

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

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October 27, 2016

Principal's Message...

October has been an incredibly busy month for both staff and students. Routines are well settled into, programs are in place to support student learning and parent/teacher contacts have been established. Classrooms are working on a variety of learning activities including field trips and special presentations. A commitment to learning with high behavioral expectations is our goal. Northridge School is a wonderful place for children!

Our Choir has started practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays and our Strings program is well under way. Our Soccer and Cross Country teams have wound up the season. Soccer students unfortunately were not able to participate in the soccer jamboree on Oct. 27 due to inclement weather, field conditions and safety of students. The Cross Country finals were held on October 24th, at Beacon Hill Park and were thrilled with the number of students participating. Congratulations to all of our athletes, for representing Northridge School so well.

On a safety note, I would like to remind parents to reinforce the pick-up routine with their children after school. Students have been told that if they don't see their pick up person after school to report to the office. Once again, I would like to remind parents to have students arrive at school in weather appropriate clothing (rain gear, boots, coats etc.). Fall brings with it rain and wind and our student need to be prepared for it.

Northridge School has had a terrific startup. I am looking forward to seeing what the year has to offer. As always, please see me for any issues or concerns; my door is open and I am only a phone call away.

Mrs. L. Whittam, Principal

Parking Concerns - 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.



Reminders:

Family Halloween Dance/Hot Lunch Day/
 Car Free Friday... Tomorrow - Friday,
 October 28
 Black & Orange Day - Monday, October
 31



Friday, November 11th is Remembrance
 Day Holiday
 - *No school for students*



YOU CAN'T STOP TIME....

.....But you can turn back 1 hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6 when Daylight Savings time ends and Standard time begins.....

Remember to set your clocks back one hour!!!!

"SPRING ahead - FALL back"



October's Virtue is Empathy

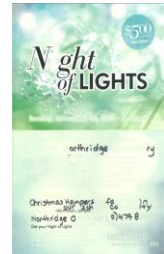


Empathy is understanding the feelings of others and at Northridge, we focused on that during the month of October. We learned that when you are empathetic, you not only feel the pain when someone is hurt or sad but also the joy when someone is happy. It is putting ourselves in someone else's place. Having empathy is showing that we understand the feelings of others. It makes you a friend when someone needs a friend and it gives you a good feeling as well as your friend. People who are empathetic have feelings toward their family, friends, strangers, pets and even plants. With empathy, we are all connected and it makes life much easier because we understand and care about one another. Please view the bulletin board in the main hallway which highlights our monthly virtue.

Northridge Night of Lights fundraiser

Northridge school is participating in Hillside Center's "Night of Lights" fundraising event. This year's annual private ticketed event will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2016 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm and only those who have purchased a ticket will be allowed to enter Hillside Center. This special event will include fabulous in-store discounts, tasty treats, live entertainment and a chance to win one of over 100 door prizes including a trip for 4 to Disneyland!

Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold from the office. **ALL the revenue generated from the tickets will go towards providing Christmas hampers to families in our school community.**



Northridge PAC Family Halloween Dance - Friday, October 28, 2016 from 6-8pm



You are invited to Northridge PAC's Family Halloween Dance tomorrow, Friday October 28 from 6-8pm. There will be a D.J. and fabulous prizes.

Please note this is for students of Northridge and younger siblings only. All students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Please no masks or weapons please.

Admission is by donation at the door.

We will have a concession, selling water, chips, candy bags for \$1 and pizza for \$2.

The PAC is still looking for parent volunteers. If you can help, please e-mail Linsay at l.szteina@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing everyone in their costumes!

Monday, Oct. 31 IS BLACK AND ORANGE DAY.....

The children are very excited about Black and Orange Day.



Students are encouraged to wear their Black and Orange outfits on Monday.



Turkey Trot Winners...



Congratulations to Tyler F. and Cianna G.. who won Country Grocer Gift certificates for turkeys in the Turkey Trot Draw. Thank you Northridge PAC for donating the gift cards!

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut Drill - October 20, 2016

On Thursday, October 20th, Northridge Elementary joined over 12 million people registered to participate in ShakeOut drills worldwide. This annual earthquake preparedness drill helped us to prepare to react should an earthquake ever happen. Congratulations on a job well done!



Safety is important at Northridge - Mrs. Whittam

At Northridge School, we regularly practice safety procedures to ensure that students and staff know how to respond to emergency situations should they occur. In September, we held several fire drills as practice for our October drill with the Saanich Fire department. We were all well prepared and we impressed the fire department with our swift quiet evacuation.

On October 20th, we participated with "Shake Down BC" by staging a full earthquake drill. While students congregated outside, staff assumed emergency roles including, Search and Rescue, First aid, Shelter and Communications. The drill was successful both in finding out what works and discovering areas that we can improve in.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the drills, please feel free to give me a call.

Scholastic Book Fair - October 2016 - Mrs. Buckham



Thank you to the Northridge Community for your generous support of our literacy fundraiser! Our total sales for our scholastic book fair were over \$6400 which means that we raised \$3200 for new books in our library!! This would not have been possible without the help of our wonderful staff volunteers. A huge thank you goes out to: Leslie Hall, Sylvia Schumann, Diana Jang, Kim Mitchell, Louise Williams and Mrs. Whittam.

Grade 5 Strings - Mrs. Whyte

The Northridge Grade 5 strings students are invited to participate in the School District #61 Strings Concert at Mt. Douglas Secondary School on Tuesday, November 1st at 7pm. A package with the pieces to be performed as well as a participation form was sent home with the Grade 5s on Wednesday.

Students should arrive at Mt. Douglas Secondary by 6:20 pm. and wear concert dress - white tops with black skirts or slacks, black socks and black shoes. Cellists should bring their end pin holders. Please ensure all items being used in the concert are labeled with both name and school.

Family and friends are welcome to attend. Admission is by donation.

I hope your child is enjoying the Strings program. The students who are enrolled in the program are doing very well and will be able to successfully perform the pieces at Mt. Douglas Secondary School.



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) 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 FOR NOVEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Oct. 31 Black & Orange Day	Nov. 1 Cucumbers delivered	2	3	4 Kindergarten screening Car Free Friday
7	8	9	10 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30am Hot Lunch Order Forms go home	11 Remembrance Day Holiday – no school
14	15 Apples delivered	16 PAC meeting 6:30 pm	17 Assembly 12:45pm Hot Lunch Order Forms due	18 Pro D Day – no school for students
21	22	23	24 Newsletter Day	25 Hot Lunch Pizza Day Car Free Friday
28	29 Mandarin oranges delivered			

Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 12:10 pm

Grade 4/5 Strings - Wednesday and Friday mornings 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, Oct. 28	Subway Hot Lunch Day. Family Halloween Dance 6-8pm
Monday, Oct. 31	Black and Orange Day - Happy Halloween!!!
Thursday, Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:30am Hot Lunch order form home (due Nov. 17)
Friday, Nov. 11	No School, Remembrance Day Holiday
Wednesday, Nov. 16	PAC meeting 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 17	School Assembly at 12:45pm
Friday, Nov. 18	Pro D Day - No school for students
Thursday, Nov. 24	Newsletter day
Friday, Nov. 25	Pizza Hot Lunch Day



Have a Safe & Happy Halloween!



TRICK OR TEETH:



When it comes to Halloween candy and tooth health, the "all or nothing" approach is best. Giving children their Halloween candy over days or weeks is not the best choice. The risk of tooth decay increases with the amount of sugar and the number of times teeth are exposed to it.

Tooth safe suggestions for enjoying Halloween treats are:

- Serve a healthy dinner (or snack) before trick-or-treating. This will leave less room for sugary snacking. You will know your child has eaten something nutritious on this exciting night.
- Cut down on the number of times teeth are exposed to sugar by having a one-time Halloween candy binge.
- Cut down on the number of sugary treats by handing out "tooth-friendly" options like stickers, temporary tattoos, or fancy pens and pencils.

And of course, remember to floss and brush with fluoride toothpaste before going to bed, or there could be some very scary results!!!

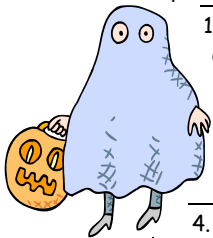
For more information contact: Prevention Services Dental Program, Prevention Services Nutrition Program, 744-5100

Top 10 Halloween safety tips for families from the Canadian Red Cross:

The day that paranormal creatures invade city streets is near. As your little ones prepare their costumes to trick or treat their way through the night, the Canadian Red Cross has prepared a quick list of 10 tips to make sure everyone gets home safely. You may not need to fear vampires and ghosts knocking on your door, but fire hazards, scrapes and getting lost are potential concerns.

1. Give your kids a map of their trick or treat route so they can find their way home. Mark the homes of nearby friends and relatives in case they need assistance on their journey. Younger children should be chaperoned by an adult.
2. Instruct children to walk on the sidewalk not the street, even princesses and fairies have to watch out for motorists!
3. Prepare for the dark with lighter coloured clothing and reflective surfaces. What better way to decorate a sword or a cape, than with magical glowing tape?
4. Avoid any type of flame by substituting candles with glow sticks. Wigs and costumes are highly flammable and glow sticks are perfect for illuminating Jack-o-lanterns.
5. Remind your kids to stick with groups of at least four or five - after all, even legendary heroes are stronger as a team (like the Avengers and X-Men!)
6. Tell them to only visit residences with a porch light on and not to enter a stranger's home. Politely accept candy and promptly leave.
7. Costumes are meant to embellish not to hide. Keep hems short to avoid tripping and don't let masks block the eyes.
8. Whether you have one eye, two eyes, three eyes or four, always look both ways before crossing the street.
9. Both mystical creatures and children need to let parents check their candy before eating to remove any potential hazards.
10. A flashlight is akin to a protective light saber of sorts and makes nighttime travelling safer (it also helps you spot a ghost or goblin trying to plan a surprise attack!).

Following these tips on October 31 will help ensure your family has a fun and safe night of trick or treating!



Community Information



Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria 1000X5 Books Part of October Fun



As you prepare for the end of the month celebrations with fun costumes and food, can you find a minute to locate 3 gently used books for babies and toddlers and drop them off in the pink bin just outside the Northridge library. These books will entertain and enrich wees ones long after the October fun has ended. 112,000 books in 5.5 years!!

The Greater Victoria School District's *Victoria International High School Programs* (VIHSP) is seeking caring families, in your neighborhood, to provide homestay accommodation to international students studying in the District's middle and secondary schools.

We offer the following to our host families:

- Orientation
- Homestay reference manual
- Remuneration of \$875 per month for hosting
- On-going support

To find out more about our registered homestay program, please visit our website: www.studyinvictoria.com/homestay email: thsieh@sd61.bc.ca tel: 250.592.6871

PLAY FIELD HOCKEY Join the fun!



Beginners welcome!

Spring League registration for boys and girls aged 5 to 14 begins on November 1st, 2016

Check us out at www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca or contact info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca

The **Ministry of Education** is hosting a community session about student reporting this Thursday October 27th from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Central Middle School. This is a provincial event, open to all parents regardless of District. Open house from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., followed by a roundtable format from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/en/home/>

Country Grocer (Royal Oak) - Save a Tape Program

Save your grocery receipts and drop them off at the school. Country Grocer will donate 3% of the total sales of the receipts collected. That's \$3 to our school for every \$100 spent at Country Grocer. You can ask family and friends to save their receipts for you as well. There is a drop off box located just inside the front door of the school. This is a great fundraiser!

