

Minnehada Matters

On the Calendar

Interim Reports

Interim reports were sent home this week. Look for them to come home with your child.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place next Thursday, October 20th. **We've scheduled an early dismissal for 1:45pm.** Please call the office starting any time after 10am on Monday, October 17th to book an appointment.

ProD Day

Friday, October 21st is a ProD Day. All district schools are closed.

PAC Meeting

Our next meeting is Monday, October 17th at 7pm in the library.

Remembrance Day

Our assembly is scheduled for 10:30 am on Thursday, November 10th. All community members are invited to attend.

Grade 6 Immunization Day

Wednesday, October 19th
(Catch-up day, October 26th)



Our Goal:

To grow our students' ability to acquire, interpret and present information enhancing their core competency in communication.

Principal's Message:

Happy belated Thanksgiving Minnehada community! We hope you had a restful and relaxing long weekend after what have been some very busy start-up weeks of back to school time. Staff and students are settled in and all of the learning-rich and fun activities of middle school life are unfolding. It was a pleasure to welcome so many families to our Open House and we're looking forward to planning future opportunities to connect with you this school year. At every opportunity it matters that we work together to support our young learners at Minnehada.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susan Ross, Principal

Minnekhada Happenings

Here is an update on the many events and happenings currently underway at Minnekhada Middle:

- Band and Choir are well underway with students arriving for a 7:45am class to grow their experience in Music and Performing Arts. We look forward to a performance at our Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th. Please consult our school website and go to Quick Links to find information on our Band and Choir Music Gift Card fundraiser.
- Leadership is in full swing and planning their first special event for Halloween on October 31st. It is wonderful to see so many keen students involved and we're excited for our first Halloween Howlassembly. In addition, Minnekhada is sending a small delegation of students to the district's Student Leadership Council to represent our school every month. We will also have a group of students representing the school at WE Day in Vancouver on November 3rd.
- Athletics are well underway and our Sports Council is busy supporting our teams and events. From Swim Team to Volleyball to Cross-Country Minnekhada boasts a large group of students showing terrific efforts and positive attitudes under the guidance of committed and enthusiastic coaches. Well done!
- Our Community School after school programs are up and running with some really unique offerings this time around: fencing, coding, special effects make-up, name but a few. Stay tuned for next session's activities and please don't hesitate to contact Dasha Belsakaya, our Community School Coordinator (dbelskaya@sd43.bc.ca) for information or to ask questions about opportunities at Minnekhada.
- Our Grade 8 Thanksgiving potluck celebration was a raving success and it was such a pleasure to see the generosity and spirit of our community at the forefront that day. Students thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the gathering. Thank you very much, Minnekhada community!
- Minnekhada's Green Team continues to provide a model of environmental stewardship and contribution to our school by working hard to facilitate our recycling and green waste programs. Your efforts are important to our school – thank you!
- Must Rock and Must DJ are rocking and rolling. Minnekhada is proud of these unique and creative opportunities for our students and loves to witness the growing talents and collaboration in these groups.
- Tech Ed, Art Club, Computer Tuesdays, Foods Fridays are all extensions of our vibrant Explorations programs at Minnekhada and we've been so impressed by the enthusiasm of our students to engage in the learning and challenges in these areas. Horse Club and riding lessons at Capriole Academy invite students to take part in a unique and special Minnekhada club tradition.
- This Fall we have had several guests and presenters in our school to enhance learning for our students. We are grateful for their contributions. Our Terry Fox Run speaker and cancer survivor Ana-Lyn Purcell made an exceptional impact on our school community. We've enjoyed a PAC sponsored ArtStarts performance, HUB Cycling program and Yoga It Up along with an exciting collaboration with SFU and Dr. Charles Best students supporting our students' in their quest to send their ideas on a NASA mission. Loving the breadth of experiences for our students.
- Interim reports were sent home this week and we're preparing to welcome parents to our Parent-Teacher Interviews next Thursday, October 20th. **We dismiss students at 1:45 that day.** Please call the office any time after 10am on Monday, October 17th to make an appointment. The following day, Friday, October 21st is a Provincial ProD Day. Schools are not in session.

The Fondest of Farewells

Minnekhada Middle School is saying a fond and heartfelt farewell to Mr. Thiessen who, after 40 years as a public educator, has made the decision to retire from teaching effective December 31st. Mr. Thiessen has impacted the lives of countless students in our district and we're certain that the many students who return to visit Mr. Thiessen will miss seeing him in his classroom as much as he will miss seeing them. It is said that as teachers we sometimes never know the importance we've had in students' lives as they move through their years beyond our classrooms. Mr. Thiessen, we wish you every happiness in retirement and know that students' futures beyond your classroom have been without a doubt influenced by your contributions. Bon voyage!

PAC News

Thank you very much to our PAC for launching the year with their first planning meeting on September 19th. All parents are welcome at meetings, the next one being held this coming Monday, October 17th at 7pm in the library.

Our first PAC Hot Lunch day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st and is a pizza day. Stay tuned for order information.

In addition, PAC is extending the opportunity to parents who are interested in making a monetary donation to their fundraising efforts to go to Minnekhada's *School Cash Online* system (<https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com//>) and consult the donation information available there.

Curriculum Corner

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>

The many developments in the area of curriculum and instruction and communication of student learning in our province are at the top of mind and practice for BC educators.

At Minnekhada, staff is engaged in a coordinated effort to focus our professional development and internal collaboration toward learning about and enhancing our teaching with a focus on the development of students' core competencies and the big ideas that are at the forefront of the new curriculum.

What's most important at this juncture is that parents feel confident that our school is committed to assisting our community through the process of understanding and participating in the changes we're undergoing toward supporting and optimizing the educational experience for all of our students and families. Stay tuned for an upcoming invitation to engage in this process of understanding with us and please take some time to explore the link above.

School Cash Online Update

To date we have almost 80% of our families registered at <https://schoolcashionline.com//> and are encouraging everyone to logon and register. To make it easy, you can go to our school website and under Quick Links find an Online Payments link. The system is point and click for payment but also is a place where school information, field trip notices, permissions, etc. are communicated. Even if your family elects to send cash payments through our office as opposed to paying online, registering guarantees you are on the electronic communication list and ensures you will receive notices and home communication that is housed on School Cash Online. Please take a moment to register and don't hesitate to contact our office if you have questions.

Counsellor's Corner

Hello. I am Ms. Grandinetti and I am the counsellor at Minnekhada Middle School. Along with Mrs. Green, Minnekhada's youth worker and Ms. Kyle, SFU Master of Education Counselling Practicum Student we are looking forward to working with as many Minnekhada Middle students as possible throughout the year.

Our school counselling program provides consulting, coordinating, counselling and educational services to students, parents, teachers and administrators. These services focus on the social, emotional and developmental aspects of childhood and adolescence; services also include response to crisis, parent and staff consultation and teacher in-service.

Parents often call when they would like to talk regarding an issue involving their child or if they would like the counsellor to see their child. Parents seeking information for outside assistance in dealing with crises can call the school and we can help find appropriate agencies.

At the moment we have several counselling groups up and running which parents may feel would be appropriate for their children. The groups include both discussion and a variety of activities to make the experience both educational and fun. The groups will meet once per week for 45 minutes to develop strategies and life skills centered on the group themes below. At this point we will be offering these groups to Minnekhada students centered on the following themes:

- Dealing with Stress and Anger – Ms. Kyle
- Social Responsibility/Relationship Skills for Boys – Mr. J. Gould and Ms. Grandinetti
- Social /Relationship Skills for Girls Gr. 8 – Ms. Grandinetti and Mrs. Greene
- Social /Relationship Skills for Girls Gr. 6/7 – Ms. Kyle and Mrs. Greene

If, as a parent, you feel that any of the above groups would be useful for your child please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Grandinetti at Minnekhada Middle School at 604-942-0261 or email at tgrandinetti@sd43.bc.ca. I look forward to chatting and working with your children.

Teresa Grandinetti, Counsellor, M.A. (Couns. Psych)

A Foods Friday Thank-You

Our Friday Foods Program has been given a boost by the generous donations from our Minnehada Community. We have had a fridge donated along with toasters, plates, bowls, mugs, cutlery, dishcloths, and tea towels.

We would also like to acknowledge the donation of time from a number of our parents working as teaching assistants in the foods classroom on Fridays.

We are very grateful for the variety of donations and look forward to culinary creations by our students.

Bon appetit!

Photo Order Information

Photo order forms are coming home, either yesterday or today. Please note that the date to return your photo order has been changed to **Monday, October 17th**. Please have your child return his/her order sheet **to the office** by this date.

Parents ordering photos on line must place their order by **Wednesday, October 19th**.

Halloween Safety in Our School

We're looking forward to a fun and safe Halloween at Minnehada complete with our Halloween Howlassembly. We wish to remind students and families that fun and safety on Halloween at school relies on a couple of things, that:

- Students dress in costumes appropriate for and respectful of school
- Students' costumes comply with the school dress code (see planner)
- Students refrain from pranks and horseplay and uphold our respectful environment
- Students include one another, be positive and have fun!

****This year we are requiring that, due to the recent problems both near and far from our community with inappropriate/threatening clown antics, students not dress as clowns. Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to keep our students safe at our school.****

Happenings In and Around our Community

Our school district is endeavoring to help families connect to events and happenings in the Tri-Cities and close-by communities. To learn about a variety of community organizations' events, activities and information [please visit this webpage](#).