

N O R T H R I D G E

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 23, 2017

Principal's Message...

February has been a very busy month at Northridge. We welcomed over twenty 3 and 4 year olds to our Ready Set Learn program on February 8th. It was exciting to meet our next and upcoming Kindergarteners. On February 9th, Divisions 1, 2, and 3 performed "Radioactive". We also hosted 3 Harp players from the conservatory of music on February 15th and were entertained while we learned about Harps.

"Fire fighter Sean" spoke to our grade one classes on fire safety on Feb. 16th as well as our grade 5s participated in a Basketball Jamboree at Spectrum school on Feb. 20th. On Friday, February 17th, our entire school jumped in the Gym to raise money for the Jump Rope for Heart campaign. Thank you to 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 17. 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 20th and runs to March 31st. Our First day back will be Monday, April 3. Please enjoy this time with your family.

On the last day before Spring break (March 17th), we are having a "Sock Toss". The goal is to collect clean pairs of sock to donate to Our Place. The bonus is, if you bring in pairs of socks, you will get a chance to throw them at Miss Simmonds, Terry and myself! Talk about a win win!

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



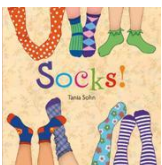
A special Thank You to Our Parents --- from Mrs. Whittam

"Staff Appreciation Week" was celebrated by our parents this past month. We were spoiled with sweets, fresh fruits and vegetables, 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 22nd. 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.



Sock Toss - Friday, March 17th

Bring in clean pairs of socks to donate to "Our Place" on March 17th and you will get a chance to throw them at Mrs. Whittam, Miss Simmonds and Terry!!!

"Our Place" is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless.



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.



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 Thursday, March 2 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 Monday, February 20th. 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.

'Our Canada' Video Taping - Mrs. Hall

We are looking forward to video taping our original song called, ' Our Canada' on Thursday, March 2 in the afternoon. Please send your child/children with a red or white shirt if you have them. Please don't go out and buy one for the this event. Permission slips will be going home regarding permission to be seen in this video.



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. 24	Pro D Day - no school for students
Thursday, March 2	Basketball Final Game at lunch time. Music taping (pm)
Friday, March 3	PAC Movie Night - 6pm - Trolls
Thursday, March 9	School Assembly 12:45pm
Friday, March 10	Car Free Friday
Wednesday, March 15	PAC meeting 6:30pm
Thursday, March 16	Newsletter Day
Friday, March 17	Report Cards home. Sock Toss. Last day before spring break
March 18 to April 2	Spring Break
Monday, April 3	Students return from spring break



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.