



Cedar Elementary News

January

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and I would like you wish you all a happy (belated!) new year. I would also like to thank our wonderful families for the support given to the food bank drive this year as it made a difference to so many who were struggling at this time.

The next few months are always very important, as it is a good solid chunk of time for learning. We will continue to work on our school goals of improving our reading and basic math skills and we appreciate all of the extra that you do at home to support this.

It is time to register any children that are coming to Kindergarten in September. The process is online only this year but we can help you at the school or at the board office if you are having difficulty. Please remind friends, family and neighbours to register now and not wait until the summer. Our staffing numbers are based on our registrations - even if you just live across the street! Thanks for all the help spreading the news!

Have a good January!

LITERACY WEEK

We celebrate literacy every day but draw special attention to it for the last week of January. To mark this week we will be hosting some members of the Nanaimo Clippers as they read to our classes - and may be persuaded to play some hockey?? Watch for notices in the planners about something special your child's class may be doing this week.

Our PAC will be making pancakes for the whole school on Jan 25 - if you can help that would be greatly appreciated.

Family Literacy Day® is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

Barbara Reid, award-winning Canadian author and illustrator, is the Honourary Chair of Family Literacy Day 2017!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are some dates to remember:

- Jan 9 School starts again
- Jan 12 Div 13, 14 visit to Cedar Sec
- Jan 18 6:30 PAC meeting
- Jan 20 Triple ball Jamboree
Joyful literacy conference
- Jan 23-27 Literacy Week
- Jan 24 Clippers here for literacy week
- Jan 25 PAC pancake breakfast
- Jan 27 Hot lunch - hot dog
Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Jan 31 Grades 4-6 Mt Washington
- Feb 2 10:50 ArtStarts performance
- Feb 3 Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Feb 10 Written reports home
Hot lunch
Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Feb 14-17 Scholastic Book Fair



SCHOOL CLOSURES

If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements will be made on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM, WAVE 102.3 FM, and 91.7 COAST FM) by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please do not call the radio station - tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis.

In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website, Twitter, Facebook, and mobile app. Please keep in mind, however, that there may be situations where this is not always possible, for example, power outages or technical problems. The most reliable method is to listen to the local radio stations.

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Fluency: What is it? Why is it important?

At the workshop, we attended this weekend a focus was on fluency. If someone is fluent in speaking another language or in playing an instrument, there's a smooth, graceful and easy quality to it. The same is true with reading skills. Reading fluency is a child's ability to read a book or other text correctly, quickly, and with expression. A fluent reader doesn't have to stop and "decode" each word. Rather, most of the words can be read automatically. This means the reader can focus his attention on what the story or text means. For that reason, fluency is critically important — it is the bridge between decoding words and understanding what has been read. Fluency is an important skill for all ages.

How can we foster reading fluency?

Parents can help their child develop reading fluency through a few simple and fun activities like the one below:

Paired or "Buddy" Reading

The easiest and best way to help your child develop fluency is to sit with your child and read! Read together every day, which is often called paired or buddy reading. To use paired reading, simply take turns reading aloud. You go first, as your reading provides a model of what good fluent reading sounds like. Then, ask your child to re-read the same page you just read. You'll notice that your child's reading will start to sound more and more like yours. Do this for several pages. Once your child is comfortable enough, and familiar enough with the book, take turns reading page for page.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Unless it is really miserable and so wet we can see rain bouncing off the pavement, we go outside to play at short and long recess. If your child only has one pair of shoes, he or she will be wet all day. If you are having difficulty affording extra clothing so your child can stay dry, please let us know in the office and we may be able to help. Please send an extra set of clothing that your child can keep in their locker or classroom. Unfortunately, we are not able to supply or store clothing for all of our students and it is quite disruptive to families when students want to call home every time they are wet. This applies to all our grades and it is very helpful when they bring their own! If you have extra shoes - larger sizes - that you would like to donate, please leave them at the office.



REGISTRATION



Register @ www.sd68.bc.ca

Registration information is posted on the district's website. There you will find detailed information for all new registrations; the registration form; out-of-catchment form; Early and Late French Immersion application forms; Eco-School application forms and Academy applications.

If your **Grade 7** child will be attending their catchment school this September, they will be automatically registered and no further action is required. However, if your answer is yes to any of the following questions, you will register through the new [online registration process](#):

- Is my child new to Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools?
- Do I want to register my child in secondary academies? (Hockey, Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Lacrosse, Baseball, Performing Arts or Jazz)
- Do I want to apply for a school transfer request?
- Do I want to register my child out-of-catchment?

[For more information email: ereg@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:ereg@sd68.bc.ca)

[Registration is online only](#)

SICK CHILDREN

Diseases spread quickly in a school as we are all sharing the same spaces. If your child is sick, please keep him or her home for a day or two. Sometimes the children ask to call home almost as soon as they arrive, as they are not feeling well! We all appreciate your support in this.



PAC NEWS

If you are able to help on Wednesday for our pancake breakfast, please contact the office or the email below. With the greater number of students, we will need a lot of help!

If you missed the deadline for hot lunch orders, please send a lunch with your child on Friday, as we cannot guarantee that the order will be filled but we will try our best. Please have the forms back by the date to ensure your child is not without a lunch.

Scholastic book fair is the week of Feb 14-17 and volunteers are needed! Again, please let the office or Jalene know if you are available after schools or at long recess that week.

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