



# Bowser Elementary School

"Building Educational Success Together"

Newsletter 9 December 15, 2009

Box 112, 4830 Faye Road  
Bowser, BC V0R 1G0  
Phone: (250) 757-8487  
Fax: (250) 757- 8593  
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

Craft morning on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> was awesome. The students had an excellent time creating a craft for their families. Huge thanks to the many volunteers who ensured this event was a great success.

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.

On behalf of the staff of BES, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone when school reopens on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## Ensure your child continues to learn over the school holiday.

Your child looks at the calendar and imagines the joy of having no schedule for the whole winter school holiday. You look at the same blank squares on your calendar and have a mild moment of panic.

However, the winter break can give you a chance to spend a little extra time with your child. Here are some activities that will keep her learning and that will keep you from hearing, "I'm bored" during the holiday:

**Assemble a list** from your local newspaper of places to go and things to do. Every community has places that will interest kids. Check out a local museum (see if they have a day when admission is free). Look for free concerts you can attend. See if the local public library has any special story hours or performances.

**Get outside.** Be sure you schedule time every day to be outdoors. Walk, bike, skate, ski, but get outside!

**Look for a video** based on a children's book. Read the book first, and then watch the video. Discuss how the two were alike, and what differences you saw.

**Prepare food together.** Nearly every culture has some special foods associated with the holiday season. With your child, prepare foods you remember from your childhood. Share your memories. Or do some research and prepare a dish you've never tried.

**Volunteer.** Set aside time for a family volunteer activity. Feed animals at the animal shelter. Make sandwiches for people living on the street. Your child will learn the best gift is the gift of service.

### **Book Fair**

**WOW!** The Bowser community knows the importance of books and reading! We had a great turnout for the Fall Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to all who attended! We sold about \$2300 worth of books, and of that, approximately \$1200 goes back to the school library for books for the library. This is a very important fundraiser for the school library. Again thank you to all, and ultimately it is the children of the school benefiting two-fold, by having good books at home and at school. I would also like to thank the PAC parents who helped me get this book fair organized. With their help, everything went very smoothly. This school is fortunate to have such great support from our PAC parents. I would like to say an extra big thank you to Kelly Wray, as she went above and beyond to help me. Library Technician, Debbie Pahl

### **Funky Friday**

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

### **Christmas Concert**

Our Christmas Concert will be held on **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. For anyone that cannot make the evening performance, we will be having a dress rehearsal at **9:45 am on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Parents, family members and neighbours are all invited to attend the concert. We will be accepting a non-perishable food item as a donation for admission to the Christmas 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.

#### **Costumes**

Room 1 - Mrs. Spencer-Dahl:

- Jeans, white shirt, bandanna
- If you have a Santa or Elf hat for your child to wear that would be great.

Room 4 - Mrs. Hagarty:

- Pajamas
- They may bring a blanket or bear.

Room 6 - Ms. Stepp:

- Boys should wear jeans that can be rolled up a bit and "Christmas colored" dress shirts that the collars can stand up.
- Girls should wear skirts that can twirl and, if possible, have pony tails in their hair.

Room 7 - Ms. Jones:

- Blue jeans, bandanas, plaid shirts
- Cowboy hats and cowboy boots (if you have them)

Room 8 - Mrs. Macleod:

- Brown clothing.

## 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.

## 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.

## PAC News

**Poinsettia Fundraiser** - Thanks to everyone who participated in this fundraiser - I will get you exact figures but it looks like we made over \$800.00.

**Winter Themed Baskets** - We are asking for you to bring in your 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. LAST DAY for donations will be on Wed Dec 16th as the baskets need to be made up that evening.

**PAC Meeting** - We will NOT be having a meeting this month!!!!

**Magazine Subscriptions** - You can always order these online throughout the year - so go to [www.ccrp.ca](http://www.ccrp.ca) and the code is BC2165. The Winner of the MP3 Player was from Ms. Jones Grade 3 class: **Reese Murray-Loewen**. Congrats and hope you enjoy.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### Community News

**Name the Bowser School Camp Contest!** All children attending Bowser School are invited to enter the RDN "Name the Bowser School Camp Contest". Entry forms are available from your teacher. Enter as often as you like! The contest will close December 17<sup>th</sup> and the winner will be announced in early January. The prize is one free week of summer camp at Bowser School. Please note there has been an extension of the entry deadline.

**Instructors are needed** for after school children's programs in Bowser. Please contact Recreation Programmer, Kim Longmuir at 250-757-8118 or [klongmuir@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:klongmuir@rdn.bc.ca) if you are interested and for more information.

**The annual Bethlehem Walk** will be held on December 13,14,15,16 - 6:00- 8:30 pm at 550 Pym Street, Parksville Baptist Church. This is a family friendly event. Enjoy it all without cost but with an opportunity to donate money or food to the *Salvation Army* Convenient parking & free shuttle bus service from Wembley Mall near Re-Max.

**Family Resource Association's Winter Wonderland Open House!** 181 Sunningdale Road West Qualicum Beach Tuesday December 15 Drop in from 2-6:30 pm Enjoy refreshments, meet our wonderful staff, create festive crafts, baking and games. All ages welcome!

**Shoots with Roots Winter Break Sessions** at Milner Garden Dec 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 9am-3pm \$30/day/child Outdoor fun and learning with friends in the winter beauty of Milner Gardens & Woodland. Crafts and activities in the new Shoots with Roots Ursus Den classroom.

[www.milnergardens.org](http://www.milnergardens.org) under 'education'

**RDN Recreation and Parks Programs** - Register online and view program details at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca).

**Winter Wonderland On Ice** December 16-26, 2009 Oceanside Place Enjoy the special display of trees and twinkling lights... you'll feel as though you're on an outdoor pond at night. A full schedule of public skating is available online at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or call 250-248-3252.

**Polar Express** 5-11yrs Don't miss the train! Sign up early for this popular winter break day camp where we have games, crafts, and special activities planned just for you! 8:00am-5:00pm Mon-Thu Dec 21-24 Mon-Thu Dec 28-31 \$96/4, \$26.25/1

**Express Camp** 11-14yrs Register by the day... Laser Tag, Movie Day, Martial Arts. Dec 21-23 & Dec 28-30. \$36/1

**Swim Lessons** begin the week of January 5.

**Pond Rascals Skating Lessons** begin the week of January 12.

**Women's Sport Sampler 16yrs+** Mon 6:30-8:30pm at Arrowview Elementary School Jan 11-Mar 1

**Beginner Latin/Ballroom Dance 16yrs+** Thu 7:00-8:00pm at Arrowview Elementary Jan 21-Mar 4

**Let's Start Running 16yrs+** Wed 6:00-7:15pm at Ravensong Aquatic Centre Jan 6-Mar 3

For more information visit us at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014.

### 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 17	Christmas Concert @ 6:30 pm Dress Rehearsal at 9:45 am
December 18	Last Day of Classes prior to Winter vacation
December 18	Funky Friday - Christmas Colors
January 4	School re-opens after Winter vacation

