



Mountain Meadows Elementary

“A Nut-free School”

January Newsletter

Issue #06
January 16th, 2012

Mission Statement:

At Mountain Meadows, we strive, as a community of teachers, parents and students, to promote social responsibility, lifelong learning, and academic success in a safe and caring environment.

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! Most students have quickly settled back into routines quickly after the holiday and appear to be refreshed and full of energy. As we near the half way mark, we have many new and exciting activities and events that are occurring or on the horizon.



All our students are participating in the gymnastics unit offered by their classroom teacher.



We have upcoming FSA's (Foundational Skill Assessments) for grade 4 students and

Kindergarten registration on February 7,8,9. Basketball season will be starting after gymnastics in late January.

There are also numerous field trips and classroom events scheduled over the next month and a half. We are now paperless with regard to newsletters and announcements for most of the school community. The only paper notices coming home are the order forms for Hot Lunches, Scholastic Fieldtrips.

Preparation for next year is underway, and that starts with our kindergarten registration. Once that is completed, enrolment projections will be made for next year to determine the number of classrooms necessary for next year. This is why it is so important to get as many kindergarten registrations on time, so that we may begin organizing for next year. If you know of any other families in the area who have children who will be turning 5 , please inform them that they are eligible to register their child for kindergarten. There are a number of programs of choice (i.e.) Montessori, French Immersion, Reggio Influenced Kindergarten, etc. The registration for these programs are found under News and Announcements on our school's webpage.

Our school and staff continue to work on developing students' abilities in numeracy - our school goal for the year.

FSA- Foundation School Assessment

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is proceeding with district participation in FSA, in accordance with the School Act. A letter was recently sent home to all grade four parents indicating the timeline and a link to practice online for the assessment.

Pink Shirt Day- Anti- Bullying

On Wednesday, February 29th the Mountain Meadows students and community, along with thousands of students in different schools throughout British Columbia will be wearing pink in solidarity of Anti-Bullying Day- Pink Shirt Day.



This year the Grade 5 Leadership group are able to offer Pink shirts for \$ 6.00 and bracelets for \$ 1.50. If you are interested in ordering a shirt, shirts are available in front of the office for

sizing.

The deadline for bulk ordering is Monday January 30th . After that date, t shirts may be purchased at participating London Drugs. The t shirts are preshrunk and are 100 % cotton. All proceeds from the sales of the t shirts will go towards the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Weather Conditions

As a general expectation, schools will be open. If extreme weather conditions cause you to be unsure or if local conditions are unsafe, you may keep your child at home or arrange for an early dismissal.

If schools are to be closed before morning classes begin, an announcement will be made on local radio stations (CKWX news 11:30; CKNW 980) by 8:00 if possible. You can also check our school district webpage (www.sd43.bc.ca) for updates. Wherever possible, the decision will be announced the previous day to enable parents more time to make alternate arrangements for their children.

If there is an accumulation of snow, please remember to dress students in clothing suitable for playing in the snow, to avoid disappointment and cold fingers.

While we do our best to make sure that salt is on the ground on these colder days, please be careful in the mornings as it can be very slippery.

Non Instructional Day

Our school will be closed on Friday, January 27th for teacher professional development. This is a school based Non Instructional Day.

Technology at School

After Christmas there is usually a large amount of PSP, MP3 and cell phones being brought to school.

I would like to remind students and families that we recommend not bringing these items to school in case they are lost or misplaced. In the classroom, the temptation to use them can be hard to resist. These items should not be a distraction to learning or a substitute for other activities.

The use of cell phones can sometimes lead to other concerns. For example, we have had children phone home and make arrangements, unknown to the office or the teacher. Other students have left

vague messages or no message at all. The parents then call the school concerned about what has happened and the office and/or teachers are unaware that a call has been made, nor why.

Most cell phones and other portable devices have cameras and students should know that it is inappropriate to take pictures and/or videos of other students without their permission. There have been issues in other schools of children posting pictures on the internet of other students that were unaware, often without their permission nor their parents permission.

Important Dates:

To see the full calendar of events, go to: <http://sites.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/mountainmeadows/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>

Important Announcements:

A number of announcements have recently been added that can be found on the bottom left hand corner of our website:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/mountainmeadows/Pages/default.aspx>

Lost and Found Items

We have a number of items in our lost and found. They range from mittens and gloves to hoodies and jackets. If your child has lost any article(s) of clothing, please come in and have a look. You never know what you might find...

Tardiness

I would like to remind parents how important it is for students to be at school on time. Although being 5 minutes late may not seem to

be a big deal, it has an impact on teachers and other students. If you take that 5 minutes every day of the week, then multiply it by 4 for the month, then multiply it by 10 (# of school months), that makes 1000 minutes of lost instruction time for a school year. That's 16 hours and 40 minutes, or over 3 full school days of lost instruction time. We thank you for making the effort to having your kids on time for school.

Cross Catchment Transfers

Cross catchment forms are available on line at the school district website on February 10th @ 9:00 a.m. The closing date is February 22nd at 4:00 p.m. If enrolment projections show that space is available, cross-catchment transfer applications will be accepted according to the date you handed them in. If a child of yours is already in attendance at a school, any siblings are considered to be in that catchment area, so no transfer form is necessary.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Port Moody Recreation has a number of programs available for students. An announcement has been made in our News and Announcement Section.



Parent Advisory Council (PAC) News

PAC MEETING FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 17th HAS BEEN CANCELLED