



# École Nestor News

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Dear Parents:

November 25, 2016

*Season's Greetings!*

## Principal's Message

The grey and blustery fits the month of November in the solemn ceremony that we hold in memory of those who have sacrificed for Peace. The students did a fine job of marking this important event and showed their understanding of the importance in many ways. I am always glad to see so many of you attend the Remembrance Day assembly with us because I find it is an important commemoration but also a very hopeful assembly. Once again, children from many classes participated on stage and there was a moving choir performance but we were also joined by Colin, a Grade 11 student from Pinetree Secondary School for the Last Post and Reveille. I appreciate the hard work that went into these presentations and the wonderful wreathes that lined the hallways last week.



As promised, this month I have included information about the Core Competencies. This is part of our revised curriculum from the Ministry of Education. These 6 competencies were always there but took a backseat to the curricular studies. They are Communication, Creative and Critical Thinking, Positive Personal and Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness and Responsibility and Social Responsibility. The big change in assessment in this area is Student Voice. This means that students will learn about self-assessment in these areas, rather than focusing on Teacher assessment. During the year, we will be guiding the students through this and I have included a section that explains this a little more fully.

We have already started our Christmas Concert preparations and the gingerbread houses have been ordered for that last couple of weeks before vacation. As we get out of school earlier in the month, December 16, events will fly quickly so please keep in touch with the school online calendar and your classroom teacher so you do not miss special events or opportunities. I really enjoyed the PAC craft fair and Intermediate Card making and Hot chocolate afternoon last year and this year I will get to see what the Pancake Breakfast is all about! We will have a special performer in on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> so you are welcome to come and watch. These type of events puts a special sparkle in the holiday season and I would like to thank the league of volunteers and coordinators for all their hard work to make it fun for everyone. You can actually smell the sweetness in the air!

Mme Darlene Proulx

## Safety First at Nestor!

We are very lucky to have such a caring community at Nestor. We love having families in and around the school but some safety concerns have been brought to our attention and we would like to let you know about some changes. We would like to limit the number of adults in the hallways and tighten up some safety protocols and that means having your help.

When you drop off your child to school late, please leave them at the school door. This is a great way to foster independence and all of our students, from K-Grade 5 are able to get themselves prepared for the daily routine. Doing these routines by themselves makes them proud and will help them to slip in a little more discretely. Once the class has started the morning routines, it is important to have as few disruptions as possible for optimum learning time and your help is appreciated.

If you arrive early to pick up your child, please check in at the office. We deliver! We will page your child to the office which means you do not need to sign in and pick up a guest tag to mark your presence. We will ask you to do this if you are volunteering and it is to identify you as a safe adult but also as a safety measure for you. If there is an emergency, it would be documented that you are in the building and we need to ensure your safety as well as that of the children. All students being picked up early need to be signed out at the office.



Your cooperation is appreciated and we would like to thank you as we are all putting the children's safety foremost in our thoughts.

## Traffic and being a Good Neighbour



We have a large number of our families that drive in to school regularly or for special events. It is important to be Good Neighbours in our community and it's a great way to teach your children how to be good citizens. Lately, I have noticed many vehicles parking or stopping across neighbouring driveways or blocking crosswalks. This is not legal or considerate. We can do a better job. As Christmas season approaches, many of you will offer to volunteer for special events and will come to our Christmas concert. I ask you to please follow the city bylaws and park properly around the neighbourhood. Please be aware that the tow truck has been called in the past for inconsiderate drivers and will be called again. That's not a good way to start the holiday season!

## Core Competencies

 **Communication**  
● Communication

 **Thinking**  
● Creative Thinking  
● Critical Thinking

 **Personal & Social**  
● Positive Personal & Cultural Identity  
● Personal Awareness & Responsibility  
● Social Responsibility

We are exploring our Revised Curriculum and there is an interesting change. Like many important changes, the more things change, the more they remain the same! These 6 areas have always played an important role in a child's development but at this time they are in the forefront of the discussion. This is about the student voice. Students will be asked to assess their progress in these areas throughout the year and teachers will work with them on how to accurately assess their progress and develop new goals for learning.

These areas of growth are woven into every specific subject matter at school as well as general learning. In a particular project, such as a speech on Wild Cats, for example, there could be aspects of critical and creative thinking as well as communication objectives.

Student-led conferences are a way we have showcased self-assessment in the past as it partnered with more typical teacher marks and reports. Our teachers will be working with students to figure out the different parts and develop a better understanding of just where they are in their learning and what goals they need to set to move forward. It might change each time we do a new assessment so that we can explore different types and formats. It's a work in progress!

## Tips for Reading to Children

Reading material for this experience can be at any level of difficulty; from very easy to quite sophisticated.

- Read daily to your child and choose a time that suits your family schedule.
- Make this a joyful and relaxing experience in a comfortable and cozy place.
- Be playful, enthusiastic, and expressive as you read.
- To captivate your child's interest and activate prior knowledge, read titles and look at pictures before reading.
- Model a sense of curiosity and wonder about pictures and ideas as you are reading using prompts such as: I wonder why . . . Isn't this interesting . . . This makes me think about . . . or Wow . . .
- Be willing to stop for discussions and answer questions your child might have. This will happen quite naturally.
- Share ideas, feelings, and thoughts with your child and help make connections between their own life and what you are reading.
- Encourage your child to visualize and act out parts of the story. This helps the stories come alive.
- Use your finger to track words as you read. This reinforces reading left to right, top to bottom, and helps to develop the concept of matching the spoken word to the printed word. Sometimes children want to take responsibility for doing the finger tracking themselves.
- Consider using bookmarks and pointers to vary the tracking process.
- Don't discourage your child from asking to have their favourite stories read over and over again. When children no longer have to concentrate on the plot, they naturally focus on the flow of language and memorize words.



And finally. . .

- Read what your child and you are interested in.
- Read a wide variety of material such as children's magazines, fact or information books, poems, story books, books with rhyme, fairy tales, and fables.

## PAC Thank You!

We are extremely fortunate at École Nestor Elementary to have such a fabulous PAC who are so generous with their time! At Hallowe'en they organized a fun event in the gym and they were a great looking group! We loved seeing all of them in their costumes and I think they had a lot of fun running us through the relays. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in the planning and day!

The PAC is also organizing some Christmas events. On Dec. 1 we are having a pancake breakfast for the primary classes in the morning and Hot Chocolate for the Intermediate classes in the afternoon. Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> is the Gift Purchase Day organized by the PAC. See information below.

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> children will be encouraged to bring a small amount of money to school to do some Christmas shopping for their loved ones. The PAC and parent volunteers have been hard at work creating and collecting crafts to sell at our annual event. In previous years, this event has been a great success, with children thrilled to 'secretly' purchase a small treasure for their parents. Classes will be brought down to the gym throughout the day to go 'shopping', with items carefully replenished throughout the day so everyone has a good selection. All proceeds go to the Nestor PAC. We suggest the students bring approximately \$5 to shop with. Craft prices will range from \$.50 up to \$3.



## Food Hampers



Ms. Kehler and her class are leading the drive to collect non-perishable food items for SHARE between **November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure to check expiry dates as last year we had a large number of expired items donated. We hope that our donations can help bring a smile to the face of families in need during this holiday season.

Donations can be dropped off in a box in your child's classroom. Please remember that these food items are handled numerous times, and if they are too fragile, they will get damaged and have to be discarded. Foods such as canned soup, peanut butter, jam, dry cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and fish and canned spaghetti sauce and Christmas items such as canned cranberries, canned ham, stuffing mix and candy or chocolates are appreciated. Cash donations are always appreciated as Share will often get special deals from grocery stores to allow them to get more for the money.

There is a friendly competition between divisions and teachers to see who can bring in the most food, so send those donations in!! **Come on Nestor, we CAN do it!**

## Preparing for Winter vacation!

Please remember that **Friday, December 16 is an early dismissal day at 2:00 p.m.** Please inform daycare providers of this change in pick-up time. If your family is planning to leave early on winter vacation, or stay later after January 3, please let us know at the office and send the teacher an email as well.



# École Nestor Elementary Presents . . .

## Santa's Holiday Playlist



Get out your family calendars and put a big star on **December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**! We will be hosting two Christmas matinees, see below for times. It promises to be a great deal of fun that will put you in the holiday spirit!

If you are planning to attend the performance, please do make plans to stay to the very end. The students and teachers have all worked so very hard to prepare this major performance for their families and it is very disappointing and disruptive when the audience picks up and leaves. We know you will be charmed by every group that is performing, so relax and enjoy the show! There is no charge for these performances, however, we would greatly appreciate any cash donation at the door with all proceeds going to our Music Department for instruments, etc.

### Christmas Concert Information

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>



**Time:** 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. (both days)  
**Place:** The Nestor Gym

#### Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. Cast A  
1:45 p.m. Cast B

#### Cast A

Gr. 4 / 5	Torres / Sibley
Fr. Gr. 4's	Bower / Battistel / Comartin
Gr. 2 / 3	Peressin / Robertson
Fr. Gr. 2's	Pinsky / Watson / Sinkie
Fr. Gr. 1's	Pinsky / Watson / Strain
Kindergarten	Bordignon / Coghill



#### Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. Cast B  
1:45 p.m. Cast A

#### Cast B

Fr. Gr. 5's	Bower / Battistel
Gr. 4's	Primavera / Kehler
Gr. 2/3	Boekhout / Pandolfo
Fr. Gr. 3's	Didovic / Comartin / Sinkie
Gr. 1's	Quinn / Coghill
Fr. K	Strain / Belsey



## Dates at a Glance

Dec. 1	Christmas Pancake Breakfast for Primary students (a.m.) And Hot Chocolate for Intermediate students ( p.m.)
Dec. 2	French Film Festival at Silver City – Fr. Grades 1 – 5
Dec. 9	First Term Report Cards go home Christmas craft gift purchases for students in the Gym
Dec. 14 & 15	Christmas Concerts (See specific grades and times above) 9:30 am & 1:45 pm both days
Dec. 16	Good Stuff Awards Assembly @ 9:00 a.m. Christmas Show in the gym @ 1:15 p.m. Last day prior to Winter Break – <b>Early Dismissal @ 2:00</b>
Jan. 3	Students return to School after Winter Break
Jan. 12	Hearing Screening Grade 2's
Jan. 12 to Jan. 18	Early French Immersion Kindergarten Registration On-line beginning at 9:00 am and closes January 18 <sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm.
Jan. 13 to 19	Late French Immersion Registration – Grade 6 - On-Line Beginning at 9:00 am and closes January 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm
Jan. 27	Good Stuff Awards Assembly @ 9:00 am.
Jan. 30	Nestor School Based Pro-D Day (students do not attend)
Jan. 31	English Kindergarten Registration @ 9:30 a.m. (at school office)

Sincerely,

Mme Darlene Proulx  
Principal

