



Pacific Way Elementary

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

Newsletter

December, 2017

December 4th – Non-Instructional Day – No School for Children
December 13th - Christmas Concert dress rehearsal @ 1:00 p.m.
December 14th – Christmas Concert @ 6:00 p.m. (doors open @ 5:45)
Please bring a Food Bank item Donation to the Concert
December 15th – Term 1 Report Cards Go Home
December 22th – Last Day before Winter Break
January 8th – First Day Back after Winter Break

Honesty:

Our current virtues focus at Pacific Way is honesty. Billy Joel once sang a song with the lyrics, “Honesty is such a lonely word...” That’s a sad commentary, but it doesn’t have to be that way. We want our students to be brave and learn to speak the truth, even when it may cause some momentary pain. The truth is, everyone makes mistakes sometimes, and how freeing it is to be able to admit one’s mistake and make things right with honest words and actions. In our discussions about the virtue of honest these past two weeks, we are reinforcing the sign of success in practicing this virtue:

- *Say what you mean, and mean what you say*
- *Make promises you can keep*
- *Admit your mistakes*
- *Refuse to lie, cheat, or steal*
- *Tell the truth tactfully*
- *Be true to yourself, and do what you know is right*

Thank you for supporting these important life skills with your children. We believe that honesty can become a very popular word!

Culture of Thinking:

As we continue to focus on our goal of empowering students to grow in their creative and critical thinking skills, we are learning more about tools and strategies that challenge and position our students to make their thinking more visible. One particular strategy is a thinking routine called, “I used to think..., but now I think...”). This routine helps students to reflect on their thinking about a topic or issue and explore how and what that thinking has changed. As they are reflecting, students are developing their reasoning abilities and recognizing cause and effect relationships.

So I was thinking, what a cool little exercise to do around the dinner table with your family, or as you are driving somewhere or just hanging out together. Could be after a visit with extended family, or a movie your watch together, or talking about something that your kids have learned in school that day (e.g. “I used to think that salmon were...but now I think that they are...”). It could be a way to make a conversation richer and open new pathways for thinking and communication!

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 8:23 am, and please remember that students are not supervised outside before this time and after 2:30 pm.

Safe Arrival:

Just a Reminder: Parents along with letting the teacher know, 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. If you have not called the Safe Arrival Line you will receive an automated phone call.



Lates:

Students are considered late if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings. We do have a number of students who are late every morning. Late arrivals are disruptive to our teachers and our classrooms. Students do miss out on important announcements that are made each morning. Please establish routines at home that will assist your child in arriving to school on time.

Parking Lot:

Our parking lot has become a safer place since the beginning of September, but there are still concerns. I will from time to time be placing 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.

Noon Hour Supervision 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 12:15-1:15 daily. If you are interested, even if you can only work on certain days, please contact Mrs. Gunton or Mr. Rempel.

Report Cards:

Term 1 report cards are being sent home on December 15. 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!

Please also be aware that there are some new regulations in the report cards this year, particular in regards to Grade 4 and 5. Teachers of these grades will not be assigning letter grades for the subjects or Arts Education or Physical Education, as per Ministry of Education reporting guidelines.

Volleyball Season:

Pacific Way's Volleyball season has come to an end. Thanks to Mr. Wai Ma, from Sahali Secondary, who coached the tier 1 girls. They played well together all season and showed tremendous growth in their skill development. Special thanks to Terri Ridley, who coached the Tier 2 boys volleyball team. The boys made it through to the final day of playoffs. They developed their skill and made some great plays during the season. Congratulations. Big thanks to Mrs. Cynthia Morrow for her help with the Tier 3 girls team. They played extremely well and showed great sportsmanship. Finally, thanks to Ms. Wiwchar for coaching the Tier 1 boys team. They played extremely well and really gelled together as a team, making some pretty incredible plays. They made it to the final day of playoffs, where they showed great sportsmanship and tremendous teamwork. In fact, the Tier 1 boys team battled it out with St. Ann's for the district championship in an epic final match last night. The game went to a 3rd set tie breaker and the outcome was not decided until the final point. Congratulations on a terrific season. We are so very proud of you!

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:

Have You Been Wondering About Battle of the Books?

The Battle of the Books program was developed by School District librarians to encourage and to recognize students who enjoy reading and to broaden reading interests. As many as 30 elementary schools participate in Zone and District Battles in April of each year.

A list of books is chosen for grades three & four, grade five, and grades six & seven. Students read the books, discuss them, quiz each other on the contents and compete in teams of three to correctly answer the questions based on the books. The questions used all begin with "In what book..." so that the answer will always be the title of a book.

New lists of books for every level are compiled each year by a committee of the teacher-librarians based on the Criteria of Book Selection. An attempt is made to vary the titles chosen as to genre and difficulty so that readers may encounter a broad range of books.

Battle of the Books proves to be effective in its specified purpose – to stimulate an interest in reading! It is popular with students and has provided new opportunities for academic competition.

At Pacific Way, I am meeting informally each week at lunch with students who have expressed interest in Battle. Right now, I am simply encouraging them to take a Battle bookmark to record which books they have read, and to just keep reading! Teams will be decided on in February or March.

Parents, please help your child to take good care of our library books during these slushy winter months! We are getting MANY books returned lately which are damaged: food and water stains, ripped pages, etc... Unfortunately, students are responsible for damaged books, even accidental damage, because the library then must purchase and process a new copy. Thank you for understanding.

PAC News:

The annual Craft Fair was a huge success with nearly 70 local vendors.

The Paint Nite fundraiser is on January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Romeo's Kitchen. Look for our flyers coming out soon!

Grand Raffle Ticket fundraiser is almost up and running. Look for tickets coming out in January.

Next PAC meeting to be announced in December. Look for an evening PAC meeting coming soon.

Thank you – Parents, Students, and Staff:

Thank you for your support of the “Backpacks of Necessities and More” to the children in Russia (in orphanages and on the streets). Once again you supported this project with such generosity and interest. As we move into our Canadian season of gift giving and receiving, please know your gifts will make a difference to children who have so very little. Thanks again - Donna Greenlay.

Community News:

BC Winter Games February 21-25 at Pacific Way Elementary:

Pacific Way Elementary is in need of volunteers for the BC Winter Games. Dorm volunteers are needed for athletes staying at the school. To volunteer please go to website: bcgames.net/kam2018w and then look to volunteer under “Accommodations”.



Kamloops Classic Swimming Life Saving Sport Group

“The only sport with a humanitarian purpose”

FREE TRIAL: January 9th & 11th @ the TCC Pool, 6:00 – 7:00PM.

The goal of the Lifesaving Sport Group is to introduce swimmers to a sport, which builds community lifesavers. Lifesaving Sport is recognized by the International Olympic Committee and is extremely popular across the Commonwealth countries and beyond. Many Canadian high performance athletes have traveled to Australia, Singapore and across the globe for National and International Events.

Class Dates:

Tuesday / Thursday: 6:00 – 7:30PM

Friday – TBD upon Registration, dependent on Age / Skill LVL.

Saturday: 8:45 – 10:15AM

All Lessons are taught by a Certified Life Saving Instructor.

For more information and to register, contact admin@swimkamloops.com or visit www.swimkamloops.com.





CONNECTING STUDENTS
TO THEIR FUTURE



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON)
1388 9th Avenue
Kamloops, BC
V2C 3X7

NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 6, 2017

CONSENT AGENDA

- o Education Committee Highlights
- o Finance and Planning Committee Highlights
- o Superintendent's Update
- o Innovation Through Inquiry Grants

EDUCATION TOPIC

The Board received a presentation from Logan Lake Secondary School staff and students called *Community Starts Here*. Coordinated by Principal Preymak and Teacher John Blakely, the school's teachers and students demonstrated the connection to the community within their classroom projects. Special guest, Mayor Smith, introduced the school's project and highlighted the contributions of the school to the community of Logan Lake.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

RESPONSE TO STUDENT CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION - The Board approved a recommendation to work together with the Student City Council to expand the mandate to create a Student School Board Council that would provide input into topics and policies that impact youth in all School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) schools.

REPORTS FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER

CEF FUNDING UPDATE - A request for additional funding for an additional 6.6942 FTE teaching staff was submitted to the Ministry of Education to support class size and composition issues.

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Wade told trustees about her attendance at Thompson Rivers University as a Search Committee member in their search for a new president.

The next public board meeting will take place December 4th at the School Board Office at 7 p.m.



250.374.0679



250.372.1183



www.sd73.bc.ca

Where do you want to go? | We'll get you there!