



Cedar Elementary News

February/March

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This month is certainly flying by. I am sure the snow will disappear quickly and we are on the way to spring! The yard is still wet and will be until summer I think, so please make sure your child has a change of clothes for those accidental slips, they happen at all ages and it can be uncomfortable to sit in wet clothes for the rest of the day.

There are always times you would like to talk to our teachers and think it will "just take a minute". Please take the time to make an **appointment**. Teachers are usually quite busy just before the bell in the morning and as the bell rings in the afternoon and are unable to give you their full attention. Either contact them directly or leave a message through the office so you can discuss your child in a more relaxing manner. A reminder to all our visitors that you need to **check in at the office**, even if you know where you are going, please check in and let us know if you are taking your child for the rest of the day.

There are a number of things happening in our district in the next month so I thought I'd share them here:

Our Learning Services team will be hosting two **NLPS Parent Information Sessions** in March for parents & families to attend to learn more about the changes in our school district. There will be a short presentation and booths to visit to ask questions. There will be some great food and conversations! The first is March 1st at John Barsby at 6:15 or you could go to Wellington March 8th at 5:15.

Through NLPS, Ladysmith Secondary is hosting a parent night on March 15th at 7 PM through Safer Schools Together; the topic is "**Raising Digitally Responsible Youth**".

I have attached the flyer that Communications put together. It is asked that parents sign up ahead of time.

At the Business Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Superintendent John Blain presented the 2018-19 to 2019-2020 **local school calendar (attached to this email)**.

The Committee is requesting parent and community feedback. Staff will report back at the March 7, 2018 Business Committee meeting. Email your feedback to yourvoice@sd68.bc.ca by end of day Sunday, March 4, 2018.

READY, SET, LEARN

Ready, Set, Learn - Pre-school Pizza Party Gymboree

Intended for families and their three-to five-year-old children, Ready, Set Learn is all about providing good information about how to support a young child's early learning and development. It also develops positive connections between families, the school system and local community agencies. Join us with North Oyster, Chase River, and Cinnabar families at Cinnabar School on February 22 from 5-7.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are some dates to remember:

- Feb 19 Pro D - school not in session
- Feb 20 Pro D - school not in session
- Feb 22 Div 10, 11 to maple sugar festival
Ready Set Learn - Cinnabar
- Feb 23 Hot lunch
- Feb 26 Out in Schools for gr 5-7
- Feb 27 PAC meeting 6:30
- Feb 28 Pink Shirt Day
- Mar 1 Canadiana Musical Theatre Co
Parent Info session - Barsby
- Mar 2 Hot lunch
- Mar 8 Exploratories session 3
Parent Info session - Wellington
- Mar 16 Hot lunch
- Mar 17-Apr 2 Spring Break
- Apr 3 PAC meeting 6:30
- Apr 6 Strong Start closed
Hot lunch

PHONING IN ABSENCES

If your child is ill and going to be away from school, just phone the office and we'll be sure to excuse them for the day. Voice mail is available all day so parents can call any time to report students who will be absent or late. This program is for the safety of your child. *All absences and lates need to be called in.*



Principal	Shona Sneddon	ssneddon@sd68.bc.ca	250-722-2722
Vice Principal	Kerri Steel	kerri.steel@sd68.bc.ca	250-722-2722
Secretary	Kim Freer	kfreer@sd68.bc.ca	250-722-2722
Support Secretary	Tamara Asdal	tamara.asdal@sd68.bc.ca	250-722-2722

PACK RECOGNITION

At Cedar Elementary, we follow our PACK matrix of being problem solvers, accountable and aware of our actions, cooperative and kind. Students are recognized weekly on our Friday announcements and we add to our PACK chain that is growing in the hall by the office.

At home, families are encouraged to talk about kind behaviours and how to act appropriately in different settings. Siblings may wrestle at home but this is not appropriate for the schoolyard. We have noticed an increase in aggressive behaviours on our yard and are working to promote actions that are kind and cooperative. You can help us by talking about ways to problem solve peacefully at home and not using physical actions. Taking responsibility for our actions is a big part of becoming a responsible citizen. A number of students are using inappropriate language as well in their play. Again, the schoolyard is not the place for this and we appreciate your help in talking to your children about these issues.

ANTI-BULLYING OR PINK SHIRT DAY

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to prevent or stop bullying by celebrating people's differences and promoting positive relationships. An annual event, celebrated in many countries around the world, Pink Shirt Day encourages people to talk about bullying and take action against it.

Pink Shirt Day began in Nova Scotia in 2007. A group of students decided to defend a student who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. In a show of solidarity, many of his peers turned up to school the next day wearing pink shirts, and Pink Shirt Day was born. By wearing a pink shirt, people identify themselves as an ally. The pink shirt is a way of showing those being bullied that there are many people around who care.

Please wear pink on that day - it might be a t-shirt from another year or just something pink. We need to use our problem solving skills to stop bullying and mean behaviour so wearing pink reminds us to do that every day.

Not all negative behaviours are bullying, however, and we need to be aware if the actions are mean behaviours, peer conflict or bullying. It is important to teach and model ways to intervene and speak up - it is important to tell an adult in any situation where a child does not feel safe.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

There are no changes to our traffic challenges at Cedar Elementary. Please ensure you are exercising extreme caution at all times in the parking lot and on the road. Congestion at peak times (arrival, dismissal) means there are many children out and about. Without sidewalks, our students are walking on the side of narrow roads. Please be extra vigilant when pulling in, backing out or driving through. Please do not park a vehicle in the bus area, but you can use it for drop off and pick up when there are not busses. Of course, cars should not be in this area for more than a quick drop off or pick up. The back unpaved parking lot is designated staff parking and not conducive to dropping off as the road is not really wide enough for two vehicles. Also remember there is no parking in designated handicapped parking unless you have a valid handicap sign. Please do what you can to help out with our congestion and keep our area safe for our students and families.

One of our parents has some ideas she would like to take to the RDN - you can view these here: <http://chn.ge/2ogXcl0>

MESSAGES FROM THE PAC

Please join us for our PAC meeting Feb. 27 at 6:30 PM in the learning commons. All are welcome.

Thanks to all the volunteers for the scholastic book fair - it was very successful and the library will be getting more books due to your generosity!

PAC is pleased to offer two hot lunch days per month starting in February. The easiest option is to prepay to ensure your child does not miss a week. If you require financial assistance, please contact the PAC. Extra hands are always needed for hot lunch days- please contact the PAC if you can help.

Please keep collecting the Country Grocer and 49th Grocery receipts - there is a drop off box on the wall outside the office.

cedarelemPAC@gmail.com

PINK SHIRT DAY

bullying stops here