



Bowser Elementary School

"Building Educational Success Together"

Newsletter 11 January 19, 2010

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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.

Principal's Comments

Every year on January 27 we celebrate Family Literacy Day. Families and communities across Canada celebrate this special day at literacy-themed events coordinated by literacy organizations, schools, public libraries and families. Family literacy programs focus on parents as the means to improve the reading and writing skills of all family members. Family literacy is a powerful way to support parents by showing them how they can help their children become confident and effective communicators. Promoting learning activities at home ensures that children acquire the reading comprehension, writing and math skills that prepare them for productive, fulfilling lives. Given that these skills evolve and strengthen throughout a person's life, engaging parents and their children in regular literacy-building activities supports adults in their own learning. We encourage taking part in these activities.

During the school week of February 1st-5th, we will be hosting Primary Math Playground. It is a collection of hands on math activities used to promote numeracy skill in our primary students. In order to maximize the enjoyment and effectiveness of the Math Playground, we are looking for parent volunteers to assist with the activities. If you can assist, please contact the office.

Your family's good habits lead to your child's good attendance.

Kids are tardy for all kinds of reasons, such as missing the bus, oversleeping and being unable to find something important. Some tardies are unavoidable, of course. But others are easily prevented with daily habits, such as:

Study routines. Do homework at the same time, and in the same place, each day. Have your child double-check her schoolbag for anything you need to read or sign. When study time is over, pack the bag and put it by the front door.

Nighttime routines. Stick to a regular bedtime each night. Kids might brush teeth, find the next day's outfit and put on pajamas, while parents pack lunches, set alarm clocks and tuck in kids. Any late-evening activities should be relaxing, such as listening to music or reading.

Morning routines. Post a check-list of responsibilities, such as getting dressed, having breakfast and brushing teeth. Parents must stay on schedule, too, so their work (making breakfast, driving to school, etc.) supports their child's success.

Funky Friday

Students, staff and community members coming to BES are encouraged to participate in our Funky Fridays. On Friday, January 29th it will be "PJ Day". Please bring your favorite PJs, stuffies, etc on this day. Please remember our dress code is still in effect on this day.

What can you do to make sure your child is listening to you?

You've talked and talked. But you feel like a television set with the volume turned down—your child just isn't listening. Nothing is so frustrating to parents. But there are things you can do to make sure your child listens when you have something important to say, "Peyton, I need to say something to you." To get your child to listen, try these two strategies:

Make eye contact. If your child's eyes are on the TV set, her brain is there, too. So calmly say, "Peyton, I need to say something to you. Could you look at me, please?" Remember: If you shout, "Look at me when I'm talking to you," your child is likely to just tune you out!

Remember that less is sometimes more. Keep your instructions short and simple. It's best to give no more than two steps at a time. "Please pick up the books and put them on the shelf." Any more than that and your child is likely to forget what you've asked. Source: Stanley Turecki and Leslie Tonner, *The difficult child*, ISBN: 0-553-38036-2 (Bantam Books, a Division of Random House, www.randomhouse.com/bantamdell).

Full Day Kindergarten to be implemented in School District 69 in September 2011

Full day Kindergarten will be implemented in School District 69 (Qualicum) in September of 2011, Eve Flynn, the Board Chair announced today.

In the Throne Speech last year, the provincial government had announced it would implement full-day kindergarten over two years with funding for fifty percent of 5 year old students in the province starting in September 2010, and all 5 year olds eligible in September 2011.

In the fall of 2009, the Ministry of Education asked districts to complete a survey of their capacity to offer full-day kindergarten and asked Boards to submit a plan of proposed implementation. In a report submitted to the Ministry of Education on November 30, 2009, the Qualicum Board of Education requested that full day Kindergarten be implemented simultaneously in all of its elementary schools.

The District has since been advised by the Ministry that in response to the Board's plan, full-day kindergarten will be implemented in School District 69 in September of 2011.

In the interim, the district will continue to plan and prepare for full-day kindergarten.

For ten years, the district has worked with the Building Learning Together Coalition of Community Partners to offer early learning opportunities for children and their families through a variety of programs such as the Words on Wheels bus, Mother Goose and Friends, Mother Goose Goes to School, and the Munchkinland Strong Start Partnership Centres. Through Building Learning Together, the district has also worked with a local network of pre-schools and child care centres, some of which are located in elementary schools. This collaborative work with our community partners to support early learning will continue.

Information will be provided to parents and the community about the implementation of full-day kindergarten which will begin in September 2011.

Eat Well Get Moving Program

The School District and community, through the RDN Recreation and Parks, will be promoting Healthy Living again this year through their annual Eat Well, Get Moving Initiative! It will run for six weeks, starting January 18th through to February 27th and be tied into the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games. Students/staff from K-12 are encouraged to participate by adopting a healthy lifestyle through fitness and nutrition!

Participation score cards are available at all District schools. Exercise regularly, eat healthy with 5-10 servings daily of fruit and vegetables, and keep track your healthy lifestyle with your score card. Individual prizes will be awarded every second week and at the end of six weeks - students and class rewards.

Participating students and their families will be invited to attend the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Games on the evening of Feb. 12th at the Parksville Community and Conference Center to celebrate the start of the Olympics and their participation in the EWGM program. Many more prizes and raffles will take place at this community event.

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.

Community News

BLAST!!! Program will start this Wednesday, **January 20th**, after school until 4:00. Drop in is welcome. For more info call Lynda at 947-5736 or lyndahearn@shaw.ca

Musical and Dramatic Classes 7-13 yrs, Wed., 4-5:30pm at Dolphin Bay Studios, Wallbeach Rd. Acting & vocal training in an atmosphere of supportive fun with a performance of the musical adventure, "Treasure Island" on April 24. Contact tstavroff@shaw.ca or 752-9867 for more info.

Qualicum Beach's annual Seedy Saturday will be held on February 6th in the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre starting at 10:00am.

It's not too late to join in these Lighthouse Country programs!

Bowser Buddies 0-5yrs are you looking for an afternoon of games, playing, singing, and making new friends with your children? Come out and share in this active class close to home. Parent participation is required. Instructor: Lori Chesley Lighthouse Community Centre Wed 9:30-11:00am 23927 Jan 20-Feb 24 \$31/6

Lace Up and Run Stronger In Lighthouse Country Are you hoping to improve your running pace and form and maybe enter a 5 or 10km event? Let NCCP Level 3 distance running coach and Qualicum Bay runner, Heather Beatty, show you how to reach your personal goals and make every km count. She will design a safe training program for you and encourage you every step of the way as you challenge yourself. Instructor: Heather Beatty Bowser Tennis Court parking lot Mon 8:45-10:15am 23937 Jan 11-Mar 1 \$49.50/8

Hatha Yoga Bowser School Mon 6:00-7:15pm Jan25-Mar 1 Thu 6:00-7:15pm Jan 28-Mar 4 \$52/6

RDN Recreation and Parks Programs - Register online and view program details at www.rdn.bc.ca.

Winter Carnival on Ice

Come out for some fun Carnival games and win Carnival prizes! Sat Jan 23 Everyone Welcome 2:00-3:30pm Regular Admission

Boys Squad 5-12yrs A sport mixer for the boy who wants to try everything! Activities vary from basketball and floor hockey to flag football and soccer. No sporting experience required. Bring lots of water! French Creek Elementary School Thu 6:00-7:00pm 5-8yrs Jan 28-Mar 4 Thu 7:00-8:00pm 9-12yrs Jan 28-Mar 4 \$25.50/6

German Ju Jutsu 7-16yrs Come learn the basics of self defense in what is rapidly becoming known as the world's most complete martial art! A fun introduction just for kids! Vancouver Island German Ju Jutsu Systems Jan 27-Mar 3 Wed 4:00-5:00pm 7-9yrs Wed 5:00-6:00pm 10-12yrs \$36/6 Jan 28-Mar 4 Thur 4:00-5:00pm 13-16yrs \$36/6

For more information visit us at www.rdn.bc.ca or call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014.

PAC News

50/50 Draw - this will be happening the night of the PJ Party...Form will be coming home next week with more info.

PJ Party - this is happening on Friday Jan 29th right after school from 3:00 - 8:00pm. We have a lot of stuff planned for the kids this year and there will be some new things on the agenda (No Movie). We are looking for at least 10 more volunteers; it is a fun night so please come. You will need to have a criminal record check done before next Friday (it's free) :) - Please send in the consent forms as soon as you can so we can plan the teams, food etc.

Pancake Breakfast - This is happening on Sunday February 14th - it will be a busy one so looking for some people who would be able to volunteer for this event....

Workshop - Effective Strategies for Parenting Girls!!!! This will be on Tuesday February 9th, 2010 at 11:30am - 1:30pm or 6:30pm - 8:30pm. You will learn strategies to support girls to grow up independent and secure. Help girls challenge girl culture, stereotypes and social rules. Help girls analyze media and social aggression, promote positive communication and promoting success at home, school and life. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available from the Office (we have only 40 for the day event and 40 for the evening event). This will be held at the Parksville Community Centre. Hope to see you there.

PAC Meeting - Tuesday January 19, 2010 @ 6:30pm in the library. We are not sure if there will be a babysitter at this meeting tonight. In short, we are looking for Volunteers..... If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please email or call Marnie Burden 250-757-2317 mburden@shaw.ca or Gonda Lekx 250-752-3943 nglekx@shaw.ca

Dates to Remember

Every Tuesday	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
January 29	Funky Friday - PJ Day
Feb. 1-5	Primary Math Playground
Feb. 10	Dental screening for Kindergarten students
Feb. 12	Wear Valentine colors - Red, pink and/or white
Feb. 19	Reporting Day - Students do not attend school
Feb. 22	Professional Development Day - Students do not attend school
March 1	Second term report cards go home
March 5	Last day before Spring Break
March 6-21	Spring Break
March 22	School re-opens

Entry Form: Please complete this form and return it to the school by Monday, January 25th, 2010.

Name of student

Parent/Guardian signature