



Pacific Way Elementary
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Newsletter

January, 2018

January 17th – Schools of Choice Information Night at HGEC (6:30 pm)
January 20th -27th – Literacy Week (see article below)
January 23rd – PAC meeting @ 6 pm in school library
January 29th – Feb.2nd – Schools of Choice registration
February 7th – “Speed Control” performance in gym @ 1:30pm
February 9th – Young People’s Concert
February 12th – BC Family Day – No School
Feb 13th to Feb 16th – Kindergarten Registration – 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 3pm
February 22nd – Non-Instructional Day – No School for Students – BC Winter Games
February 23rd – Non-Instructional Day – No School for Students – BC Winter Games
March 1st – Kindergarten Information Night at HGEC (6:30 pm)
March 16th – Term 2 reports go home – Spring break begins

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy New Years to you all! We are now into our fifth month of the school year and we are all looking forward to what is in store for the next six months. Our virtue focus for the first two weeks is confidence. The student leaders and I are working on our next school wide assembly, which will take place on Monday, January 15th at 10:45 am. We are featuring a number of our intermediate students who are sharing about things that they are passionate about and what has given them the confidence to grow and succeed.

One of our school goals is developing higher order thinking skills in our learners, particularly creative and critical thinking. One of our strategies in helping students to build confidence in that area is to connect them with their interests and passions, which also happens to be one of School District 73’s key priorities in their strategic plan, which is posted near our school entrance. It’s exciting to see the many different ways that students are extending their learning as they explore their interests through such things as “power hour” or “genius hour” in their classrooms.

Children and Social Media:

Being a parent these days is increasingly challenging, particularly in the midst of our ultra-connected, technology/media driven society. When we provide our children with smart phones and tablets, we are putting some pretty powerful tools in their hands. That’s a good thing in many ways, but also can potentially expose children to things that they are not ready for.

One example of this is an app called Snapchat, where users can send Snaps (photos, videos, and/or text) directly to others on their friends’ list, or post photos or videos to their Snapchat Story for others to view. Snaps – the short-hand term given for these photos and messages sent to friends – seem to “disappear” within seconds of getting opened (though nothing really

disappears), and their ephemeral nature makes many users feel like Snapchat allows them to express their real selves.

Parents should be aware that although Snapchat requires users to be 13 years old as per [COPPA \(“Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act”\)](#) laws, users self-report their ages – so younger kids can (and do) use the app. Why am I telling you this? It may be that your own children are using this app, (or will one day), and it’s really important that you know what your kids are up to. The more you know about the technology your children have access to, the better you can communicate with them and monitor what they are up to. Remember, it is totally within your rights as parents to decide upon what technology your child has access to, and to set limits on its usage as well. Technology, used properly and respectfully, can do a lot of good, but, when used irresponsibly, has the potential to bring much harm.

Basketball News: Basketball league play will start up next week. We have over 80 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. Ollek, Teacher sponsor – Mrs. Gundel

Tier 1 girls: Coach – Mrs. Nikkel and Mrs. Macaulay

Tier 2 boys: Coach – Mr. Aujla

Tier 2 boys: Coach – Mrs. Morrow

Tier 3 boys: Coach – Mrs. Jumaga

Tier 3 girls: Coach – Mr. Egdell

Each player will be bringing home a consent form and an athletic contract over the next few days. We have high expectations for all of our athletes, in that they will commit to representing Pacific Way with great sportsmanship and respect. And, of course, that they will have a ton of fun playing basketball....Go Coyotes!

Library News: Soon, your child will be bringing home information about “Unplug and Play” Literacy Week in the city of Kamloops, January 20th - 27th. 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: Our Paint Night on January 22nd is sold out. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to our next Paint Night which will be held in the spring. Our Grand Raffle fundraiser will launch by the end of the month.

The next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. Everyone welcome.

Kindergarten Registration: Schools of Choice registration dates are taking place from January 29 to February 2, from 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 3 pm. Regular kindergarten registration dates for neighbourhood schools (Pacific Way) takes place from February 13-16 (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 17 at 6:30 pm. Our school district is also hosting a Kindergarten information night on Thursday, March 1 at HGEC at 6:30 pm. This is for all parents of children who are entering kindergarten and is an opportunity to learn more about Kindergarten and child care. There will also be a session at the Grube on May 15 @ 6:30 pm for families or students with diverse needs. See posters near the front office for information on both of these events, or go the school district website. (www.sd73.bc.ca)

To be eligible for attendance in Kindergarten in September 2018, a student must be five years of age by December 31, 2018. Please bring your child’s original birth certificate, CareCard, and a proof of address with you when registering.

Student Transfers for 2018/2019: Requests for student transfers that will commence in September will be accepted starting on March 1, 2018, and ending at 12:00 noon on August 31, 2018. 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.

Noon Hour Supervision Volunteers: We are in need of Noon Hour Supervisors. Please let us know if you can help us out. A \$10.00 per diem is paid.

BC Winter Games School District #73 Challenge: Dates: February 22nd – 25th, 2018.

What: The School that has the highest percentage of volunteers from their school will win a pizza party for their whole school!

Why: Our SD#73 Team is in charge of accommodations! We really need a lot of people to volunteer as 'Dorm Captains' for our school.

How: 1) Register to volunteer at BCgames.net/kam2018w
2) Email sd73wintergameschallenge@gmail.com
3) Write your name and your school! Hit Send

Please encourage your family and friends to volunteer. Thank you.

School Board Notes: Will now be posted on our website.

Community News:



ATTENTION ALL BASKETBALL PLAYERS - Kamloops Hoops is offering Xmas Camps and WINTER bball groups for grades 2-5 & 5-7!! Check out KamloopsHoops.com for full details and online registration.

Kamloops This Week is looking for door to door carriers for students and adults. Interested in a route? For more information, please call the circulation department at 250-374-0462

United Way

Free Money for Resps

Contact Information if you have any questions:

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