



Bowser Elementary School

"Building Educational Success Together"

Newsletter 7 November 17, 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.

A reminder that there will be no school for children: Friday, November 27TH — BES Reporting Day.

Message from the Principal

I would like to share with parents how extremely well behaved our students were during the Remembrance Day Assembly. Their behaviour was exemplary. Many of our students were participants in the Remembrance Day Assembly. The student presentations were outstanding. Well done students! Thank you to the Legion members, parents and community members that attended our assembly. We certainly appreciate your support and attendance at our assemblies.

We are looking for volunteers for our Buddy Reading Program. We have members of our community read with students to help us with our literacy goal. If you would like to help us with Buddy Reading, please contact the school.

Students will be bringing home report cards on Wednesday, November 25th, and conferences will be scheduled for Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. **STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th.** If you haven't made arrangements for a parent-teacher conference, please phone the school. Parent-teacher conferences are an excellent communication tool between home and school.

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.

Do you know the ABCs of parent-teacher conferences?

Children learn their ABCs when they start school. You can also use the ABCs to get the most out of your parent-teacher conference. Here's how:

A Ask questions. Before the conference, jot down a list of questions you want the teacher to answer. Bring the list with you to the conference. Here are the kinds of questions you may want to ask:

What skills will my child be expected to master this year?

What will my child learn this year?

What are my child's strengths and challenges?

How does my child get along with other children in the class?

How can I best help my child be a successful learner?

B Be honest. You know things about your child that can help the teacher help him learn more. So share what you know. She'll want to know his likes and dislikes. She'll also want to know if there are any problems or concerns.

If a grandparent has just died or a family member has lost a job, your child may be worrying about those things in school.

C Cooperate. A teacher may share a concern about your child during the conference. If that happens, work with the teacher to come up with a plan to address it. You and the teacher both want what's best for your child.

Decide what you'll do at home and how she'll help your child at school. Set a date to meet and review how the

plan is working. Source: Southeast Educational Development Lab, "SEDL Helps Parents Prepare for Parent Teacher Conferences,"

www.sedl.org/new/pressrelease/20031001_16.html.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Bowser Elementary School Library. It will be open Thursday, November 26th 3:00-8:00 pm; Friday, November 27th 9 am-noon; and Monday, November 30th 1:00-3:00 pm. Set up will be happening on Wednesday, November 25th noon-3pm. We invite your entire family to participate by purchasing the latest and greatest in children's books. Your support of this event helps us obtain new resources for our library and school. If you would like to assist with the book fair, please contact Mrs. Pahl at the school.

Choose research-based, effective ways to discipline your child

Have you ever met a happy, well-behaved child and wondered what her parents were doing right? Are they super strict? Really relaxed? Hopefully neither, because research shows that being too strict is destructive, and being too permissive isn't healthy, either. The best approach is to strike a balance.

Remember to:

Be positive. Parents are most successful when they motivate children with love, not fear. So avoid punishments and put the biggest focus on what your child does right. Correct in a caring, constructive way.

Set limits. Part of loving a child is protecting her and helping her get along with others. This requires rules. Choose rules carefully, research suggests, and enforce them with empathy. It helps to ask yourself, "Is this rule necessary?"

Use consequences. Consequences are not the same as punishments. The best ones are directly related to behavior. For example, "Uh oh. You left your toy outside again, and it got ruined in the rain."

Give choices. Over time, you want your child to develop self-discipline. When you allow her to make age-appropriate choices, she gains confidence and responsibility. Present only those options that are okay with you. ("Would you like this or that? You choose.")

Manage emotions. It's natural for parents to sometimes feel angry, frustrated and to explode! Ahead of time, plan how you'll handle these feelings safely. Wait to discipline until you're calm. (I am angry about this. I'm going to calm down in my room, and we'll discuss it later.) Source: Laura Markham, "Positive Discipline," Aha! Parenting, <http://yourparentingsolutions.com/parenting-tools/positive-discipline/timeouts>

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.

Funky Friday

Students, staff and community members coming to BES are encouraged to participate in our Funky Fridays. On Friday, November 20th it will be "Crazy Hat Day".

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.

Mother Goose Goes To School

Mother Goose will be in the school Tuesdays from 10:30-11:00 am. (Please note that there will be no session on Tuesday, November 17.) All children ages 2-5 are invited to join Mother Goose in the school library for a half hour of fun. Bring your parent(s), caregiver and younger siblings and friends. There will be songs, stories & rhymes, and you can take out a library book.

Community News

SOS Christmas Program Registration Please note that SOS will be offering late night registration for working low income families to have the opportunity to register for the Christmas program. Evening registrations will take place by appointment Tuesday, November 24th and Thursday, November 26th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. SOS will also accommodate families for late night distribution through the Toy shop and to receive Christmas grocery gift certificates on December 15th and 17th. To make an appointment or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Renee at 250 248-2093 ext. 229. You may also drop by in person at 245 W. Hirst Avenue, Parksville between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm.

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!

November Movies at the PCCC THU NOV 26 1 PM THE COVE (UNRATED) 3 PM ADAM (PG 13) THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE FRI NOV 27 1 PM ADAM (PG 13) 3 PM HARRY POTTER (PG) THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE 7 PM THE COVE (UNRATED) SAT NOV 28 1 PM THE COVE 3 PM HARRY POTTER (PG) THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE 7 PM ADAM (PG 13) SUN NOV 29 1 PM THE COVE 3 PM ADAM (PG 13) 7 PM HARRY POTTER Admission is \$5.00 per person; a concession will be available.

Winter Classes for Kids: Experienced and vetted teacher, Helen Binns will be holding three classes for youth ages 7-12 on Saturday November 28, December 5 and December 12 from 12 to 4pm. These classes have a Christmas theme so children will be busy making ornaments and presents while parents can take the rare opportunity to do some shopping in peace. The cost is \$30 per class or all three for \$80; each class is different so you can register your little one for all three weeks! Register by emailing ocac@shaw.ca or phoning Lauren at 250 248 8185.

PAC News

Poinsettia Fundraiser - This annual Fundraiser has started and will run until November 20. Please get your orders in ASAP.

Magazine Subscriptions - Make sure you get your subscriptions renewed now or order some great magazines for family and friends for gifts. The forms and books went home 2 weeks ago and we have extended this until Friday November 20th. You can also order these online as well just follow the info sheet. There are extra forms in the office for you if you need some as well as gift cards. Prizes will be handed out the week of 23rd - the draw for an MP3 player.

Tupperware Fundraiser - If you still want things from this form, we will be doing monthly orders. There will be an online link ready for December.

PAC Meeting - Tuesday November 17, 2009 at 6:30pm in the library. Babysitting will be provided.

Winter Themed Baskets - This annual Fundraiser will be starting as well next week - We will be asking for donations to put towards the baskets. The details will be coming home on Nov 23.

Enrichment Day - this will be happening on 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. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call...**Marnie 757-2317 or Gonda 752-3943.**

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
November 17	PAC mtg. @ 6:30 pm (Babysitting provided)
November 20	Funky Friday - Crazy Hat Day
November 25	Students bring report cards home
November 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3:00-8:00 pm
November 27	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 9:00 am-noon (No school for students)
November 26	Book Fair - 3:00-8:00 pm
November 27	Book Fair - 9 am-noon
November 30	Book Fair - 1:00-3:00 pm
December 4	Enrichment Day
December 17	Christmas Concert @ 6:30 pm
December 18	Last Day of Classes prior to Winter vacation
January 4	School re-opens after Winter vacation

Entry Form: Please complete this form and return it to the school by Monday, November 23rd, 2009. I remembered to give this newsletter to my parents.

Name of student

Parent/Guardian signature