

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

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Nov. 24, 2016

Principal's Message:

On December 1st, we will be sending home the first formal report card of your student's school year. This report card is an informative "assessment" of your child's progress from September 6 to date. Report cards are based on daily assignments, projects, self-assessments, unit evaluations and other assessment tools. Please do take the time to sit down with your child and celebrate their achievements as well as discuss ways they can improve on their work. It is important to share your excitement over their learning and to support them with their learning challenges. You might notice a change in format for some report cards. This year, teachers are using the new "Communicating Student Learning (CSL) tool" and incorporating core competencies into the report card. This is as a result of the new curriculum that is in place as of September.



In the month of December, we have a number of special events taking place. We have our movie night taking place on Dec 2. On the 7th, Divisions 1-10 will be attending the Naden Band Concert at the Royal Theatre. We are planning an afternoon and an evening performance of the "12 Divs of Christmas" on December 15th and of course, we will be continuing the tradition of inviting you and your child to decorate Gingerbread houses on the last day of school, December 16th.

Thank you to those of you that have supported our Christmas Hamper fund, through donations or through buying tickets for the night of Lights that was held on November 20th at Hillside mall. The families that receive hampers are grateful.



It is a pleasure to work with your children. As always, if you have any concerns or comments, my door is always open and I am just a phone call away.

.....Mrs. L. Whittam, Principal

*We are now approaching the season when **inclement weather** may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause classes to be postponed or some School District 61 services to be suspended.*

Current information will be updated continuously on the GVSD 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>

Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 a.m. if there is a concern.

Local media outlets have indicated that they will provide constant information.



November's Virtue is COURAGE



At Northridge, we learned that courage comes from what we feel in our heart rather than just what we think. It comes from knowing ourselves and knowing down deep that we can and should do something even when it is really hard and scary and we feel like giving up. We face our mistakes with courage, learn from them and keep trying. Courage is standing up for ourselves by doing what is right and by encouraging others. When we show courage, we show others that we are not afraid to be involved and responsible. People will respect us for showing our courage. Courage helps us do great things!



Northridge Remembrance Day service

On Thursday, November 10th, Northridge students wore a poppy, attended a special ceremony, and showed their recognition for those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Also, thank you to Liam and Jumana who collected poppy donations to support serving and retired veterans and their families on behalf of our school.

Naden Military Band performance at Royal Theatre - Wednesday, December 7th

Divisions 1 to 10 will join students from all over the district to watch this professional holiday performance on Wednesday, December 7th. Students will be traveling by bus, leaving the school at 12:45 and returning approximately at 2:45pm. An information letter/permission form was sent home with your child earlier this week. We are asking for \$4 to cover transportation and donation (in lieu of an admission charge). Please return the form and payment asap. Thank you!

Christmas Candy Houses - Friday, December 16th at 12:45pm

Come one; come all to our 10th annual building event. Each child is encouraged to invite one adult to help build a graham wafer 'gingerbread' house (siblings may share). Watch for an information letter that is coming home with your child's report card on December 1st.



Christmas Food Hampers.....

As Christmas approaches, it is time to assemble hampers to send out to families in need. In conjunction with our "Twelve Divs of Christmas" campaign, we are collecting non-perishable food items and necessities". The drop off area is by the main doors, just outside the Office. Thank you for your Community spirit and generosity!

If you know of a Northridge family, or personally could use a "Christmas Hamper", please contact me at the school and I would be honoured to help in any way. Confidentiality is assured!

.....L. Whittam



12 DIVS of CHRISTMAS



Northridge "Twelve Divs of Christmas"

Northridge "Twelve Divs of Christmas" has begun. Each division is responsible for a non-perishable food item/necessity and is building a hamper from the various contributions within their classroom.

Below is a division chart:

Division	Teacher	Food item/necessity	Ideas
1	Mr. Johnston	Breakfast items	Peanut butter, cereal, jam, applesauce, oats
2	Ms. Sugrue, Mrs. Lister	Small treats	Candy, chocolate, cookies
3	Mr. Richardson	Paper products	Tissues, toilet paper, napkins, gift wrap, tags
4	Ms. Escher, Mrs. Saunders	Juices	Orange juice, tea, coffee, hot chocolate
5	Mrs. Penner	Snacks	Granola bars, pudding cups, raisins, crackers
6	Mrs. McKeachie	Canned sauces	Pasta sauces, tomato sauce
7	Mrs. Lunt	Health items	Soap, toothbrushes, shampoo
8	Mrs. Elliott	Baking items	Sugar, chocolate chips, flour, baking powder
9	Mrs. Sarton	Condiments	Mustard, pickles, relish, mayonaise
10	Mr. Finlayson	Soups	Canned soup, dry soup, chili, stew
11	Mrs. Ashbee, Mrs. Buckham	Pets/Baby Food	Arrowroot cookies, milkbones, applesauce, pablum
12	Miss Simmonds	Pasta/Rice	Macaroni, sushi rice, scalloped potatoes, brown rice

We are hoping that each student will be able to contribute an item to their division's Christmas hamper. Please have your child bring in his or her item no later than **Friday, December 9th**. There is also a donation box in the front foyer and you can contribute any item that you like. All contributions will be donated to our Northridge community families. A BIG thank you to the Red Barn for donating lots of dog treats and thank you to families who have already donated items. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Northridge Raffle - November 24 to December 16th

In support of the Northridge 12 Divs of Christmas Campaign, we are having a raffle. The items to be raffled are:



1. Certificate for a Customized beverage refrigerator
2. \$200 in Country Grocer gift cards
3. Stuart the minion piñata filled with fun treats

Tickets are 1 for \$2, or 3 for \$5. You choose which prize you would like to win. Each prize will have its own draw barrel located at the front of the school. Tickets are available in the Office. The draw will take place at 1:30pm on Friday, December 16th.

Northridge PAC Movie Night - Friday, December 2nd 6:00-8:00pm

The Northridge PAC is hosting a movie night on Friday, December 2nd at 6:00pm. The feature film is "Finding Dory". Doors open at 5:30pm and the movie starts at 6:00pm. It's going to be fun! Bring your blankets and wear your jammies and come snuggle and enjoy. We will be selling popcorn, water, oranges and cookies. Entry is by donation. Hope to see everyone there!! All children must be supervised by an adult.

Basketball Season Has Begun! - Mr. Johnston & Mr. Richardson

Many Grade 4 and 5 students are taking part in the basketball program. Mr. Johnston and Mr. Richardson and are thrilled by the interest and enthusiasm. Group A meets on Mondays from 2:50 to 3:30 pm until December 5th. Group B meets on Thursdays until December 8th. Group A & B lists are posted just outside the gym entrance. After Christmas break, teams will be formed, games will begin and players will apply their skills to game situations.... And most importantly, it'll be fun!



Patrols and Weather



This is the time of year when wind and rain and dark make it difficult for our patrollers to be at their best. The lack of visibility for drivers also makes these winter months the most important for them to be on time, prepared and focused. Please help your grade five student take on this important responsibility by: checking planners and marking dates on your family calendar. We appreciate your help in this regard. Thank you to all grade 5's for helping our community be safe.



Inclement weather and soggy playground conditions...



The Office has limited amount of extra clothes when a student clothes gets wet. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring an extra change of clothes to school.

USED Clothing Request

There is a need for smaller size sweat pants. If you have gently used sweat pants (pull on style) or leggings suitable for age 5-8 children, would you please bring them to the school office?

If your child has borrowed clothing from the school, please wash and return. Thank you!

DATES TO NOTE

Fri. Nov. 25	Pizza Hot Lunch Day. Car Free Friday.
Tues. Nov. 29	Fruit & Vegetable Program - Mandarins delivered
Thurs. Dec. 1	Report Cards go home
Fri. Dec. 2	Northridge PAC Movie Night "Finding Dory" 6-8pm
Until Dec. 9	Last Day for collecting hamper items for our "12 Divs of Christmas" project
Wed. Dec. 7	Divisions 1-10 go to Royal Theatre to see Naden Military Band (pm)
Fri. Dec. 9	Car Free Friday. PAC Shopping day
Thurs. Dec. 15	Christmas Concert am/pm/Newsletter Day
Fri. Dec. 17	Gingerbread Candy Houses (12:45pm)/ Last day before Winter Vacation
<u>Tues.</u> Jan. 3	First day back from Winter Vacation
Jan. 23-27	Kindergarten registration week
Tues. Feb. 7	Ready, Set, Learn (10:30 - 11:45 am)

❄️ DECEMBER CALENDAR ❄️

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Nov. 28 Northridge "12 Divs of Christmas" project continues Group A basketball	29 Fruit & Vegetable program – Mandarin oranges delivered	30	Dec. 1 Report Cards go home Group B basketball	2 PAC Movie Night "Finding Dory"
5 Northridge "12 Divs of Christmas" project continues Group A basketball	6	7 Div 1-10 to Royal Theatre to see Naden Band – Bus leaves school at 12:45pm	8 Group B Basketball	9 Car Free Friday PAC shopping day Last day for Christmas hamper items
12	13	14	15 Christmas Concert Newsletter day	16 Last day before Winter Break Gingerbread candy houses (pm).
19	 20	21	22	 23
 Winter Break				
 26	27	28	29	30
 Winter Break				
Jan. 2 First day back after Winter Break	3	4	5	6 Car Free Friday

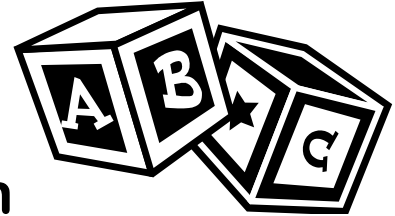
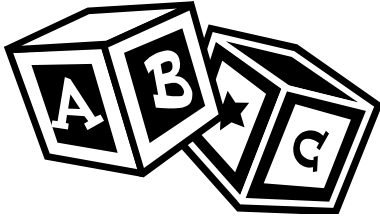
Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 12:10 pm
 Grade 4/5 Strings - every Wednesday and Friday morning 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Kindergarten Registration (2017-2018)

January 23 to January 27, 2017

Registration for students who will turn five before December 31, 2017 will take place from January 23 to January 27 at all School District #61 schools. Parents are asked to register their child at the catchment school during this week. To determine your catchment, either go to the school locator on the district website at www.sd61.bc.ca/schoolLocator.aspx or call the district board office at 250-475-3212. To request an out-of-catchment school within the District, register at your catchment school and complete a Kindergarten Transfer Application form.

Parents who already have an older child enrolled in one of our elementary schools in September 2017 and wish to have their younger child enrolled in the same school can register their Kindergarten child at that school rather than the catchment area school. They do not fill out a Student Transfer Application form. Please pass this information along to your neighbours and friends.

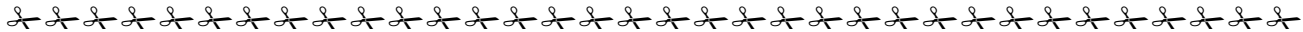


Ready, Set, Learn For Three & Four Year Olds (Preschoolers)

Northridge Elementary School hopes to help families with preschool age children connect positively with our school and with other community agencies in our area. As such, we will be hosting an interactive morning for families and their 3 & 4 year olds (preschoolers) on Tuesday, February 7th. Please pass this information to neighbours and friends who will not receive this newsletter via their school age children.

If you have questions or concerns about helping your child get a 'flying start' in school, or are involved with an agency (child-care provider, music teacher, etc.) that could provide useful information to parents of preschoolers, please complete the attached form or send us an email to: northridge@sd61.bc.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Ready, Set, Learn – Tuesday, February 7, 2017 (10:30 – 11:45 am)

Parent Name: _____
Email: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age _____
Phone: _____

PREVENTING COLDS AND INFLUENZA (FLU)

Cold and influenza season is here. As the weather gets cooler and we move indoors, so do germs. Children need reminders to decrease the risk of colds and flu in your house by:

- ♦ Washing hands often
- ♦ Coughing and sneezing into their elbow
- ♦ Not sharing facecloths or towels
- ♦ Keeping hands away from nose and mouth
- ♦ Not sharing food or drink with others

To help limit the spread of germs, please keep your child at home if he or she is feverish, coughing a lot, has a thick yellow or green discharge from the nose, or is otherwise obviously unwell.

Viruses cause colds and influenza. The most effective treatment for a cold is rest and fluids. The influenza vaccine will protect against specific types of influenza. Antibiotics will not make a cold or other virus go away faster. However, more serious infections can start out as a cold. Call your doctor if your child has an earache, fever higher than 39° C (102° F), rash, is very sleepy, very cranky or fussy, has trouble breathing or a cough that will not go away.

Handwashing is the most effective way to stop the spread of germs that cause colds, influenza, diarrhea, and other illnesses. To wash hands properly:

- ♦ **Wet** hands under warm running water
- ♦ **Scrub** with plain soap for a count of **20**, all over hands and between fingers
- ♦ **Rinse** under running water for a count of **10**
- ♦ **Dry** hands with a clean paper towel
- ♦ **Turn** off taps with a paper towel

Remember to wash hands:

- ♦ Before and after eating or handling food
- ♦ After using the toilet, handling pets, coughing, sneezing, or wiping noses

For more information contact:

- ♦ Your local Health Unit
- ♦ HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 (a free call) or www.healthlinkbc.ca
- ♦ Your doctor

Health Units:

Esquimalt	250-519-5311	Salt Spring Island	250-538-4880	Saanich	250-519-5100
Outer Gulf Islands	250-539-3099	Sooke	250-642-5464	West Shore	250-519-349
Peninsula	250-544-2400	Victoria	250-388-2200		



1000X5 - 1000 Books by Age Five

Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

Did you know.... Facts about necessity of reading with babies and toddlers



*Books in the home for babies and preschoolers are 70% more effective at predicting school success than is the parents' educational level.

*Books in the home are more effective than literacy outreach programs.

* Over 5 years 1000X5, with your help, has donated 115,000 books for babies

and preschoolers. Check out our 90 second video showing the project in action

<https://youtu.be/zbdIWkjgGPI>

Drop off gently used picture books for babies and toddlers in the pink bin just outside the Northridge library.