

Bowser Elementary School

"Building Educational Success Together"

Newsletter 5 October 20, 2009

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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.

Reminder: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD.

School based and Provincial Professional Development Days.

Message from the Principal

Congratulations to Dylan Mueller, he won the Thanksgiving Hamper. We also enjoyed an excellent Turkey Trot Sports Day on Friday, October 9th. The weather was extremely cooperative.

On Wednesday, October 14th, we welcomed Michael Bortolotto to BES. He spoke to us about his personal experience with bullying and strategies for dealing with and preventing this issue.

Fire safety was presented to the students on Thursday, October 15th by the Deep Bay Volunteer Fire Department. All the students received a presentation about fire safety and toured some fire department vehicles. Many thanks to the Deep Bay Volunteer Fire Department for providing time and equipment for this valuable presentation.

It is that time of year again when, from time to time, there is a report of a cougar in the neighborhood. This year, we have never actually seen a cougar at the school. If you see a cougar or bear in the area please call the Conservation Officer. We do have a bell signal for students if a bear or cougar is reported on or around the school during a recess time. The bell will ring three times and students must come into the building using the nearest entrance.

Next time you are at the school, please take a look at our shared book table. This is a place where students can take a book home, share it with family, and keep the book if they like it. If students have books at home which they think other children would like to read in their homes, they can bring the books to school for the sharing table.

Friday, October 30th, we are going to have a Black and Orange Day at the school. We are encouraging students to come to the school dressed in black and/or orange clothing.

Quilting

We are fortunate to have Allison Bakker offering her expertise of quilting to our students. She visits our school on Friday at lunch recess. She has started with a group of 12 students on a Christmas project.

Take a look at our pumpkin outside the office. Can you guess the weight?????

Put your answer on a sheet of paper with your name. The answer will be revealed on October 30th.

Buddy Reading Program

Bowser Elementary School library has had a successful Buddy Reading Program in the past and we are hoping to make the year 2009/10 a successful reading year as well. If you are interested in volunteering some time to sit with a student or students and have them read to you, we would love to see you. The time you volunteer is your choice, though typically it is done in the morning, in about 15 minute - half hour intervals. This program helps students become more confident with their reading, vocabulary and also helps improve self-esteem. So if you have a half hour of free time, our students would enjoy reading to you. Please just call the school and we will make arrangements.

Are you helping your child learn to follow directions?

Classrooms and families function better when children know how to follow directions. Are you teaching your child this vital skill? Answer **yes** or **no** to the questions below to find out:

Do you avoid giving directions until you have your child's undivided attention? Do you look her in the eye and call her by name?

Are you specific with instructions? If a job involves several steps, do you name them? "First, pick up your dance clothes. Then put your books on the shelf."

Do you ask your child to repeat what you said before she begins a task?

Do you have a checklist posted for things you do every day (getting ready for school, etc.)?

Do you praise your child when she follows directions correctly?

How well are you doing? Each yes means you are teaching your child the skill of following directions. For each no answer, try that idea from the quiz.

Encourage your child to be less of a boss, more of a team player.

There's a lot to be said for encouraging children to show leadership. But, let's face it - some kids are just plain bossy. They won't take turns. They won't share. They won't listen to what anyone says. If you have a child who has appointed himself the Boss of the World, here are some ways to help him learn how to be a team player:

Make taking turns the way you run your house.

Use the "Mom Rule." If one child cuts the cake, the other gets to choose the first piece. If one child chooses the game, the other gets the first turn.

Teach fair ways to decide. Have your kids play "rock, paper, scissors" to see who gets on the computer first. Flip a coin to decide who takes the first bath.

Reinforce sharing behavior when you see it.

Source: Michele Borba, Don't Give Me That Attitude! 24 Rude, Selfish, Insensitive Things Kids Do and How to Stop Them, ISBN: 0-78797-333-5 (Jossey-Bass, www.josseybass.com).

Inclement Weather

A reminder to parents about procedures during the fall and winter months: Please have students dress appropriately for the winter weather. During the winter months, children will be expected to be playing outside when the weather is dry, to get some fresh air and enjoy the PE equipment and playground.

Emergency Closure of Schools (Policy #7160): Schools are rarely closed due to power outages or weather conditions. Most power failures are of short duration. During inclement weather some bus routes may be cancelled. During very severe conditions, schools may be closed. There also may be occasions when morning bus runs are limited or cancelled due to hazardous road conditions. There will be announcements on the local radio station "The Beach" (CIBH - 88.5 FM) and on "The Wolf" (CHWF - 106.9 FM) Nanaimo, CKWX (1130) Vancouver and CKNW (980) Vancouver between 6:30 am and 8:00 am. When it is necessary to send buses to take students home early, every attempt is made to ensure that students have somewhere safe to go when they get off the bus. Parents should discuss emergency procedures with their child(ren) and the school.

Parent Involvement Guidelines

At Bowser we value parental involvement in their children's education. To make each visit a successfully one, I have included some reminders about the use of parent volunteers. This comes from our student handbook.

There is a strong link between the success of a child in school and the level of parental involvement. Parents of children at Bowser Elementary School are involved in their child's education in many ways, ranging from reading with their children at home, to participation in the parent's association. The level of involvement varies but each form of involvement carries both **rights** and **responsibilities**.

Volunteering

- Parents have a **right** to volunteer their time and expertise to the school.
- Parents have a **responsibility** to respect the decision of the teacher if the teacher feels their presence will be distracting to the learning environment.
- Parents have a **responsibility** to provide a criminal record check where required by the School Board policy.
- It is the responsibility of the volunteer to check in at the office.

A Volunteer's Code of Ethics

- Respect the confidentiality of the teacher and the children.
- Practice tolerance and understanding towards the children and teachers with whom you come into contact.
- Be sensitive to the teaching role and understand that there are a variety of teaching approaches and styles.
- Strive for acceptance of all the children.
- Be dependable. If you must be late or absent, please call the school and try to arrange for an acceptable substitute.

(From "Bridges to Learning—A Guide to Parent Involvement")

Daylight Saving Time

On Sunday, **November 1st**, clocks will be set back 1 hour, as daylight saving time ends. It is a good opportunity to check your batteries in your smoke detectors.

Olympic Torch Relay

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay is coming to town Nov 2nd!! Bowser Elementary and the Lighthouse Country Torch Committee are very excited to be organizing fun community events in connection with the Relay. BES is one of the collection points for the Olympic Torch Relay and will be one of points where torchbearers exchange the torch. This event is due to happen between 8:15 and 9:00 am on Monday, November 2nd. We would like to see as many of our students and parents as possible to cheer on the torchbearers. Be sure to come early because parking may be at a premium! School hours will remain the same.

The stories entered in the Olympic Mascot Story Writing contest, are starting to come in from our enthusiastic writers (7-12yrs) from the community, if you haven't started your story, better start writing, first prize is a publication in The Beacon and an amazing Olympic Mascot gift package!!! For everyone else, bring out the Art Contest materials and show us your Olympic Spirit, all Art forms are allowed, thinking green is encouraged, Gift baskets for the winners are amazing, full with donations from our community!! Deadlines are Oct 28; bring your entrees to Bowser Library.

While the Torch goes through on Monday Morning Nov 2nd, The Legion opens its doors for a free community Breakfast, Complimentary warm drinks and refreshments are served at Magnolia Court accompanied by entertainment and community spirit!! For more info visit our website

www.lighthousecountry.ca.

Remembrance Day Assembly

Our Remembrance Day assembly will be held **November 10th** at 10:30 am. Parents and community members are invited to attend. Many of our classes will be presenting at the assembly.

Department of National Defense

Personnel from Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt will be conducting communications exercises on our school grounds over the weekend from November 13th to November 15th, 2009. Please do not be alarmed if you see them camped to the east side of our gym at Bowser Elementary School, this is only an exercise. Thank you.

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 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.

PAC NEWS

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 last week so please make sure you get these back to the school before October 27th. You can 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.

Tupperware Fundraiser - The Tupperware Fundraiser ENDS on Monday October 26th. There are NO LATE orders accepted, so the sooner we get these in the better. The deadline has been set by the company so if there is something you want then please send in your forms.

PAC Meeting - Tuesday October 20, 2009 at 6:30pm in the library IS POSTPONED UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH We will be going over our budget on this one. Babysitting will be provided.

Upcoming Events:

Poinsettia Fundraiser - This annual Fundraiser will start in November and will run for 2-1/2 weeks. We will be getting out the paperwork shortly.

Winter Themed Baskets - This annual Fundraiser will be starting as well in November - more details to come. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call.. **Marnie 757-2317 or Gonda 752-3943**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Halloween Candy Walk Oct. 31, 2009 @ the Coombs Fair Ground (Behind the Coombs General Store) 6pm-8pm. This year the theme for the walk is The lion, the witch and the Wardrobe. Haunted house, Little Goblin Cake Walk and Fireworks at 7:45pm.

Winter Art Classes for Kids: Experienced and vetted teacher, Helen Binns will be holding three classes for youth ages 7-12 on Saturday November 28, Dec. 5 and 12 from 12:00-4:00pm. For more information contact Lauren at 250 248-8185.

Dad's Night Out Every Tuesday! Partners in the Building Learning Together Coalition have teamed up to celebrate time for Dads and their kids! Recreation & Parks, Vancouver Island Regional Library, School District 69, and Building Learning Together will each host a special night for Dads and kids every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm through the winter months. Call 250 248-4041 for more information.

Community News

Milner Gardens Fall Colour Days Come and visit Milner Gardens Fall Colour Days - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Oct 24th and 25th. Bring the children for a Jack O'Lantern search and scarecrow trails. Admission by donation, all proceeds to Milner's Shoots with Roots children's education program. For more information call 250 752-6153.

RDN Recreation and Parks Programs For any of the RDN programs listed below register online and view program details www.rdn.bc.ca or call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014.

Teen Glow in the Dark Skate Saturday, Oct. 17, 6:45-7:45 pm. Regular admission applies.
NEW! Drop-In...

Dates to Remember

Every Monday	Chess Club - lunch recess in the library
Every Monday	WOW Bus - open 9:30-11:30 am
Every Tuesday	Mother Goose - 10:30 - 11 am in the library
Every Friday	Quilting Club in the library
October 20 CANCELLED	PAC mtg. @ 6:30 pm (Babysitting provided)
October 22	School based Pro D day (No school for students)
October 23	Provincial Pro D Day (No school for students)
October 27	PAC mtg. @ 6:30 pm (Babysitting provided)
October 30	Black and Orange Day
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:30 am
November 11	Remembrance Day - School closed
November 17	PAC mtg. @ 6:30 pm (Babysitting provided)
November 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 3:00-8:00 pm
November 27	Parent/Teacher Conferences - 9:00 am-noon (No school for students)
November 27	Book Fair - 3:00-8:00 pm
November 30	Book Fair - 1:00-3:00 pm
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, October 26th, 2009.
I remembered to give this newsletter to my parents.

Name of student

Parent/Guardian signature

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

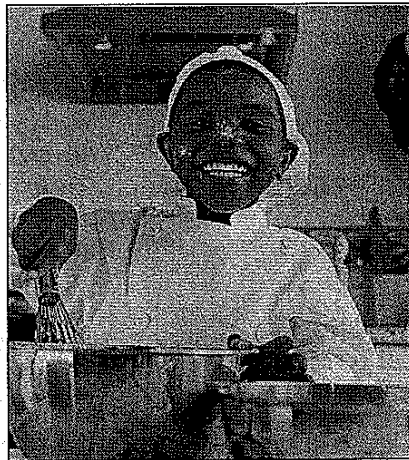
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Cook up reading and math success with your child

What simple activity involves math and reading? Cooking! And it's something you and your child can do together every day. To make the most of it:

- **Take turns reading the recipe.** Ask your child to read the ingredients aloud, for example, while you collect them.
- **Let your child measure.** Set out measuring cups and spoons and teach your child how to use them.
- **Use math terms.** Say things like, "We need to *add* sugar," "Let's *divide* that into *quarters*" or "That's *half* of what we need."
- **Make more—or less.** Take an uncomplicated recipe and double—or halve—it. Do the math together. How many people will it serve?



Getty Images/Olga Vistom

"I've never known any trouble that an hour's reading didn't assuage."

—Charles De Secondat

Journaling should be a stress-free habit

Keeping a journal has lots of benefits. In addition to building writing skills, it helps kids sort out feelings and record accomplishments. It can also be a quiet, relaxing activity before bed. Experts suggest that kids:

- **Relax about "writing rules."** Spelling and grammar aren't issues in a journal. Don't worry about them. Your child should just have fun.
- **Write regularly.** There's no pressure to write in the journal. But creating a routine can turn journaling into a habit.
- **Restrict access.** It's freeing to know that the journal is private and won't be read without permission.

Source: "Write On! Help Your Child Start a Journal," Creighton University Medical Center, <http://creightonhospital.staywellsolutionsonline.com/RelatedItems/1,86>.

Fancy fonts make writing fun



Need a way to excite your child about reading and writing? Let her use a computer at home or at the library. Show her how to choose "fonts" (different styles of type). She can be as creative as she likes. She might change fonts for **letters**, **words** and **sentences**—or even making things small or BIG. Have fun reading her writing together.

Consider volunteering in your child's school library



Parents often volunteer in children's classrooms. But how about in the school library? Many libraries depend on parents' help. It's a chance to encourage reading, see what's popular with kids and be a role model for your child.

Expand research options



When your child needs to do research, it's tempting to go online at home. But visit the library, too. Libraries have so much to offer. They have books, of course. They also provide help from research professionals—not to mention experience with alphabetization, numbering systems and more. Plus, browsing online doesn't compare to browsing in person. There's nothing like bringing home something special (and portable!) to read.

Source: "Enriching Lives, Inspiring Minds, Connecting People," @yourlibrary, www.atyourlibrary.org/Enrichment.

Make reading a fun, everyday family activity

Many kids today spend almost no time reading outside of school. But kids who read regularly do better in school than kids who don't. So motivate your child to read. You can:

- **Let him sleep on it.** Set bedtime a little earlier. But allow your child to keep the light on as long as he is reading. Odds are he'll go to sleep pretty quickly anyway.
- **Make reading a fun family affair.** On a Friday night, take the whole family to a bookstore to browse. Or visit the library on Saturday just before going out for ice cream.
- **Plan regular family reading times.** Kids are never too old for reading aloud. So turn off the TV and read a favorite book together. Serve a favorite snack and discuss what you've read.

Ask your child's teacher for help setting reading goals

When it comes to reading, it can be hard to set goals. You may not be sure what or how much your child should read. Consult the teacher about your child's:

- **Reading level.** Is she meeting expectations for her grade? What kinds of materials are best for her? How can you tell if a book (or magazine) is too hard, too easy or just right for your child? How can you help her improve?
- **Reading habits.** Many teachers expect students to



read for a certain number of minutes each day. By working as a team (perhaps by keeping a reading calendar), you and the teacher can support habits that make a big difference.



Q: I want my child to enjoy reading. But he prefers TV and video games. What can I do?

A: It's difficult to motivate some kids to read—especially when there are so many entertainment options available. It helps to limit screen time to less than 10 hours a week. In addition, keep irresistible reading materials around the house. Read some of them aloud. Many reluctant readers find magazines and comic-type novels (known as “graphic novels”) appealing. Look for materials based on your child's favorite shows or games.

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.



For lower elementary readers:

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf (Grosset & Dunlap). This engaging classic puts young readers at ease. It also promotes the wisdom of “being yourself.”

How Many Fish? by Caron Lee Cohen (HarperCollins). In simple language and colorful pictures, this tale looks at fish and feet on the ocean floor. It's just right for beginning readers.

For upper elementary readers:

Mickey & Me: A Baseball Card

Adventure by Dan Gutman (HarperCollins). A boy travels back in time to warn Mickey Mantle of impending trouble. Baseball fans may be unable to resist other books in this series.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart (Little, Brown Young Readers). Children must work together to stop a villain from taking over the world. This popular read-aloud book appeals to parents, too.

Build reading confidence



Reading difficulties can be a blow to a child's self-esteem. But even kids who aren't top readers become “reading leaders” by tutoring younger children. This can boost self-confidence and reinforce skills. Don't know a child who needs a reading buddy? Ask about tutoring programs at your school or library.

Source: Judith Lee Ladd, “Helping a Reluctant Reader,” FamilyEducation, <http://school.familyeducation.com/learning-disabilities/reading/41941.html>.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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