

N O R T H R I D G E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 25, 2016

Principal's Message...

February has been a very busy month at Northridge. The Glanford open house on Feb. 16th was well attended by families of our Grade 5 students and in our monthly assembly Divisions 4 and 10 performed for the school. We enjoyed being entertained by the "Chicken Dance" from Division 10 and musical reading of the book "Beekle" by Division 4. Thank you to all the students that performed.

"Fire fighter Jim" spoke to our grade one classes on fire safety on Feb 18th as well as our grade 5s participated in a Basketball Jamboree at Spectrum school on Feb. 23rd. Our Jump Rope for Heart campaign completes on Feb. 26th with the entire school jumping ropes in the Gym to raise money. Thank you to Mr. Finlayson and Miss Simmonds for organizing this for us. There are many initiatives and activities for students to become involved with school life at Northridge.

Student report cards will be going home on March 11. This communication is very important as it provides a formal "assessment" of your child's learning and progress to date. Please do take this time to discuss the report with respect to your child's level of achievement and participation. Talk to your child about what they think they need to do to improve their achievement. It is important that your child know that you are interested in their successes and challenges as a learner.

March break starts Monday March 14th and runs through Easter to March 28th. Our First day back will be Tuesday March 29th. Please enjoy this time with your family.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns, or just want to drop in for a chat, my door is open and I am only a phone call away.

.....L. Whittam, Principal



A special Thank You to Our Parents --- from Mrs. Whittam

"Staff Appreciation Week" was celebrated by our parents this past month. We were spoiled with sweets, fresh fruits and vegetables, coffee, juice and tea, home baked goodies, a beautiful luncheon and kind and caring words that made us all smile and feel very much appreciated. From the staff at Northridge, to each of you ~ thank you very much for showing us that the hard work we do is appreciated and acknowledged. We all feel blessed to be working with such a terrific and supportive community.



Pink Shirt Day Pledge- Anti-bullying and Kindness Day

Pink Shirt Day was on Wednesday, February 24th. Students pledged "to care, help change things, to be a leader in being kind and respectful, and to know that standing up for someone is the right thing to do." Thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Parking Lot & Drop Off Zone Issues - Mrs. Whittam



A reminder to all parents that parking cars in the drop off zone is not allowed. We have a few drivers that are continually violating this space. This results in confusion as other drivers must veer wide to avoid parked vehicles. Additionally, drivers have been noted turning left out of our parking lot and through the crosswalk on Carey Road. Our patrols have been trained to follow the rules and when drivers disregard posted signage, the result is confusion and danger.



Also, the staff parking lot is **out of bounds**. The odd space that may be available is for our many itinerant staff who arrive at various times of the day. We all know that parking availability is extremely limited however we must live with our situation. Please respect the drop-off zone and staff parking lot including the handicap parking stalls. As well, please do not park in front of property owners' driveways along Ridgebank and Oakridge Crescent. Thank you for your cooperation and keeping our children safe.



Northridge Traffic Safety Walkabout - Friday, February 26 8:15am to 10:15am

This walkabout is your opportunity to identify safety concerns around your child's school, followed by a solutions brainstorming session with health, traffic, enforcement, planning and engineering professionals in your community. Your suggestions will help shape Northridge's travel planning action for the future. Meet at the front entrance of Northridge on Friday, February 26 at 8:15am. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact: stef@hastebc.org.

PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION.

Please advise the Office if you have recently moved or changed your phone number. Also, please advise us if you have new emergency contact information. This information is helpful in the event that your child is injured or sick at school and needs to be picked up. Besides family members, if possible, place a few trusted neighbors or family friends on the list. This way, there is someone to pick up your child even if there is a family emergency. Always make children aware of who is on the emergency contact list and who has permission to pick them up.



February's Virtue is Fairness

This month, we focused on the virtue of fairness. We learned that fairness means following the rules, being sincere, trustworthy, and truthful. We practice fairness by treating each other the way we want to be treated. We don't judge people by what others say and we don't find fault or talk about someone behind their back. Fairness means we get what we deserve. Everyone gets their fair share. It is fair to receive a consequence or punishment when we do something wrong so we will remember to do things differently next time. It is also fair to be rewarded and recognized when we are doing something right and doing our best. We learned that being fair takes courage and sometimes when we show our fairness, we stand alone. When we show fairness, people will want to be around us because they know that we are truthful and they can trust and depend on us. Fair people make good friends.

Basketball Program

The students in Grade 4 & 5 have enjoyed an excellent season of basketball. Skills were taught in November and December and games have been ongoing twice weekly after school in January and February and will wrap up on Wednesday, March 9 at lunchtime with a championship match. The playoff schedule is posted outside the gym. The Grade 5's participated in a mini tournament at Spectrum High School gymnasium on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 23rd. The competition and sportsmanship was outstanding; a fun day was had by all. Special thanks to Mr. Johnston and Mr. Richardson for providing such a fine program and basketball experience.



Ready, Set, Learn

Three and four-year olds welcomed to Northridge

Our Ready, Set, Learn day was very successful and gave us the opportunity to meet our future kindergarten students! As you know, learning starts at home and we want every three-year-old to get the best start in life and school. Reading is the foundation for every child's success, and that's why we take the time to get our future students **Ready to Learn!** Families left with lots of goodies and information. Our wonderful PAC and grade 5 leaders helped, too, and we want to thank all those who participated to make this a successful morning!



Dates to Remember

Friday, Feb. 26	Hot Lunch Pizza Day
	Jump Rope for Heart
Tuesday, March 8	Fruit & Vegetable Program - snap peas delivered
Wednesday, March 9	Basketball Final Game at lunch time
Thursday, March 10	School Assembly 12:45pm
Friday, March 11	Report Cards home. Last day before spring break
March 12 to March 28	Spring Break/Easter
Sunday, March 13	Day Light Savings starts - change your clocks 1 hour ahead
Tuesday, March 29	Students return from spring break
Thursday, March 31	Newsletter day
Monday, April 4	Non-Instruction Curriculum Implementation Day - no school for students
Thursday, April 7	Early Dismissal at 11:50am - Student-Led Conferences



1000X5 - 1000 Books by Age Five Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria



Have you found the pink bin just outside the Northridge library?
We thank you for your donations of books for babies and preschoolers. Quadra Best Babies has just joined the program and was very excited to receive their first shipment of books. Every month, they will receive more books to give to Moms with new babes. Thanks to you!!



**Layritz Little League
Final Baseball and Softball
Registration for the 2016 Season**



**Teeball and Baseball for boys and girls ages 5-12
Softball for girls ages 8-16**

We will be having our **Last Chance Registration** events on:
February 13 from 1-3pm and,
February 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm
in the **Layritz Little League Clubhouse**.

We will continue to accept *complete* registrations for **Blastball and Teeball** by **mail** until **March 11, 2016**.

**New Players Welcome!!
www.layritz.ca**

Donations for Silent Auction Baskets

Northridge Families,

Once again, we need your generous donations to help fill 12 baskets which will be a part of the silent auction that we will be having at the Fun Fair on Friday, June 3rd. Each division is now collecting donations for the following 'themed baskets'.

Classroom	Basket Theme	Possible Ideas
Mr. Johnston	SPORTS AND GAMES	- Sports/ Exercise Equipment (various balls, water bottles, frisbees), sports books and magazines, event tickets, games...
Ms. Poirier	CRAFTS & ART SUPPLIES	-craft sets and/or supplies such as paints, felts, brushes, stickers, beads, scissors, papers, pens...
Mr. Richardson	CHOCOLATE/WINE LOVERS	-assorted wines, wine glasses, wine charms, wine stoppers or openers and various chocolates
Ms. Holman	BOOKWORM	- Books, magazines, gift certificates, bookmarks, reading lights...
Mrs. Penner	GIFTWRAP, STATIONARY AND SCRAPBOOKING	- Wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift bags, gift cards, scrapbooking supplies, scissors, stickers, paper, pens, crafts, tape, ribbon...
Mr. Comer	SPECIALTY FOODS	-spices, sauces, seasonings, gourmet oils, kitchen utensils...
Mrs. Lunt	KITCHEN AND DINING	-kitchen utensils, kitchen linen, napkins, place mats, glassware, tupperware...
Mr. Finlayson	GET GROWING	-gardening supplies, seeds, plants, garden gloves, pots, garden decorations, solar lights, tools...
Mrs. Sarton	TEA/COFFEE LOVERS	- Tea, coffee, mugs, coffee grinder, kettle, tea strainer, gift certificates...
Ms. Gordon	FAMILY FUN NIGHT	- DVD's, Board games, puzzles, card games, movie tickets, music, popcorn, hot chocolate...
Mrs. Ashbee/Crisp	PAWSH DOGS	-Dog toys, treats, food, grooming supplies, collars, leashes...
Miss Simmonds	A DAY AT THE SPA	- Bath and body products, hair products, candles, tea, nail polish...

*** If you have a new item at home which is suitable in another division's 'basket' please feel free to contribute that item instead of purchasing an item for your child's basket.***

Please bring your donations to your child's classroom by

Friday, February 26, 2016

Thank you for your support! Northridge PAC

Northridge Spring Fair

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Our Spring Fair is being held on Friday, June 3, 2016.

Some items you can help with now...

- Silent Auction: If you can provide donations of any kind for the silent auction or raffle (or know a company who can) please email Kara Goetze at karalee@shaw.ca
- Small and Medium Prize donations: Can you provide new toys (small and medium ones for prizes: ex. McDonalds, Burger King, Subway toys or coupons, recreation passes...chips, candy or beverages. If you can, please email Michelle Voisard at m.voisard@shaw.ca
- Canadian Tire Money and Country Grocer Receipts: Please continue collecting your Country Grocer Receipts and Canadian Tire Money, and add the receipts and CT Money to the Country Grocer receipt box outside the school office. Last year over \$5000 worth of gift cards was earned from Country Grocer Receipts and over \$100 was collected in Canadian Tire money!!

If you can help in ANY of the above ways, or have any suggestions, please send a quick email with your name, contact information and how you would like to help to sosullivan@sd61.bc.ca. We know this is months away, but without your support we cannot host a successful Spring Fair.

Northridge Elementary School Ongoing PAC Fundraisers



Did you know there are many local businesses that support our school?
You can help!



Country Grocer - Save a Tape Program

Submit all your Royal Oak Country Grocery receipts to the box outside the office. Northridge will get 3% of the pre-tax value back.



Canadian Tire Money

We continually collect Canadian Tire Money. This year the money will be used for our upcoming Spring Fun Fair. Game supplies, sporting equipment, prizes and auction items will be purchased.



COBS BREAD

Do you shop at the Royal Oak COBS? If so, Mention that you are with Northridge Elementary every time you make a purchase and COBS will donate 5% back.



Peninsula Co-op

When your family shops for gas or groceries please give the membership number 69206 and Northridge will receive a membership cash payout!



The Bottle Depot

Take your empty bottles and cans to any of these 3 Bottle Depots and tell them you are donating the empties to Northridge Elementary.