



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

A.E. Perry Elementary School

Home of the "RoadRunners"

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Newsletter # 3

November 28, 2007

*****NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.** This is a school in-service day. There will be no one here so do not send your child to school that day.

With December right around the corner, there are many things happening of which you should be informed. Please read this newsletter carefully in order to ensure you are aware of these events and activities.

EARLY CLOSURE:

We are closing early on Thursday, November 29th for Parent/Teacher interviews. Report cards came out last Friday, and this is an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the progress and any concerns. If you have been contacted by your child's teacher, or if your child's teacher has contacted you, please be there for the appointment.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30 on Thursday. Please ensure you have discussed with them your expectations for what they are to do, prior to coming to school on Thursday morning.

SNOW CONCERNS:

With the recent cooler temperatures and snowfall, we are moving into that time of the year when we have to talk about safety and management of behaviours. First, I would request that parents ensure their children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. All students are expected to go outside at recess. Therefore, they need to be wearing clothing that will keep them warm and dry during that time. We are unable to provide inside supervision of students, so please don't send notes requesting your child be allowed to stay in at this time. They will have to go outside.

Second, we have begun some of our inside noon hour activities. Students can make choices about various places inside the school they can be from 12:30 to 1:00. These include the library, the computer lab, arts and crafts, games room, and karaoke, at present. We will hopefully be able to add activities as we find supervision for them.

Third, we are requesting that all students have indoor footwear (shoes, slippers, runners) to wear inside the building. During the snow and melt season, we ask all students entering the building to remove their outside footwear at the door, and place them on the racks near the doorways. Inside footwear can be put on there, when entering, and left there upon leaving the building. This will help to keep our floors cleaner and drier. When the floors get wet from the melting snow, they become very slippery, which creates a severe falling hazard for anyone walking there. Another safety issue is

that in the event we have to evacuate the building in an emergency, there is no time for students to put on their outside footwear, so they would have to go outside in the footwear they have on, so it is important that they are wearing some sort of shoe.

Finally, throwing snow is a concern, and all students have been informed that they are to not throw snow. This is a practice that we need to ensure happens so that students do not get injured (accidentally or otherwise) by being struck. Students found throwing snow receive various consequences, which may include such things as writing lines, walking with a supervisor, standing against the wall, attending Consequence Room, and shoveling snow, among others. Please help us to keep all our children safe by reminding your child about the school's expectation that snow is not thrown.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS:

Practices for our Christmas concert are under way. Mrs. Telford is leading this venture. Things will be a little different this year than they have been for the past few years. The concert is titled, "*Santa's Online Adventure*" and will feature actors from the grade 7 classes, with each of the other classes taking on the role of a different country, and presenting a song from that country.

Our stage will be going up next week, and the gym will be closed for PE classes until after the concert.

The date for the concert is Thursday, December 13th. There will be two performances that day. The afternoon performance is one where we encourage families who do not work outside the home to attend. It will begin at about 1:10 and lasts for about an hour. The evening performance is scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm, and is for those families where parents work. Unfortunately, we do not have enough room in our gym for all parents to attend the evening performance, so it is very important that you come to the afternoon performance, if possible.

We have also scheduled a dress rehearsal of the concert for Wednesday, December 12th in the afternoon, and a run-through of the whole thing on Tuesday morning. For these, we would prefer parents not attend, as we will be working on the logistics of the performance.

With the whole school involved in these presentations, it is important that all the children are at school, on time, for these days. Please help us to keep your children healthy and awake, by ensuring they eat proper breakfasts and lunches, and get plenty of sleep each night. They will be pretty tired by the end of the week.

The following week is the final week of school before the winter break. It has proven to be fairly low-key and quiet, for the most part. We are planning a few activities during the week, along with our regular instruction in the classrooms. I will be showing a movie to students on the morning of Friday, December 21st.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA) RESULTS:

I have received the results of the FSA testing done last March with our grade 4 and 7 students. Any parents of grade 5 students who would like to view their child's performance on this test from grade 4 should contact me for a meeting. I would be happy to share your child's results with you. Parents of students who wrote in grade 7 last year, may view their child's results at their current high school.

Overall, the results for AE Perry are generally good, but are down a bit from previous years. In the next while, I will be presenting information about our school results to the PAC (likely during the January meeting).

Our School Planning Council (SPC) will be meeting shortly to begin to develop the school growth plan. Changes to legislation allow us to plan a longer term for the growth plan (3years, as opposed to annually), but we are required to have the plan developed and approved earlier than in the past. My thanks to the parents who have volunteered to be part of the SPC: Ester Wagner, Rowena Martin, and Deanna McKenzie.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Once again, this year, classrooms will be creating gift baskets that will be raffled off during our Christmas Concerts. PAC is sponsoring this event, and proceeds from the sales will go to the classrooms who participate in the baskets.

MRS. TELFORD'S CLASS:

Mrs. Telford's grade seven class would like to let you know about our upcoming PINATA RAFFLE. The pinatas are made by the students and are beautiful creations. Our raffle will run from December 10th to 19th and the tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. You can purchase your raffle tickets at lunchtime between 12:15 and 1:00 pm as well as at the Christmas concerts on Dec. 13th. Your support of our yearend class trip would be appreciated.

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPPE:

Come and visit our store and get all your gifts for Christmas. You'll find our store in Room 1 from December 17th to 21st at 12:15 to 1:00 pm and 2:30 to 3:15 pm (except Fri. Dec. 21). An extra special time has been added for Kindergarten parents / students: 11:00 am to 11:30 am each day.

KAMLOOPS FOOD BANK:

The holiday season can be a difficult time for many families. The Kamloops Food Bank feeds 600 children each month and they need your help. Our supplies are getting low and we are in need of food and winter clothes. Donations can be dropped off at

171 Wilson Street on the North Shore, or phone 376-2252 for more information.

From the Board Meeting of: NOVEMBER 19, 2007

1. Vice Chair Ken Christian rose on a point of order to acknowledge the election of Chairperson John Harwood to the inaugural position of Mayor of the District of Clearwater
2. Principal Doug Smith and students from the Social Justice Committee of Westmount Elementary School presented on the issues of global hunger and poverty.
3. Principal Patti Holm and Stéphane Leduc, a French Monitor funded through the federal Odyssey Program to support French language instruction in Kamloops schools, presented on his role and activities.
4. Trustee Chris Rose reported on his recent experiences in Armenia. Chris was sponsored through the Canadian Government CESO Program to assist teachers in Armenia in developing special education programs and services.
5. Denise Harper, Chair of the YMCA-YWCA Board of Directors, and Michelle Walker, Program Director, presented the YMCA Peace Medallion to Dawn Aziz and student representatives of the "Kids Helping Kids" initiative at Brocklehurst and South Kamloops Secondary Schools.

Chair Harper also acknowledged the work being done by Blake Buemann and students at South Kamloops Secondary School on the "DWC Volunteer Guatemala" initiative.

6. The Board approved entering into a lease with the District of Barriere for a portion of the Barriere Ridge Annex facility, with a provision to sublease a portion of the space to the North Thompson Volunteer Information Centre. The remainder of the building will be leased to Yellowhead Community Services.
- The Board approved a recommendation that the Clearwater Community Resource Centre and Yellowhead Community Services be approved for Stage III funding under the Community Connections Program for the Dutch Lake Elementary School facility.
7. The Board approved a request for Music/Fine Arts students from South Kamloops Secondary to travel to Seattle on May 3 to May 5, 2008.

8. Manager of Technology Gregg Ferrie reported on the implementation of BCSIS and Thin Client.
9. Further to the presentation by Donovan Cavers and Matt Greenwood at the previous Board Meeting, Superintendent Terry Sullivan reported that one copy of the film "The Great Global Warming Swindle" has been received and will be referred to the review committee responsible for determining the suitability of such material for use within district schools.
10. Further to a presentation by the Haldane Elementary Green Kids Club and the Chase Secondary Green Club at the previous Board Meeting, Superintendent Sullivan reported that administration will be meeting with students in Chase to develop a plan to restrict vehicle idling near schools.
11. Notice of Motion was provided for Revised Board Policy #321 "Transportation of Students."

From the Board Meeting of: NOVEMBER 5, 2007

1. Principal Anthony Rempel, Vice Principal Janice Patterson, Ollie Melnychuk and students from Haldane Elementary presented on the initiatives of the school's "Green Kids Club."
2. Principal Jameel Aziz, Bernice Jensen, Jennifer Murray and students from Chase Secondary presented on two key initiatives currently underway in their

- school: the E-Spirit club and the student proposal to promote Social Responsibility at Chase.

 - Marie Laroche and Darrel Johnson of the Retired Teachers' Association presented the Board with three copies of "A Passion for Learning." This recently published work of educators' memoirs is available for sale in retail venues around the district.
 - Donovan Cavers and Matt Greenwood presented on the issue of environmental change films and specifically on the film "The Great Global Warming Swindle." Superintendent Sullivan advised that this matter will be referred to administration and a report brought back to the Board. He also noted that such films are regularly received by the district and are referred to a committee of teachers for a recommendation.
 - The Board approved a motion in support of the recent provincial "Education Guarantee." This initiative would guarantee tuition-free education to adults who have previously graduated, but require upgrading.
 - The Board agreed to provide information regarding the BC Olympic/Paralympic Youth Leadership Academy to students in Grades 9 and 10 across the district.
 - The Board approved the participation of students from South Kamloops Secondary, Chase Secondary, Clearwater Secondary and Four Directions in the E-Spirit Conference scheduled for late Spring 2008.
- The Board approved an out-of-province field trip request from Sa-Hali Secondary. Band students will travel to Seattle in April 2008.
 - Chair John Harwood reported that he and the Superintendent met with the Minister of Education last week to discuss recent retroactive changes to the funding formula. While the Minister provided assurances that these monies would be redistributed later in the year, the implications of such a redistribution are not known. The Board expressed considerable concern at the affects of this change and will be meeting with local MLAs and sending a letter to the Minister to register that concern.

SD #73 District Parent Advisory Council presents “Hold On To Your Kids” With renowned speaker Dr. Gabor Maté on Sunday, December 2 at 7 pm at the Henry Grube Educational Centre

All parents are invited to attend this FREE session. Outlying schools in Barriere, Chase, Clearwater and Logan Lake will be linked through video conference.

Hold On To Your Kids tackles one of the most disturbing and misunderstood trends of our time—peers replacing parents in the lives of our children. Dr. Maté will address the importance of maintaining child and adolescent relationships with nurturing adults; and how the lack of this leads to a variety of behavioural and social problems. Dr. Maté will discuss how to build and maintain family ties, or how to regain them. Dr Maté’s books will be available at a discount price that evening. For more information, contact DPAC Chair Paula Schmidt at 377-3002.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Please save this calendar for your reference. It will be updated in the monthly newsletters.

Nov. 29/07	Early Closure (P/T Interviews)	Mar. 14/08	Pro-D (school closed)
Dec. 03/07	Pro-D Day (schools closed)	Mar. 26/08	Schools re-open
Dec. 13/07	Christmas Concert – afternoon and evening performances	Mar. 28/08	2 nd Report Cards home
Dec. 21/07	Last day before Winter Break	Apr. 02/08	Early Close (P/T Interviews)
Jan. 07/08	Schools re-open	Apr. 9/08	YPC #4 – Brothers From Different Mothers
Jan. 16/08	YPC #2 - Bluesberries	May 05/08	Pro-D (school closed)
Feb. 4-15/08	FSA Weeks – Gr. 4 & 7	May 19/08	Victoria Day
Feb. 13/08	YPC #3 – Chinese Acrobats	June 26/08	Last day for students
Feb. 22/08	Pro-D (schools closed)	June 27/08	Last day for teachers
Mar. 13/08	Last day before Spring Break		

Newsletters will be posted on the school website for those with internet access. The address is: <http://aeperry.sd73.bc.ca>