



Strathcona Elementary School Newsletter



November, 2020

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'We inspire competence, character and compassion.'

Dates to Remember



Fri. Nov. 6	Drop Everything and Read
Tues. Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Wed. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day 'Lest We Forget'
Mon. Nov. 16	Assessment Day: No School for Students
Fri. Nov. 20	Hot Lunch: Safeway
Tues. Nov. 24	PAC mtg. @ 7:00
Thurs. Nov. 26	Spirit Day: Moustache Day
Fri. Nov. 27	Pro-D Day – No School
Tues. Dec. 1	Deck the Halls / Red and Green Day

Principal's Message

Congratulations to our students and staff for our terrific effort and success in inspiring competence, character and compassion. I am so amazed and thankful for the hard work and dedication both by our staff and our parents that takes place each day in our building. On my daily visits to classrooms, I see students truly engaged in their learning and teachers often point out individuals who have made tremendous gains in their achievement. As I walk the halls and visit the playground, I notice how friendly, kind and helpful our students are, be it saying hello to me, including others, or making strong choices during playtime. As we approach November, our virtue focus will move from patience to compassion. This is truly a special school where together, we are really making a difference in the lives of all of our students!

Jonathan Ferris

The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

D.E.A.R.



During the afternoon of Friday November 6, we are going to be 'dressing up' in our pajamas and reading our favourite books.

Remembrance Day Assembly



Our district wide Remembrance Day Assembly will take place virtually on Tuesday, November 10th inside our classrooms. We will be distributing poppies to our students on Tuesday and donations for poppies can be made in the classroom or at the office and all contributions will go toward our veterans in Chilliwack.

Assessment Day

Schools will be closed for students on Monday November 16th as staff are working on student assessments.

Hot Lunch

Our next Hot Lunch will take place on Friday, November 20th and we will be ordering soup and sandwiches from Safeway. Thank you to our wonderful parent team for organizing this!

PAC Meeting

Our next PAC meeting will be held over Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 24th.

Moustache Day



On Thursday, November 26th we are encouraging everyone to wear moustaches to support finding a cure for prostate cancer.

Professional Day

Friday November 27th is a Professional Day where our staff will be working on curriculum initiatives in our building

Parking Lot

Parents, in order to ensure that our students are safe, please refrain from walking through the parking lot before and after school. Please also use the drop off area in the front of the school between the orange flag and the front crosswalk. We appreciate your cooperation!


Breakfast / Lunch Club

Our breakfast and lunch clubs are open and we welcome any students who would like to visit and eat in a very welcoming atmosphere.

Student Absences

Parents, please call the school at 604-792-9301 to inform us if your son or daughter will be late or absent. We have an answering machine that is checked each morning. Thanks for helping us with this!


Inclement Weather Guidelines



2020/2021

INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDELINES

Information for Parents and Students



Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites. For more details on how this is done, [click here](#).

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the **School District website** www.sd33.bc.ca or tune into radio stations **STAR FM (98.3 FM)** or **THE DRIVE (89.5 FM)**, to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

A **Transportation Snow Plan** is in place for students who rely on travel by school bus and live in higher elevations such as Chilliwack Mountain, Little Mountain, Majuba Hill, Ryder Lake and some areas of Columbia Valley and the Eastern Hillside. An announcement will be made should travel in these areas become challenging due to slippery road conditions. (Please note: the greater Promontory area does not have a snow plan).

All inclement weather announcements will be posted on the District website www.sd33.bc.ca



How are District Sites and Road Conditions Assessed during Inclement Weather?

Beginning at approximately 2:00 a.m., a team of maintenance and transportation staff begin investigating road conditions and conditions at district sites. Unpredictable conditions can be a result of the varying elevations within Chilliwack. For this reason, road assessments take place in the following areas:

Rosedale, Pogum, Little Mountain and Chilliwack Mountain, Columbia Valley (to the U.S. Border), Chilliwack Lake Road (to Allison Pools), Promontory, Ryder Lake (to Look-Out Point), Prest Road, Marble Hill, Yarrow (including Majuba Hill), and Greendale.

District crews provide an estimated time that snow and ice will be cleared from parking lots, sidewalks and buses. The Manager of Transportation also consults with City of Chilliwack Maintenance Staff and the Fraser Valley Regional District (EMIL Anderson). Weather reports and storm warnings are taken into consideration for the day. Other concerns include fallen or low-lying trees, power failures, accidents and traffic flow. Sidewalks that have excessive snow due to snow removal off the streets are also a safety concern, especially along corridors where students would normally walk to school.

Decisions are also made based on weather conditions forecasted for the "whole day". If weather changes mid-day there is no way for us to bring students home early because in many cases both parents are working, or may not be home.

Once area assessments are complete, the Facilities/Transportation Team meet to compare their observations. A recommendation is then made to the Superintendent of Schools prior to 5:00 a.m.

How do we make a decision to announce a Snow Day?

Once a recommendation is received, the Superintendent of Schools makes a decision based on the information provided; taking into account the safety of students and staff as a primary concern.

A district announcement is immediately placed on the local radio stations, School District website and social media sites. Notification is also sent to staff, District partners, Community/NLC Coordinators, Daycares and Preschools.

Snow Days are announced on a day-by-day basis only. If inclement weather should continue for more than one day, a routine assessment will occur each day with recommendations brought forward prior to an announcement.

Should inclement weather occur over a weekend, Community School/NLC Coordinators and Principals at these sites are updated and notified of any closures so they may plan accordingly should they need to cancel rentals and re-schedule planned events. For this reason, Community School and NLC sites (or sites hosting significant events) are given priority for snow removal on weekends.

Principals should notify Facilities Staff of significant planned events (including weekend events) booked at their site so that snow removal crews can be scheduled accordingly.

Library



Please click on the following link for information from the library: <https://bit.ly/2Txe1aG>

Deck the Halls



On Tuesday December 1st we will be decorating our classrooms and hallways in anticipation of the festive season.

Christmas Concert



We'll be creating a 'virtual' Christmas Concert using 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' as our theme. Our video will be sent out on an 'Unlisted' YouTube channel in December.

PAC



Thank you to our terrific PAC who fundraise tirelessly for items such as i-Pads, field trips and other resources that enhance our students' experience at school. You are so appreciated!

