



Pacific Way Elementary
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Newsletter

October 2016

October 3rd - Earth Rangers @ 9 am
October 5th - Den Group Harvest Lunch
Oct. 10th - Thanksgiving Day - No School
October 11th - Picture Day
October 18-20th - Scholastic Book Fair
October 19th & 20th - Early Dismissal Day - !2:30 pm
Oct. 21st - Non-Instructional Day - No School
Oct.27th - Family Hallowe'en Dance - 6pm to 7:30
Nov. 8th - Picture Re-take Day
Nov. 11th - Remembrance Day - No School
Dec. 9th - Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

Greetings

It's been a terrific September here at Pacific Way Elementary. Thank you all for making me feel welcome. It's a joy to come to work here each day.

On that note, thankfulness is our school virtue focus for these two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Each day we focus on this virtue through our morning announcements and in the classrooms. As we each make choices to be grateful people, appreciating the little things which happen around and within us each day, we position ourselves to become more positive people, spreading the joy of gratitude around. I would encourage you as parents to create opportunities for your children to show appreciation for the wonders all around them!

As the year goes on, we will continue to focus on different virtues on a bi-weekly basis. After Thanksgiving, our next two virtues will be friendliness and service.

Practicing Thankfulness at Pacific Way - Den Group Harvest Lunch, Wed., October 5th

At Pacific Way we are striving to provide students opportunities to recognize and develop gifts of character. One of these important gifts of character is the virtue of **thankfulness**. We believe we have much to be thankful for. With Thanksgiving approaching, what could be a better time to practice being thankful for all we have. We will be taking time to gather in our multi-grade den groups to eat lunch, celebrate our good fortune, and share some of our good fortune with others in need (Kamloops Food Bank).

On Wednesday, October 5th, the students will be asked to bring their lunches and we will meet as a school family to eat together (at 11:40) and take the time to be thankful for all we have.

Until that day, we are asking everyone to bring in a donation to the Food Bank. Please take a moment to talk to your child about how we are fortunate to have so much and that it is kind to be able to share with those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you for helping us build a community of caring and sharing at Pacific Way.

- Please do not pack any items with nuts that day as there may be students with allergies in your child's den group.
- Food bank donations will be collected starting tomorrow in your child's classroom.

Punctuality - Just a friendly reminder that our doors open for students at 8:20 each morning. The expectation is that students will be in their classrooms ready to learn before the 8:30 bell. Being on time is essential to getting the day off to a good start. If for any reason your child does arrive late, please remember that our morning announcements happen at 8:30, and during that time all students and adults are requested to stop, wait and listen carefully, until the announcements are complete. I really appreciate everyone's cooperation with this. It just sets a great tone for the day.

Fall Weather - Remember that the weather is starting to change to cooler weather. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as we encourage students to go out for **all** breaks.

Morning Supervision - Some students are being dropped off very early in the morning before classes begin. Please remember that there is **NO** supervision and that they are not allowed into the building until 8:20 when the first bell rings.

Student Supplies - Please remember to send your child's school supply, agenda, and Young People Concert fees to the office as soon as possible if you have not done so.
They are now due.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal

Are you booked for an appointment? Our first set of Parent / Teacher Interview are scheduled for **Wednesday, October 19th & Thursday, October 20th**. Please see your child's teacher to make an appointment.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm on these days to facilitate the afternoon interviews.

Peanut Free: please know we have a number of students at our school that are severely allergic to peanuts and nut products. Be aware of this when sending snacks or lunches that contain this product. This is especially critical in the rooms identified by signs that say Peanut Free Room.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Provincial Teachers' Professional Development Day: - Oct. 21st - there will be no school for students on this day.

Library News: Welcome back to school! Here are some upcoming events in the library (we will send home more information closer to the date):

October 18 - 20 - Scholastic Book Fair

November 16 - 17 - Teddy Bear Day

Here is our library schedule for the year:

Wednesdays: Alm, Bigam, Russell-Sherwood, Morrow, Johnson

Thursdays: Salle, Sandhu, Wassing, Anderson, Gundel, Thoms

Fridays: McLaren, Wiwchar

Generally, students will be given the opportunity to sign out books according to their grade level (gr. 2 gets 2 books, gr. 3 gets 3 books etc.), however, we tend to change these numbers slightly according to the needs of the students. For example, already we are allowing our very responsible gr. 1s to sign out 2 books. In addition, when students have research projects or novel studies, we also increase the sign-out limit. If your child forgets his/her library books on library day, we ask that they be "lookers" and only browse -but not sign out- books until last week's books are returned. This is an important lesson in responsibility and personal organization!

We are always looking for library volunteers to help shelve books and keep things organized throughout the year. We would also appreciate parent helpers at our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Please come and visit me in the library or send me an email if you can help in any way: apiva@sd73.bc.ca

Safe Arrival : Just a Reminder: Parents please remember to call into our safe arrival number (250) 434-3067 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.

Volleyball News: Volleyball season is just around the corner. Season for all groups will start the week of October 18th. Triple ball will be played by tier 2 and 3 teams and will be introduced to all tiers next year.

Thank you to the parent coaches that have stepped forward to help coach more teams this year. Tier 1 girls coached by Ms. Wiwchar and Charlene Anderson, Tier 1 boys coached by Terri Ridley, Tier 2 boys coached by Mrs. Morrow. Tier 3 girls coached by Ty Boice, Mrs. Alm and Mrs. Jumaga and Tier 3 boys coached by Terri Ridley. Looking forward to a great season.

Cross Country Run Club: Pacific Way's Cross Country Run Club is off to a successful running season!

Congratulations to our students who have competed in the club runs. Thank you to Mrs. Johnson & Ms. Wiwchar for organizing our team.



Terry Fox Run On September 22nd we joined schools throughout Canada and celebrated the 36th Anniversary of the Terry Fox Run. Our run wrapped up a week of collecting "Toonies for Terry" and talking about the significance of the Annual Run in his name. A big thank you to Ms. Wiwchar for organizing the run as well as to all who volunteered. Thank you to all the parents and staff who were on the route to ensure kids were safe: Also, thank you to PAC for handing out water to thirsty runners. The students raised \$501.00 this year.

PAC Corner

Our next PAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday November 8th at 1:00 pm**. Please join us to hear what's new and exciting with PAC this fall.

Our new **PAC Executive for the 2016/2017 School Year:**

Co - Chairs: Ashley Folk and Candice Ewen

Treasurer: Shandel Belley

Secretary: Lora Sartori

Community News

Connect Parent - An attachment based program to support parents and caregivers

Starting in October 6:30-8:00

10 Sessions

The program is designed to support parents of per-teens and teens.

The aim of the program is to provide parents with a new perspective on parent-teen relationships and adolescent development.

We understand that each child and each parent is different and change is part of the development.

Rather than teach only one way of parenting, the program helps parents see choices that support healthy relationships while setting limits and helping their teen to move forward.

* Connect groups are led by trained Connect Leaders.

Your group leaders- Melanie Parker and Nicole Tomm will work hard to understand the challenges you face and to support you and your relationship with your teen.

Please contact Melanie Parker mparker@sd73.bc.ca

Nicole Tomm ntomm@sd73.bc.ca



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: September 12, 2016

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation on Edison Robotics from Principal Jake Schmidt, Teacher Jason Sandhu, and two grade seven students from Pacific Way Elementary.
2. The Board received an update on this year's school start-up.
3. The Board approved the Early Closure Dates for the 2016-2017 school year.
4. The Board received a Projected Enrollment Snapshot Report.
5. The Board received a report on the New Reporting Order and Guidelines, presented by Director Robinson.
6. The Board adopted the Revised Schedule of Board Meetings for 2016 and 2017 for rural communities.
7. The Board approved the addition of 7.72 FTE elementary teaching positions for the 2016-2017 school year.
8. The Board received, reviewed, and approved the 2015-2016 Audited Financial Statements.
9. The Board approved a request from BC Special Olympics to support, in principle, the City of Kamloops hosting the 2017 Summer Games.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, September 26, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.



Board Notes

From the Public Board Meeting of: September 26, 2016

1. The Board received a request from Christopher Seguin of the Rotary Club (Kamloops) to continue to use the NorKam Senior Secondary cafeteria to provide support for Children in Schools and the Community; and additional support with the Starfish Program that will supply vulnerable students with backpacks filled with food.
2. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal Mike Bowden, District Literacy Coordinator Patricia Persad, and a team from Thompson Rivers University, which described a "Customizable Learning Framework Using Technology" to enhance vocabulary learning. The team demonstrated a vocabulary learning app developed for literacy teaching and learning.
3. The Board received a summary of the 2016-2017 Long Range Facilities Plan from Director McDonald.
4. The Board approved the 2016-2017 Capital Plan summarized by Secretary-Treasurer Stretch.
5. The Board approved an increase in the number of members on the selection committee to include a Trustee representative for the OWL Award for Excellence in Public Education, and a change in the deadline for nominations to October 31 of each year.
6. The Board received an analysis from Assistant Superintendent Hamblett on new student enrolments for September 2016.
7. The Board approved the recommendations made by Associate Superintendent Olsen for process and timelines to establish a three-year school calendar for submission to the Ministry of Education by March 31, 2017.
8. The Board approved the Learning Improvement Fund Fall Allocations for 2016-2017.
9. The Board received *Notices of Motion* on the following revised policies:
 - Policy 200.1 Board Meetings
 - Policy 203.1 Trustee Remuneration
 - Policy 506.5 Graduated Adults: Course Fees
 - Policy 912.1 Principals and Vice-Principals: Mobility
 - Policy 912.2 Principals and Vice-Principals: Process for Appointment
 - Policy 1136.1 Travel: Expenses and Insurance

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 3, 2016 at Vavenby Elementary School, 3157 Galiano Road, Vavenby, BC.