



Bowser Elementary School

"Building Educational Success Together"

Newsletter 8 December 1, 2009

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Mr. Tony Saremba, Principal

Mission Statement

Bowser Elementary School is committed to providing a nurturing environment wherein children participate in learning experiences, which enable and empower them to develop their individual potential and become lifelong learners.

School Goals

Literacy

Goal: To improve student achievement in the area of literacy by focusing on increasing reading comprehension levels.

Objective: To develop and implement a cross-curricular learning framework (based on Reading Power and Smart Learning) to increase literacy competency in all subject areas.

Message from the Principal

Thank you to all parents who were able to meet with their child's teacher for a report card interview. If you have not yet met and would like to do so please contact the school office at 757-8487 and leave a message for your child's teacher.

PAC sponsored Christmas craft morning will now take place on **Friday, December 4th**. If you can help out on the morning of the craft day, December 4th please phone Marnie at 757-2317. We have some amazing and exciting crafts for the children to complete.

We are looking for "Buddy Readers" to support our students with reading. If you have some time free time to volunteer to read with students, we could use your help at BES. Please contact the school, if you are interested in this program.

Encourage your child to be honest in difficult situations

Research shows that by the time kids reach elementary school, most know the difference between honesty and lying. But that doesn't make truth-telling easy! To encourage honesty in your child:

Be a role model. Children are good "lie detectors." They notice when parents tell the truth and when they don't.

Reward trustworthiness. If your child is truthful in a difficult situation, compliment him!

React calmly. When your child lies, don't label him a "LIAR." Express confidence that he will make better choices in the future.

Discuss honesty. Why is it important to be honest? Note examples of honesty and dishonesty-and their effects.

Create opportunities for telling the truth. Say, "You broke my vase," instead of, "Did you do this?" It's better to say what happened rather than to ask unnecessary questions. Source: Karen Stephens, "Lying, Fibs, and Tall-Tales: Teaching Children to be Truthful," mysmallwonders, www.mysmallwonders.com/resources/pdf/LYINGO1PELibrary.pdf.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for visiting the book fair. We will let you know, in our next newsletter, how many books we have been able to put into our library because of the book fair. Thank you to all the parent volunteers that assisted with the book fair. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Pahl for organizing this event.

Donation of QF Points

We have an account at Quality Food. If you would like to donate any QF Points to Bowser Elementary, please mention it to cashiers. Points are exchanged for items that are used by students and staff at our school

Teach your elementary schooler to express anger with respect

It's hard to be angry and respectful at the same time. But expressing anger with respect is essential. You and your child can control your reactions if you:

List triggers. Think about what makes you most angry. Being disobeyed? Being told what to do? Commit to reacting calmly to these situations.

Identify "red flags." Start by noticing what anger is like for you. Does it make you hot? Make you want to scream? These are important warning signs.

Think. When you feel angry, ask yourself. "What made me angry?" "What else did I feel?" Anger can sometimes really be disappointment or embarrassment.

Leave the source. If possible, walk away from what is frustrating you and try to calm down.

Make good choices. There are many respectful ways to release anger. Write in a journal, paint a picture or exercise. When you're angry with a person, wait until you are calm to talk. Source: Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis, *How to Take the Grrr out of Anger*, ISBN: 1-57542-117-8 (Free Spirit Publishing, www.freespirit.com).

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will be held on **Thursday, December 17th at 6:30 pm**. Parents, family members and neighbours are all invited to attend the concert. Information about the Christmas Concert:

- Students should be in their classes by 6:15 pm.
- Spectators are expected to remain for the entire concert.
- Please turn off all cell phones prior to the concert.
- Please supervise all your children, who are part of the audience, carefully.
- Parents pick up their students from their respective classes after the concert.
- Please do not park in the staff parking lot.

For safety, families are encouraged to bring a flashlight to use when walking along Faye Road.

Power Outages and Extreme Weather—What do we do when the power goes off at BES?

If the power is off for a portion of the day, school will continue as usual as the light is adequate and we have water. We consider other options such as phoning parents when the temperature is cold and the expected length of the power outage, as determined by B.C. Hydro, is significantly long. On warmer days we would continue with students at school even if the power outage is predicted to be lengthy.

When students are sent home due to a power outage or a snowfall, it is carried out as follows: parents or the emergency contact identified by the parent is contacted. If parents or the emergency contact cannot be contacted students remain safe at school till the end of the regular day or until alternate arrangements can be made.

Students are not released from school without the parent or emergency alternate being contacted first. We do not permit students to go with friends or neighbors, etc, unless permission is obtained from the parent. Please note we only have one phone line and it is a lengthy process to phone all parents. As you know we do not have cell phone reception in the school. We ask parents to please refrain from calling the school during such circumstances as described above unless it is an emergency; this will help free up our phone line.

Funky Friday

Students, staff and community members coming to BES are encouraged to participate in our Funky Fridays. On Friday, December 18th it will be "Christmas Colors Day".

Bad Weather Reminders

Given the forecasts for snow and freezing temperatures, it is timely to provide a reminder to parents of district procedures when bad weather or other events impact on schools. In such circumstances, the decision about whether schools will be open or buses will be running will be made in time to notify media outlets by 6:30 am. District staff will be considering current and forecasted road and weather conditions, and also whether schools have power. These staff access information that is available from Highways Maintenance, our own crews and other community members in order to verify local conditions. Conditions vary across the district, and sometimes from school to school. Below freezing weather overnight may mean that conditions are hazardous for travel. We recommend parents exercise their judgment based on their own local circumstance when making the decision whether to send or drive their children to school. Parents have expressed concern in the past about impassable sidewalks en route to some schools. Clearing roadways or sidewalks is the responsibility of municipalities. Parents are reminded to have a battery operated radio, and non-portable phone in the event of a power failure so that they can monitor media for reports on school operations.

H1N1

Preventative measures

There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like the H1N1 flu virus:

- Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of their elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least two meters (six feet) away from people who are sick.
- Children who are sick should stay home from school and daycare and stay away from other people until they are feeling better and able to fully participate in normal activities.

Hand washing verses hand sanitizers.

Health authority's note that hand washing with plain soap and water is the preferred method of hand hygiene in schools and child care centers as the mechanical action is effective at removing visible soil as well as microbes. In instances where hand washing sinks are not available, supervised use of alcohol based hand rubs may be considered. If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol based hand rubs may not be effective at eliminating the influenza virus.

PAC News

Poinsettia Fundraiser - The Poinsettia order is going in on Wednesday and delivery to our school will be on Wed December 9th so pickups will be on Thursday December 10th.

Winter Themed Baskets - This annual Fundraiser has started - We are asking for donations to put towards the baskets. There are 3 themes this year which are the Chocolate Delight Basket, the Family Entertainment Basket and the Stocking Stuffer Basket. There are boxes at the front of the school for the donations to be put in to. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Enrichment Day - this is happening on Friday December 4. We have chosen some great crafts for the children to do this year. We are hoping that each child will be able to donate \$1.00 towards this event. We will be looking for volunteers to help out at this event so please call the school and let them know if you are able to assist that morning, we only have 5 helpers so far and need at least 5 more.

Magazine Subscriptions - You can always order these online throughout the year - so go to www.ccrp.ca and the code is BC2165. The prizes will be handed out this week and the draw for the MP3 player will be on Thursday morning.

PAC Meeting - Tuesday December 15, 2009 at 6:30pm in the library. Babysitting will be provided and bring in some yummy goodies to share.

Community News

Christmas BLAST!!! Program starts Nov. 25-Dec. 16 every Wednesday after school, from 3:00-4:00. We're making some great crafts, playing some games and hearing some great stories! Everyone welcome, no charge and an after school snack will be provided. For more information contact Lynda at 757-9596 or lyndahearn@shaw.ca

Milner Christmas Magic takes place from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm from Dec 4 - 6, Dec 11 - 13 and Dec 17 - 21. A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden. Admission is by donation. Santa will be here!

RDN Recreation and Parks Programs - Register online and view program details at www.rdn.bc.ca. Or call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014.

Jersey Skate Sat Nov 28, 2:00-3:30

Ravensong Breakers Swim Club: Expert coaching for all levels ages 5-18 Call Natalie 954-7088 or go to www.racbreakers.ca.

Express Camp 11-14yrs Have fun on your Winter Break! A different trip every day.

Drop-In Shinny Hockey Mondays, 4:30-5:30pm for 12-15 yrs Fridays, 3:45-4:45pm for 8-11yrs

RDN - Rudolph's Christmas - Oceanside Place RDN is offering a morning of fun for ages 2-5 year olds Friday December 11, 2009 at Oceanside Place 10:00-11:30 am \$10/1*Pre-Registration is required 248-3252 Or 250-752-5014

Polar Express 5-11yrs 8:00am-5:00pm Mon-Thu Dec 21-24 Mon-Thu Dec 28-31 \$96/4, \$26.25/1

For more information on activities/events for students and families go to www.sd69.bc.ca.

Dates to Remember

Every Monday	WOW Bus - open 9:30-11:30 am
Every Tuesday	Mother Goose - 10:30 - 11 am in the library
Every Tuesday	Chess Club - lunch recess in the library
Every Friday	Quilting Club in the library
December 4	Enrichment Day
December 17	Christmas Concert @ 6:30 pm
December 18	Last Day of Classes prior to Winter vacation
December 18	Funky Friday - Christmas Colors
January 4	School re-opens after Winter vacation

Entry Form: Please complete this form and return it to the school by Monday, December 8th, 2009. I remembered to give this newsletter to my parents.

Name of student

Parent/Guardian signature