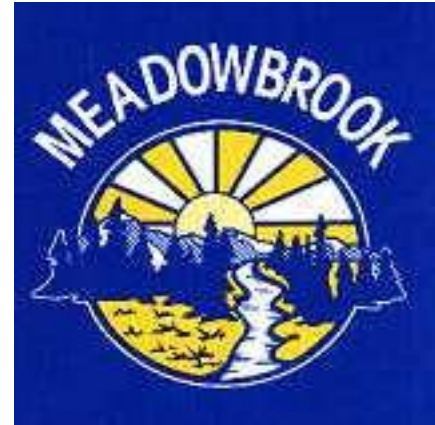


# Meadowbrook News

**December 2011**  
*(Scent Free School)*



It is a remarkably busy time of year, both in and outside of school and we appreciate you helping your child to arrive at school well rested, on time and ready to learn! We continue to have the same high expectations for our students throughout the month of December, despite the many exciting events happening in our school.



Our brief encounter with snow a few weeks ago reminded us that it can happen any time – so please ensure your child has warm clothes – a warm coat, boots, mitts and hats are essential if your child wants to join others building snowmen in our field. If you are having trouble locating these items for your child, please let us know at the office and we will do our best to help. We don't want anyone to miss the magic of snow on the west (wet) coast.

## Progress Report

You are likely aware that teachers are currently involved in a labour dispute which began on the first day of the 2011/12 school year. As part of

their legal strike action, members of BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) are not preparing report cards. This action, involving all teachers in every school district in the province, is in keeping with a ruling by the Labour Relations Board (LRB) which stated that during the current job action, teachers need not prepare or distribute report cards; or provide any student assessment data to principals or school office staff, except for Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes.

The School Act requires that you receive a minimum of three written reports on a form ordered by the Minister of Education or on a form approved by the Board of Education. It is for this reason that schools throughout the province are sending home report cards even though the documents will not include a student's academic progress for grades K-11. You will be receiving that report some time next week.

Please be aware that during this job action, while teachers are not preparing report cards, they will continue to gather and record assessment and evaluation information related

to your child. Teachers will also continue to communicate student progress to the students through individual feedback, marks on assignments, tests and other indications of overall progress. Many teachers have sent home updates about student performance and I encourage you to contact your child's teacher should you have questions about your child's progress.

### Warm Clothing Drive

The grade 5 class this year is doing a warm clothing drive for those in need this winter. If you have any warm clothing items that you or your children no longer fit into or have no use for, please consider passing them along to our class. The clothing items will be donated to Mannkind a charitable foundation that works with the Union Gospel Mission providing those in need with a little warmth during the cold season.



Raffle Basket items – Mrs. Kuntz our PAC president, will be picking up the contents for the baskets on December 8 – please remember to bring your items for the raffle baskets in before then!

### December Concert



I hope that everyone has December 13 marked on their calendar – it is the date of Meadowbrook's Christmas concert. Students have been working hard with Mrs. Citulec in music, practicing their songs, while Mrs. Chaikin and Mrs. Boss are working with the students of Division 1 and Division 2 to learn the words and music to the play, "Santa's Stuck in the Fifties!"

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It is very important that parents complete the form sent home regarding whether or not your child will be attending the concert. If we give students pivotal roles and then they don't come to the concert, it affects many other students. Please let us know if your child can not attend either performance as soon as possible.

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Please come early to the performances so that you can check out the baskets and purchase your tickets for the raffle and the 50/50 draw. The draws will take place at the end of the evening concert. Tickets will be on sale before each performance, - raffle and 50/50 tickets are \$2 each...3 for \$5 ...7 for \$10 and 15 for \$20.

**Hot Lunch** December 16 – order forms went home yesterday and are due back December 5. LATE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

### **Christmas Toy Drive**



The mission of the Charlene Reaveley Children's Charity Society is to offer immediate assistance to families with children experiencing the loss of a loved one through emotional and financial support.

Charlene Reaveley was a mother of four small children who lost her life while helping others. But at Christmas time, Charlene was always the biggest child of all. She loved every minute of the holiday season, watching as her children opened their gifts from Santa and shared in their excitement. Charlene would also often donate gifts to less fortunate children in her community.

This first annual Christmas Toy Drive is our way of keeping her love for Christmas going. The Charlene Reaveley Children's Charity Society is asking for donations of new unwrapped toys for children ages 0-12 years. Please help us bring

smiles to children's faces this year by showing them they are not alone. Drop off an unwrapped toy in the drop boxes at either of these Canadian Tire stores:

1220 Seguin Drive, Coquitlam

2125 Hawkins Street, Port Coquitlam

We also have a drop box at our school in front of the office.

Help us make all the difference this season for less fortunate children with a gift of hope.

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### Ready, Set, Learn

On Monday, January 16, at 1:00pm we are inviting three and four year olds and their parents to visit Mundy Road Elementary School for our annual Ready Set Learn event. Several elementary schools are joining together for this event, where children and parents will visit stations as well as learn about resources for young children in the community. Children will read a story, sing some songs and have lots of fun. Each child will receive a book to take home and there will be valuable tips for parents on supporting learning at home. Please pass this information on to any neighbours who do not have children attending Meadowbrook Elementary. Look for more information in the New Year.

### A Letter from Superintendent Tom Grant: Coquitlam School District High School Completion Rate

According to the recent announcement by the Ministry of Education, our district has achieved its highest ever overall completion rate of 90.6%. Of particular note is the 12.5 % increase in the completion rate for students with special needs, over the last five years.

This incredible level of success can be attributed to the skill and passion of our staff. The application of abilities within classrooms and schools is evident on a daily basis.

The context of how we work as an organization is complementary and supportive to the way we work as individual teachers. Elements of our district that support such an exemplary performance in supporting learning include:

- Supportive and engaged parent community
- Learning Without Boundaries
- Commitment to vulnerable learners through programs and orientation
- Beliefs in creative learning opportunities for learners
- Highly motivated International Education program and students
- Collaborative work of our professional staff (administrators, teachers and support staff) across levels and inclusive of our community
- Three level school and grade organization which recognizes students as individuals with personal passion and strengths
- Combined work of Staff Development and Student Services in supporting our collective commitment to professional learning focused on evidence of increased student learning
- Collective belief in the abilities and orientations of our students

- Commonly held core beliefs supporting a system of high quality and high equity
- Recognition that diversity in our classrooms, schools and communities is valued and necessary

I congratulate all our professional staff, the students and families we serve for their efforts in helping learners achieve such high levels of competence.

Tom Grant , Superintendent

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### **Girls' Softball**

Do you want to be involved in a fun activity where you will make life-long friends and have a great time? You should consider registering for girls' softball for the months of April – June! Registration is January 14 and 21, 2012 from 2:30 – 5:00 at the Port Moody Social Rec Centre, Multipurpose Room 2.

Free skills clinics are happening now at Glenayre Elementary School gym – Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

#### **MEADOWBROOK PLAYERS Before and After School Care - Preschool**

Are you or someone you know looking for quality child care or preschool? We offer full-time and part-time daycare for school-aged children and a 9 – 11:30 a.m. preschool program 2 days, 3 days or 5 days. Spaces available January, 2012. Contact Luisa Pucci at 604 338-8943 for more information.

### **INTRODUCTORY GIRLS-ONLY LACROSSE**

**For Girls Born between  
1991-2003**

**Girls Only Sessions**

**Starts Friday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> for 4 Fridays  
Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**5-5:50 pm or 6-6:50 pm**

**All sessions at Parkland Elementary School**

**Cost: \$40.00 Per Player (Free T-Shirt Included)  
\* Free Lacrosse Stick & \$40.00 fee  
will be applied toward 2012  
registration fees upon completed  
registration  
(Only applicable to 1<sup>st</sup> time players)**

**All equipment is provided.  
Stick or body contact is not permitted.**

**Girls-Only Introductory Lacrosse online  
registration available at:  
[www.coquitlamlacrosse.ca](http://www.coquitlamlacrosse.ca)**

