expected to write the FSA. Principals and teachers do not have the authority to excuse students from participation unless they meet specific criteria (on modified IEP or have a medical/emotional disability). If students are in attendance at school during the testing period they are expected to participate in the assessment.

The FSA takes approximately 270 (4.5 hours) minutes to administer, spread over two or three days. This year the FSA will be administered during January. The assessments will be marked and results for individual students will be ready to send home by the end of March. School reports will be ready before the end of the school year. This timeline will allow time for teachers and parents to confer about student results and to address concerns before the end of the school year.

Further information and practice materials can be found through the Ministry of Education Website and or by contacting the school principal.
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

Community News:



**KAMLOOPS
KMBA
MINOR BASEBALL**

kamloopsminorbaseball.ca

Youth Ages 4-17 (1999–2012)
Registration Details and Dates Online

OFFERING INDOOR WINTER BALL
OUTDOOR SPRING & FALL BALL

New players welcome.

★★★★★



UMPIRES WANTED

For More Information
www.bcbua.ca
www.kamloopsminorbaseball.ca/Umpires

Join the fun—become an umpire today.
Earn some money and enjoy each game
from the best seat in the house!

★★★★★



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: December 12, 2016

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - a. Adoption of Regular Public Board Minutes of November 21, 2016;
 - b. Revised Implementation Schedule of the Graduation Years;
 - c. Naloxone Guidelines;
 - d. District Parent Advisory Council Report;
 - e. Parks and Recreation Committee Report.
2. The Board received a beautiful Strings presentation, introduced by Principal Griffith.
3. The Board approved two Out-of-Province Field Trip Requests from Westsyde Secondary School and NorKam Senior Secondary School.
4. The Board approved an Out-of-Province Field Trip Request from the International Student Program.
5. The Board received a presentation from Manager Pinette on the *Discover the World of Information Technology* conference.
6. The Board received information on the Kindergarten enrolment schedule for 2017/2018 from Director Smillie.
7. The Board received the School Completion Report, presented by District Principal Brar and Teacher Mr. Lowe.
8. The Board approved the Creativity, Innovation and Curriculum Grants presented by Director Robinson.
9. The Board adopted a revised Board Meeting schedule for 2016-2017.
10. The Board approved revisions to Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct and Policy 612.1 Student Dress Code.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday January 16, 2017 at the Henry Grube Education Centre, 245 Kitchener Crescent, Kamloops, BC.