



École Nestor News

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Dear Parents:

Principal's Message



In 1971, David Bowie, the famous British singer and songwriter, wrote a song called Changes. Asking his audience to "turn and face the strange," Bowie challenged listeners to not "grow out of change." Okay, so you're thinking, what does David Bowie and a 1970s song have to do with the final newsletter of the year!

Well, I have just finished reading 360 documents of change also known as report cards. In looking at the progress of each student, I am struck by some of the amazing accomplishments of our students. Young boys and girls who knew no English at the beginning of the year, are now, in many cases, speaking, reading and writing in English! In other cases, students developed their ability to stay organized and acquired the skills that help them become more focused on their learning. Of course, many students continued to develop their literacy and numeracy and their capacity to solve problems. The transformation that is learning is truly a wonderful thing and I loved witnessing and being a participant in this process of change this year.

Other types of change this year involved the arrival of Full Day Kindergarten and French Immersion. I was a little concerned about the arrival of 88 energetic Kindergarten students, but we had an amazingly successful year. Our French Kindergarten students embraced their new language and Good Stuff Awards en Français and our amazing bilingual rendition of O' Canada are some small examples of how everyone enjoyed this change at Nestor. I have a goal of doing part of my daily announcements in French next year – now that's a change and a challenge!

I believe learning is a wonderful example of change. Some people fear change, but I think Nestor is a school that isn't afraid to face what may be strange or new and different. This year, I certainly had many changes to face and I will admit that I really enjoy the challenges and opportunities that this brings. The greatest opportunity change has afforded me this year has been getting to know an incredible learning community. To our Grade 5s, I thank you for all of your contributions and wish you much success as you face the strange, new and beautiful experience that is learning. Have a terrific summer!

Staffing Updates

I would like to thank all of the following staff members for their contributions to Nestor and I wish them much success in the future:

Susan Zuckerman, Teacher - retiring

Janice McLaren, SEA – retiring

Georgia Cox, Teacher – teaching next year at Central Elementary

Cheryl Lloyd, Teacher - teaching next year at Pitt River Middle School

Laura Reale, Teacher – to be determined

Christina Wong, Teacher – to be determined

Lori Beatty, SEA – moving to Glen Elementary

Rebecca Boudreau – moving to Glen Elementary

Dianna Hanson, SEA – moving to Heritage Elementary

Tina Tang, SEA – To be determined

Barbara Dajani, SEA - To be determined



September

At this point, we are extremely full for September in terms of enrolment and this may require reorganization. We have tentatively placed students in classes at this point. In the event that students are not in classes in September (i.e. we are reorganizing), rest assured! We will ensure that students are welcomed back to school with the creative enthusiasm that is Nestor style! Please be sure to let us know if you are moving and not planning on attending Nestor in September.

New Registration for Next Year

The school is open during the week of August 30th to September 3rd for the registration of new students. If you find yourself with new neighbours over the summer, please ask them to come to the school during this week rather than waiting for September 6th. By having as many people as possible register this week we can hopefully avoid having to re-organize our classes on the first / second day of school.



The New School Year

The new school year begins on Tuesday, September 6th at 9:00 a.m. The children will be with us for only a short time (no later than 9:30 a.m.) on this date while we confirm attendance numbers and class sizes. On the first day each child must report to the classroom that he/she was in this year. All students new to the school will report to the library. The first regular day of attendance (8:55-3:00) will be on Wednesday, September 7th. A detailed calendar for the 2011-12 school year (including holidays and pro-d days) can be found right on our web-site at www.sd43.bc.ca/nestor and is attached to this newsletter as well.

We cannot confirm our organization for next year and may indeed have to change it based on the attendance that is taken during the half hour on September 6th. There could be significant movement of families either into or out of the Nestor School catchment over the summer that could affect our classroom organization. As it stands we have many classes close to our legislated limit, and yes, multi-grade classes are projected.

Moving?

Of course we hope no one moves away during the summer, but we realize this may be a reality for some of our families. Please feel free to e-mail myself at Nestor@sd43.bc.ca to let us know your new plans. We will make sure files and information are sent to your new school at the end of August.

Supply Lists for Next Year

Many parents have already chosen to order their children's supplies through Creative Children. These orders will be delivered to students in September. Many others, however, prefer to pick up the supplies elsewhere. A copy of next year's grade supply list is posted on our website. Students attending Maple Creek next year will also have a supply list included in their report card. Supply lists will also be made available on-line at www.sd43.bc.ca/nestor before the end of the summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sean Della Vedova
Principal