



# Cedar Elementary News

## February

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This month is certainly flying by. I hope the snow will disappear quickly and spring will come! The yard will be wet 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.

Now that the report cards have gone home, you might 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.

### District News

On November 28, 2018, the Board of Education agreed to update the district's **Strategic Plan**. The primary purpose of the strategic plan is to create a blueprint for the district that helps maintain its exemplary qualities, while supporting the continuous improvement of student learning. An updated strategic plan will help organize the district around a few significant goals and will ensure that the necessary resources are in place to successfully implement the goals in a manner that is sustainable over time. The strategic planning process will establish priorities for what the district will accomplish in the future. Students, parents, teachers, senior staff, district partners and the general public will all be involved in creating a new strategic plan. *To effectively create the priorities in the strategic plan, we ask that you provide up to three of your top priorities through the [Thoughtexchange](#) engagement process. Please separate each of your priorities, so that each can be rated on its own.* Please join members of the Board of Education and Senior Administration at our Strategic Plan Open House Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, in the District Administration Centre. See the attached invitation for more information. Please note the change in date due to the snow storms.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Here are some dates to remember:

- Feb 4-8 Scholastic Book Fair
- Feb 6 DuffleBag theatre presentation
- Feb 8 Progress reports sent home
- Feb 12 Swim to survive in school - grade 3
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day - wear red ☺
- Feb 18 BC family day-school not in session
- Feb 19 Swim to survive (pool) - grade 3
- Feb 20 PAC meeting - 9:00
- Feb 22 Artists in the school
- Feb 25 Pro D - school not in session
- Feb 26 Pro D - school not in session
- Feb 27 Pink Shirt day
- Feb 28 Microbit character showcase
  
- Mar 5 Swim to survive (pool) - grade 3  
Artists in the school  
Ready Set Learn 5-7
- Mar 11 Kub Kar races - gr 4-7  
Artists in the school
- Mar 12 Swim to survive (pool) - grade 3
- Mar 16-31 Spring Break

## 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 in our Gym on March 5, from 5-7.

### KubKar rally

If your child is ill and going to be away from school, just phone the office and we will be sure to excuse them for the day. This program is for the safety of your child. *All absences and lates need to be called in.*

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## **PACK RECOGNITION**

Our school goal is for students to develop social responsibility: to contribute positively to the school community, society, and the environment; to resolve problems peacefully; to empathize with others and appreciate their perspectives; and to create and maintain healthy relationships. Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

At Cedar Elementary, we follow our PACK matrix of being P-problem solvers, A-accountable and aware of our actions, C-cooperative and K-kind. We teach these behaviours in the classroom and students self assess these core competencies. Daily reminders are given on the announcements of what these actions should look like. Students are recognized weekly for making the right choices on our Friday announcements and we add to our PACK chain that is growing in the hall by the office. Even though these issues are addressed in classes, as a school and to individuals, aggressive behaviours on our yard continue. When many students are asked to stop a behaviour, they reply that they are "just having fun" or "it's ok, I told them they could do that". These aggressive behaviours are not fun and the same students who are laughing at one point often are upset and asking for help a few minutes later because they are hurt. Staff are active every recess and wear safety vests to be visible. If your child is having an issue, please remind them to talk to an adult outside so issues can be dealt with right away.

But we need your help...

At home, families are encouraged to talk about kind behaviours and how to act appropriately in different settings. Siblings may roughhouse at home but this is not appropriate for the schoolyard. We 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.

How will we know we have made a difference?

- Students working together to solve problems with words, not actions and with limited adult assistance
- Students participating in classroom activities without disruptions
- Students demonstrating respectful and inclusive behaviours

Staff, students and families all need to work together to make this the great school we know it is!

## **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.



## **KUB KAR RACES**

With changes to the curriculum, educators are finding new ways to engage students in their learning. In particular, educators are teaching Applied Design Skills Technology curriculum. ADST curriculum is an experiential, hands-on program of learning through design and creation that includes a variety of skills and concepts. To facilitate this type of learning, our intermediate divisions are holding a Kub Kar rally on March 11<sup>th</sup> in our school gym. Kub Kars are toy-racing cars built from kits. Each kit contains a block of pine, plastic wheels and metal axles. The students saw then sand, paint, and add other embellishments for both speed and style. Kars are raced, often three at a time, down a sloped wooden track. Students must problem solve and can demonstrate a great deal of creativity in making their car. This is the first time we have done this and look forward to a great day!



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### MESSAGES FROM THE PAC

Please join us for our PAC meeting Feb. 20 at 9:00 AM in the multipurpose room. All are welcome.

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

New hot lunch forms will go home next week.

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 49<sup>th</sup> Grocery receipts - there is a drop off box on the wall outside the office.

[cedarelemPAC@gmail.com](mailto:cedarelemPAC@gmail.com)

### COMMUNITY SCHOOLS UPDATE:

#### Yoga

Monday's 7:00pm - 8:00pm at Cedar Secondary

This community practice will help you transition out of the busyness of your day. Expect to leave feeling a little more connected to yourself and your community. All levels welcome! Wear comfortable clothing you can move in and bring a water bottle. If you have yoga props at home, please bring them with you.

There is a **fee for this program** - please contact Veronica Buck at 250-713-2512



### MARCH BREAK

All courses will be offered at Cedar Community Secondary School

### Clay Art

March 25<sup>th</sup> -9:00am - 12:00pm

There is a **fee for this program** - please contact Veronica Buck at 250-713-2512

Kids will have fun using their imagination to create unique and one of a kind clay sculptures.



### Basketball referee Training

March 26<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am - 12:00pm

There is a **fee for this program** - please contact Veronica Buck at 250-713-2512

Come out and get the basics of officiating the game, making calls, hand signals and blowing your whistle!

Whistle provided!



### WHMIS

March 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am - 12:00pm

There is a **fee for this program** - please contact Veronica Buck at 250-713-2512

This course meets all of Health Canada's training requirements under the Hazardous Products Regulations, for all persons involved in handling workplace chemicals.

### Cashier Training

March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - Ages 14 and up -

There is a **fee for this program** - please contact Veronica Buck at 250-713-2512

At the successful completion of this course, participants will have learned enhanced math and language skills to work with currency; be able to estimate and check machine calculations, perform record keeping, and manage communications.

This is a 12 hour, 2-day course. Participants will receive a certificate of accomplishment on completion



\*\*\*For further information, or questions, please contact Veronica Buck, Community School Coordinator at (250)713-2512\*\*\*

Principal  
Vice Principal  
Secretary  
Support Secretary

Shona Sneddon  
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