

Minnehada Matters

On the Calendar

Spring Photos

Class photos are being taken on **April 16th**.

ProD Day

School is closed on **April 20th** for a professional development day focussed on refreshed curriculum strategies and resources.

Explorations Rotation Change

Students will start their next Exploration on **Thursday, May 3rd**.

Immunization Day

Grade 6 immunizations will take place on **May 2nd**.

ArtStarts Performance

Axis Theater visits Minnehada to perform Robinson Crusoe, all about perseverance and friendship, at 9:00 on Tuesday, **April 11^t**.

Indoor Tennis Program

All students will participate in a multi-session indoor tennis program supported by our Community School starting **May 30th**.

Grade 6/7 Activity Day & Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony

Wednesday, June 27th our Grade 8 Leaving ceremony starts at 11:30, doors open at 11:00am.

Grade 8 Timberline Ranch Camp

June 18-20. Second installment due and payable on line.



Our Goal:

To grow a culture of connectedness and belonging where our actions reflect core values and enhance student learning.

***Kindness – Love of Learning – Respect
Personal Growth – Perseverance – Safety
Belonging – Connectedness***

Principal's Message:

Welcome to the Spring season at Minnehada, our final term of the school year, and what promises to be action-packed and full of opportunity for students as we continue to focus on our school values and initiatives to support them. Please remember that we encourage you to continue to keep in touch and stay connected in any way that fits for your family. It is always our pleasure to partner with you as we endeavour to offer your children the very best of what we have to give.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susan Ross, Principal

Minnekhada Happenings

Here are some highlights of the many events and happenings currently underway at Minnekhada Middle:

- Our Grade 8 Eagles innovation fair **Eagles Den** was a booming success! Congratulations to our six finalists and our winner, Rachael, who invented the unique and functional Butter Buddy. Thank you to Mr. Collins, principal at Leigh and Ms. Murphy, principal at Terry Fox, for helping to judge the competition. Also, thank you to Natalie and Macailey who visited our monthly staff meeting to demonstrate their learning and its connection to Core Competencies. Well done!
- Band and Choir performed for us a beautiful Spring Concert and, as always, it was a wonderful treat and show of talent and growth. Band students are participating in Advanced and Beginner Band Day showcases at local middle school in the upcoming weeks and will help us celebrate **Music Monday** on May 7th here at Minnekhada with displays of magical musical performances throughout the school, throughout the day.
- Leadership students are doing an outstanding job of modeling our school values here at Minnekhada. They hosted a very successful **Pink Dance** in February to celebrate all the kindness displayed by our students throughout the month. All proceeds from our dance are going to Leadership's goal of helping South American villages with sustainability needs by purchasing 8 goats for needy villages. Well done! Incredible work.
- Athletics are absolutely cooking here at Minnekhada! Congratulations to our Grade 8 girls who brought home the **Basketball** district championship and to our Grade 7 boys who won their division championship. Our **Wrestling** team did extremely well and demonstrated solid growth in skills. **Track and Field** season is on the horizon with coaches organizing as we speak and our new **Rugby** team has begun to practice on our field. Thank you to coaches for all of their hard work and to parents for encouraging your children to be involved.
- Minnekhada's **Public Speaking finalists** left us in awe of their poise and ability at our annual event. Congratulations to our winners Liam, Alena and Emma who will represent us at the District's this month.
- Hughes & Lore Productions are once again bringing to us an annual dramatic production. This year on Thursday, June 7th, doors opening at 6:30pm, students perform **Number The Stars** involving themselves as actors, stagehands, technicians and creators. All proceeds proudly go to Make Change for Africa.
- **Must Rock** is deep in the business of practicing for its year-end concerts. Stay tuned for performance dates and times. What these students accomplish is truly remarkable and the show is endless fun.
- Grade 6/7 **Bears** have broken out of hibernation to take a neighbourhood skating and lunch-in-the-community field trip where students enjoyed socializing across classes. At the end of the month several **6/7 classes** join Grade 8 classes to visit Terry Fox to see a Lindbjerg Academy production of **Fame** at the Terry Fox Theater. We wish Jared, Megan and Hailey all the best representing Minnekhada as actors in the show.

PAC News

Our next PAC Meeting is on **Monday, April 16th at 7pm** in our library. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

A reminder that PAC continues to offer a Hot Lunch program to Minnekhada students. Please look under Quick Links on our school website for information about our Munch-A-Lunch on-line order system and sign up anytime.

It's easy! Sign up at www.munchalunch.com to place your order. No paperwork necessary. Pay on-line. Find a link on our website under Quick Links.

Curriculum Corner & Communicating Student Learning

<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 continues to prioritize and focus our professional development on learning about and enhancing our teaching with a focus on the development of students' core competencies, their ability to self-assess and the big ideas that are at the forefront of the new curriculum. At this month's staff meeting, we are exploring the **First People's principles of learning** and sharing our practices in this area as well as discussing resources and opportunities available to us.

Our **Three-Way Conferences** were very well-attended this year with approaching 90% of our families visiting us to conference student-parent-teacher style and we hope you are feeling more informed about the focus we're taking on core competencies and student self-assessment. Your child's **Term 2 formal report** was a natural extension of the three-way conference dialogue and our goal is to ensure the **students' goals** set there were evident in the formal report. It was very positive for us to see families visiting **Explorations** areas, such an important part of the middle school experience, and our goal is to expand and enhance this part of the event next year.

Student Leadership Opportunities for Everyone

This coming April 20th ProD Day holds an exciting opportunity for any student interested in furthering their leadership skills or learning about being a leader for the first time. Spaces are filling quickly for Leadership Day at Scott Creek Middle School where **Olympian Sarah Weeks** will speak and students will participate in a **free day-long leadership event**. Please see Mrs. Nishimura if you are interested in participating, everyone welcome. Email snishimura@sd43.bc.ca.

Also, please stay tuned for updates on Minnekhada Leadership students' Spring initiative **We Walk for Water** which is focused on helping to provide fresh drinking water and sanitation to those who need it most.

Minnekhada Community School Construction Update

It's happening! Our new school is under construction. Crews have been on site with their focus being to prepare a construction environment that's safe for the community and we have been in regular communication with the school district and contractors. At Minnekhada, prior to dismissal for Spring Break, we ensured that a new **emergency evacuation plan** was implemented and practiced by staff and students and we are confident in its design. Regular drills will take place between now and year-end.

Moving forward, **communication regarding building updates** and surrounding issues will be posted to the website and, in some cases, emailed directly to parents. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with questions or concerns. We are exceedingly excited for with the future holds for our community and look forward to working with you to inform all aspects of our new school.

Go to our school website and under **Quick links click Minnehada New School Plans** for a digital video tour of the new school.

Grade 8 Leaving Ceremony: Parent Volunteer Opportunity

We are busy at Minnehada with our planning for year-end events and have turned our attention to planning our celebration for Grade 8's leaving us for secondary school.

Once again this year, we are extending an invitation to current Grade 7 parents to join in and help us with the organizing of this special event. Next year, when current Grade 7's leave Grade 8 we will invite that year's Grade 7 parents to join in the planning. This allows our Grade 8 parents to relax and enjoy the festivities while Grade 7 parents participate in the launching of the event.

Interested Grade 7 parents please contact via email Mr. Lore (flore@sd43.bc.ca), Grade 8 Team Leader, who can offer more details.

We would love to work together to put on a wonderful day for our Grade 8 students.

Grade 6 Articulation Events: Welcoming Students New to Our School

We have a very robust registration for Grade 6 at Minnehada in September. Please, if you know of families new to the neighborhood, encourage them to contact us for registration so we can ensure they are included in the following events:

Parent Night – Thursday, April 26th at 6:30pm

All families new to Minnehada in September are invited to an orientation and information session that will include a parent presentation and activities for students.

Grade 6 For A Morning – June 7th at 9:30am

New Grade 6 students attend Minnehada for a morning to experience life as a Grade 6 student.

On-Line Articulation

All parents are invited to complete an on-line articulation form sharing with us information regarding their child to help inform our organization for September and ensure we are offering the best support and smoothest possible transition for them. The link to access the form is on our school website under **Quick Links, click on Minnehada Articulation.**

Horse Club at Minnekhada

Our Horse Club participants continue their commitment to ride on Sunday mornings and are getting excited about their upcoming ranch camp in May. All parents must attend the May parent meeting and final payments are now due. Please contact Ms. Sinclair (lsinclair@sd43.bc.ca) with any questions or concerns.

All proceeds from the current **gift basket raffle** go toward supporting the club. Prizes are excellent and tickets are available from the library. \$2 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$10.00. The draw is coming up so buy your tickets soon.

President's Choice Children's Charity: A Huge Thank You

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to President's Choice Children's Charity for their generous support of our school's breakfast program. Their donations make it possible for us to offer healthy nutrition daily here at school and enables students to get ready to learn and persevere throughout the day.

A Fond Farewell to Student Teachers

Thank you to our SFU student teachers Mr. Battle and Ms. Adeboule who recently completed their short practicums with Ms. Ladha and Ms. Hightower. We will miss you and look forward to your joining our profession in the near future.

A Warm Community School Welcome

Welcome to Laura McKinley who has joined our staff as Community School Facilitator. We are very excited to begin working with Laura to develop Minnekhada's Community School programs and culture and encourage you to be in touch with Laura (lmckinley@sd43.bc.ca) should you have any questions concerning after school programs or would like to learn more about our Community School. In future months you can look forward to hearing much more about the development of Minnekhada's Community 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](#).

****On the Calendar** is a sampling of calendar dates. Please consult our website for regular calendar updates and information: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/minnekhada/Pages/default.aspx>