

# Springwood Middle School

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**B. Nikula, Principal**

**J. Williams, Vice-Principal**

**PARENT NEWSLETTER #3**

**October 9, 2009**

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon., Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day ( <b>no students in session</b> )
Wed., Oct. 14	Photo Retakes starting at 9:00 am
Thurs., Oct. 22	Interim Reports Home
Thurs., Oct. 29	Parent-Teacher Conference 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Fri., Oct. 30	Parent-Teacher Conference 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ( <b>no students in session</b> )
Wed., Nov. 11	Remembrance Day ( <b>no students in session</b> )
Fri., Nov. 27	Professional Development Day ( <b>no students in session</b> )
Fri., Dec. 18	Last Day of classes prior to Winter Break

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### On Giving Thanks, Terry Fox and Leg Wax

*“An acquisition of knowledge first requires a gratitude for that which we are learning about”.*  
*Iroquois Adage*

As we approach this wonderful weekend of turkey, family, football and taking the time to be grateful for all we have, we would like to share some words of gratitude both from and toward the SMS community

We would like to thank our great PAC for catering our team-building day lunch, the kind folks at **QF** for donating the buns, and teacher Gayle Bertrand for a grand idea.

We would like to thank all the volunteer coaches, club leaders, and event coordinators for being above and beyond the call and making our school a rich place.

We would like to thank all members of the SMS community for washing their hands, sneezing into their sleeve and taking the time to get well.

And especially we would like to thank our many students who understand their role as citizens, and their responsibility for contribution, as they raised \$1931.50 (see below) for the Terry Fox Foundation. We want to also thank Mrs. Inouye and division 8-4, as well as Mrs. Faa and student government for their efforts in putting on the event. Well done SMS.

On the same topic Mr. Williams and I would like to thank the student body for their kind offering of a free public leg waxing if we were to raise over \$1,000. We exceeded this amount by almost double. And thus we must also thank the generous folk at **ZaXa Day Spa** and the **Tigh Na Mara** for their kind donation of esthetic services.

Happy Thanksgiving All,

Sincerely,  
Brian Nikula (Mr. Nik)  
Principal

PS (Mr. Williams and I would also like to thank our kind female colleagues for their comforting explanation of leg waxing “feeling like a kitten brushing against your cheek” dispelling any rumours that the process feels like ripping large band-aids off sensitive skin. We are now confidently up to the task and look forward to this painless procedure.)

### Terry Fox Stars

The following students were the top fund raisers in this year’s Terry Fox Event. Well done guys and gals!

Stephen Martin	Division 6-4
Jack Standing	Division 6-4
Chloe Cook	Division 6-1
Haley Droog, Hannah Droog & Ella Roger	Division 6-7F
Gavin Winn	Division 8-2
Amanda Martin	Division 8-4
Samantha Parker	Division 8-4
Josey Watson	Division 8-4
Kayla Charbonneau	Division 6-7F
Kara Burch & Paxton Gilmour	Division 6-7F
Austin Hicks	Division 6-3

Also a big congratulations goes out to **Division 8-4** for raising over \$500.00.

**PHOTO RETAKES – Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am.** Any students that missed the photo day, please bring a completed photo envelope available in the office with the correct payment to the photographer. Any students that would like to have retakes done, please return their package of pictures to the photographer.



**SMS CONCERT BAND –** The SMS Concert Band will begin rehearsals on Tuesday morning, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am. This band consists of the Grade 7 & 8 band students plus auditioned Grade 6 band students who are studying privately. This band is the one that will perform in functions outside the school such as the Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni.

**CANADIAN PARENTS for FRENCH (CPF) - JOIN TODAY!!** - Are your children in *French Immersion*? French Immersion is a program of choice and is a privilege, not a right, just like bussing for out of catchments and special program access. You can become part of a united voice. CPF has a National and Provincial body to ensure that the governments of our country and our province continue to hear that parents want a strong and well-funded French Immersion Program. Your local Chapter of CPF supports our children's French language learning opportunities and can be a local voice in the interests of local parents.

**Join CPF during the October membership drive and  
90% of your fees come into the Parksville Chapter.  
YOU COULD WIN A TRIP FOR TWO ANYWHERE WESTJET FLIES!  
Or a week at the popular BC FAMILY FRENCH CAMP!**

To be eligible, completed forms must be **received by October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. See the 'TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN CPF' then fill out the Membership Application Form - payments by cheque/cash should be delivered to the school otherwise send electronically to the contact below. To get involved or for more information please contact Maureen Maitland, Treasurer and Membership, CPF Parksville [mmaitland@shaw.ca](mailto:mmaitland@shaw.ca).

[www.cpf.ca](http://www.cpf.ca)    [www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca)

**SMS RUN CLUB** – The new Springwood Middle School Run Club will be on Mondays right after school in most weather conditions. All ages and levels are encouraged to join. Come next Monday and check it out. It will be done as a drop in format, so just come when you can.



**H1N1 INFORMATION** - A package of information regarding Influenza A H1N1 (swine influenza) was sent home with students in early September 2009. This information is also posted on the Ministry of Health H1N1 school page at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/backtoschool/>. In most children, the symptoms of the H1N1 flu virus are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza. However, in some people, an H1N1 infection can be more serious. This includes:

- ➔ Children and adults with the following chronic health conditions:
  - ✓ cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, COPD, cystic fibrosis and asthma)
  - ✓ diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases
  - ✓ cancer, immunodeficiency, immunosuppression (due to underlying disease and/or therapy)
  - ✓ renal disease
  - ✓ anemia or hemoglobinopathy;
- ➔ Healthy children under the age of two;
- ➔ Healthy pregnant women.

The medication Tamiflu can decrease the risk of a serious illness for people in the above categories if the person starts taking it within 48 hours of developing influenza. If your child is in any of the above categories, it is advisable for you to have a discussion with your physician about how Tamiflu could be started quickly in the event that your child develops influenza like illness in the coming months. Please also note that children who have influenza like illness should not attend school until their symptoms and fever have fully resolved and they are well enough to fully participate in school activities.

This document submitted to the SMS newsletter by School District 69 Board of Education office and signed by the following: Fred Rockwell, MD, FRCPC, Medical Health Officer and Lorna Medd, MD, FRCPC, Medical Health Officer.

**PICKING YOUR CHILD UP AFTER SCHOOL** - While picking up your child it would be greatly appreciated if you did so at the back of the school and not in the no stopping zone out front on Despard Ave. We have had both driver and RCMP concerns shared with us as to the potential hazard of waiting out front. Thanks much for your attention to this.



**RECYCLE FOR EDUCATION** – SMS is registered with Staples Business Depot's Recycle for Education program. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the recycle for education program last year. In May of 2009 our school received a gift card from Staples for **\$344.00** to put towards supplies for our school because of your efforts. Please bring in your used computer ink and toner cartridges for recycling. There will be a box at the front of the school to drop them off.

**VERIFICATION SHEETS** - Students brought home this sheet to gather information. Please update/complete, sign the sheet and return it to the school as soon as possible to help us update our records. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



**ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES** – Please phone the school in the morning if your child will be late or absent.

**NEWSLETTER INFORMATION** – Our SMS newsletter is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Please visit our website [www.sms.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sms.sd69.bc.ca) to read about upcoming school events and to **subscribe to our newsletter mailing list**. We aspire to go completely electronic in the distribution of our newsletters by the end of December with paper copies available at the office. If we do not already have your e-mail address, please provide it to Ms. Webb at the SMS office and we will add you to our bank of recipients.



### **COMMUNITY NEWS** (THIS SECTION WILL INCLUDE ONLY NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTEER ADVERTISING)

Check the Community News and Events link (second tab on the left side) of the School District website. [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) You can also access this from the same location on our school website at [www.sms.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sms.sd69.bc.ca).

The following items can be accessed for more information on our website.

- AWANA CLUB
- OCTOBER – TOUR AND PUMPKIN HUNT AT MORNINGSTAR FARM
- RESTORATIVE PRACTICES TRAINING FOR PARENTS
- FREE FAMILY SKATING
- AMAZING KID SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

**RDN RECREATION AND PARKS PROGRAMS** – For any of the RDN programs listed below register online and view program details at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014.

- ❖ TEEN GLOW IN THE DARK SKATE
- ❖ NEW! AFTER SCHOOL DROP-IN HOCKEY

**VISIT:** [www.sms.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sms.sd69.bc.ca)