

Walton Elementary School Newsletter

January 2014



One of our grade 5 volleyball teams lined up during a volleyball match.

Way to Go, Grade 5s!!

Walton fielded two teams at the Annual Glen Elementary Volleyball Jamboree held on December 3rd at Pinetree Secondary School. Our teams played hard, demonstrating skill and sportsmanship both. Most importantly, our grade five participants had a lot of fun. Many thanks to our coaches Mr. Finlay, Mrs. Friend and Mrs. Sadowski. Thank you also to Mrs. Rajwani for shuttling to Pinetree the running shoes of one of our players who found herself on the court with only her winter boots!

An action shot ...



Happy New Year to all Walton families! I trust that you have all enjoyed some wonderful quality time together over the past couple of weeks. With some rest myself and with batteries recharged, I look forward to a busy, productive and, as always, rewarding second half of the school year.

I would like to welcome some new staff members to Walton. Erin Regan will be teaching grade 2/3 on Mondays (division 9) and grade 4/5 on Wednesdays (division 2). Jasmine Devera-Pilling has joined our Student Services team and will be teaching at Walton one day a week on Wednesdays. It is my pleasure to extend a warm Walton welcome to Craig Mah, who will join our Walton Learning Community as Principal effective February 1st. I would like to thank Sandra Meister for everything she has done for the Walton Learning Community and wish her my very best at Alderson Elementary.

K. McMeiken

Tis the Spirit of Giving ... with thanks

Our school's various spirit of giving campaigns in December were very successful, due in no small part to the enthusiasm and promotional prowess of our student leadership group, not to mention the generosity of our Walton families.

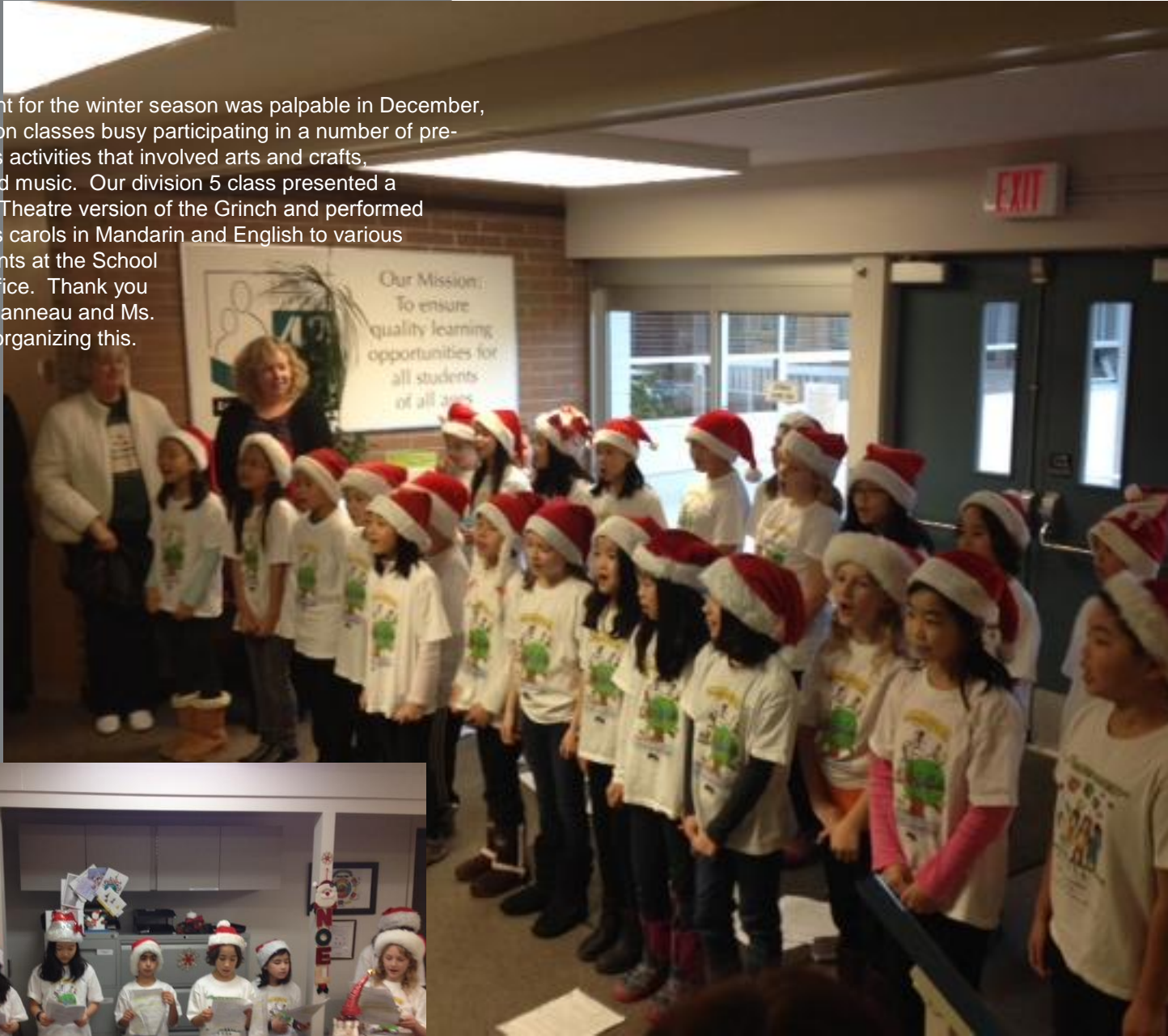
Christmas Food Hamper Donation Program: collected in excess of 1,150 non-perishable food items, all of which were collected by the Coquitlam Fire Department and delivered to Share. Special thanks to Stuart Vickaryous for his leadership during this campaign. **Our students were rewarded with a movie in the school gym (*Polar Express*) as a result of achieving their goal of collecting 1,000 non-perishable food items.**

Warm Clothing Drive: collected a huge volume of warm winter clothing, blankets and linens for adults and children. These were delivered during the holidays by Mrs. Rae to the Vancouver Homeless Shelter and by Mrs. McMeiken to the Transitions Society in Port Coquitlam.

Typhoon Haiyan Relief: raised \$419.86 in loose change for Typhoon Haiyan Relief in the Philippines. This amount was given to World Vision Canada and will be matched by the Canadian government. Special thanks to Trinity Hayes and Ghazal Fallahpour for their dedication and hard work during this campaign.

Christmas at the Board Office

Excitement for the winter season was palpable in December, with Walton classes busy participating in a number of pre-Christmas activities that involved arts and crafts, drama and music. Our division 5 class presented a Reader's Theatre version of the Grinch and performed Christmas carols in Mandarin and English to various departments at the School District office. Thank you to Mrs. Jeanneau and Ms. Zhou for organizing this.



Let It Snow!! ... but not too much

Our final day before winter break met us with a sizeable dump of snow. Much fun was had by all during an extended recess of play outside ... albeit in our PJs. Snowfall was steady throughout the day and snow continued to accumulate.

Gradual Release of Students

In an effort to ensure the safety of all Walton students and their families, all schools in SD43 were asked by School District management to begin a gradual release of students during the lunch hour. This was undertaken to prevent what likely would have been a chaotic and potentially unsafe dismissal of all students in snowy conditions at our usual 2:45 pm time. Any caregivers and parents who were able to pick their children up early were encouraged to do so, while those who were unable to were assured that their children were being supervised and well cared for.

Using the "Emergency Release" forms that were collected from Walton families at the start of the school year, and with the help of Mrs. Gradiner and many teachers who helped with the phoning and signing out process, families were contacted, and most children were dismissed early. Thank you to our PAC and to our class liaison parents for assisting with the communication process.

Thank you to all Walton families for their patience during the gradual release process. This was excellent practice for all of us. Please ensure that you notify our office of any new updates to the emergency contact information we have on file for your children.

Our School district is planning to hold a full emergency release drill at the elementary level on May 8, 2014. More details to follow closer to the date.



Walton's Christmas Concerts



Walton's Christmas Concerts con't





Photos are compliments of Walton parent, Anna Richter. Many thanks to Anna for taking the time to attend our dress rehearsals to take the photos.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The book fair that was held the first week of December raised \$1,390.00 towards the purchase of much needed books and educational resources for our library. Some of these funds have already gone towards updating our collection to include fun and new chapter book series such as The Magic Shop, Seventh Tower, Poison Apple and Disney Fairies. Thanks to all who volunteered to help with crowd control, organization and sales.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Registration takes place in all School District No. 43 elementary schools February 4, 5, and 6. Walton Registration will be held from 9 am – 3 pm each day. Please refer to the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca to review the required documents for parents to bring at the time of registration. Information regarding registration for programs of choice (Bilingual Mandarin, French Immersion, Reggio-Emilio and Montessori) is available on the district website.

ANTI-BULLYING T-SHIRTS

Terry Fox Secondary's Leadership classes are, once again, selling anti-bullying T-shirts that they have designed using their "Love is Louder Than Bullying 24/7" slogan. The T-shirts are a fresh new black colour with neon pink print. They are selling in child and adult sizes for \$10 a shirt, in an effort to raise awareness and funds to be put towards Kidsport Tri-Cities. If you would like to purchase a shirt for your child(ren) or for yourself, please fill out the form that is attached to this newsletter and return it in an envelope along with your payment to Mrs. Sadowski in the office by January 30th at the latest. T-shirts will be delivered in time for *Pink T-shirt Day*, which is February 26th, 2014.



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Please note that the Student Led Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 20 from 2 – 6 pm. Students will be dismissed early the day of the Conferences at 1:45 pm. Families are welcome to drop in between 2-6 to celebrate their child's learning. Mrs. McMeiken and Mr. Mah will be happy to supervise school-aged siblings so that each child may have the undivided attention of his/her parent(s) for their Student Led Conference. Please make alternate child care arrangements for pre-school aged children.

WALTON PUBLIC SPEAKING FESTIVAL

Walton's grade 4 and 5 students will be involved in a public speaking opportunity during the month of February. Students will be given guidance in their classes about speech making: content, format, length etc., with all students given an opportunity to write and then present their finished speeches in their classes. The top two public speakers from each class (one grade 4 and one grade 5) will be invited to compete in a Public Speaking Festival that will take place in the Walton Elementary gymnasium on Tuesday, February 18th. All parents of our contestants along with students from Walton's grade 2 – 5 classes will be encouraged to attend as members of the audience. Guest judges will adjudicate the Festival. Walton Elementary will also host the Elementary Public Speaking Festival Finals for all North Zone elementary schools (gr. 4s and 5s) on the morning of Thursday, February 27th. More details will be forthcoming.

Calendar

Tues., January 14 th	Mandarin Bilingual Program Info Meeting (6:30pm)	Tues., February 4 th	Coquitlam Express Visit
Wed., January 22 nd	PAC Hot Lunch 4:30pm Deadline to Submit Applications for Mandarin Bilingual Program to the School Board Office	Wed., February 5 th	Lunar New Year performance for parents (1:15pm)
Fri., January 24 th	ProD Day (school closed for students)	Mon., February 10 th	Family Day (School closed)
Fri, January 31 st	Lunar New Year / PAC Movie Night	Tues., February 18 th	Walton Public Speaking Festival (10:45am – 12:00pm)
Mon., February 3 rd	South China Lion Dance performance for all Walton classes (11:30am) Lunar New Year Stations Activities (PM)	Thurs., February 20 th	Student Led Conferences 2-6:00pm (Early Dismissal 1:45pm)
Tuesday, Feb.4 th to Thursday, Feb 6 th	Kindergarten Registration (neighbourhood program only) 9:00am – 3:00pm	Fri., February 21 st	ProD Day (school closed for students)
		Wed. February 26 th	Pink T-Shirt Day
		Thurs. February 27 th	Elementary Public Speaking Festival Finals at Walton (9:00am – 12:00pm)
		Fri. February 28 th	PAC Movie Night



Walton Elementary School Anti-bullying T-Shirt Order Form

** Order Deadline – January 30, 2014*

Student: _____

Grade: _____ Division: _____

Size: Please check appropriate box:

<i>Youth</i>	<i>Adult</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> YS (6-8)	<input type="checkbox"/> AS
<input type="checkbox"/> YM (10-12)	<input type="checkbox"/> AM
<input type="checkbox"/> YL (14-16)	<input type="checkbox"/> AL
<input type="checkbox"/> YXL (18-20)	<input type="checkbox"/> AXL

Price per shirt: **\$10.00**

Total Enclosed: _____

New look: Black with pink neon!



Terry Fox Secondary Leadership classes have designed new black with neon pink anti-bullying shirts, “Love is Louder than Bullying 24/7”, with the hope of raising awareness and money to provide needed funds to “Kidsport Tri Cities” to help youth get involved in organized sport. Staying active through sports creates a positive atmosphere for our youth in the Tri Cities. Let’s make a difference that lasts!



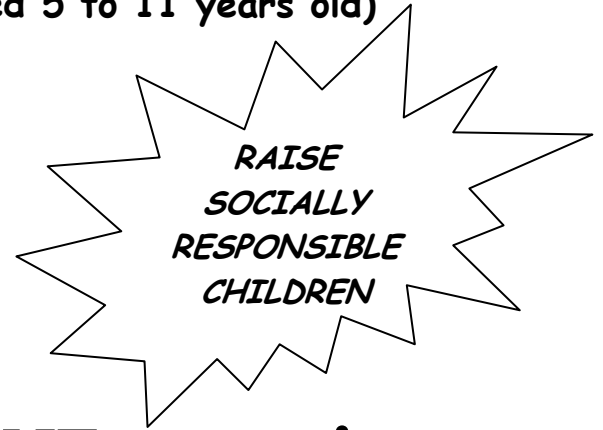
\$10 each

If interested in ordering, please return this order form, along with payment (*cash or a cheque made out to **Walton Elementary School***), to the school office by January 30, 2014.



FINE TUNE YOUR PARENTING SKILLS

(for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years old)



This term ONE parenting class is being offered starting the end of January. Please register ASAP.

Systematic Training For Effective Parenting

**7 week program begins on Tuesday, January 28th
and ends Tuesday, March 11th at
Alderson Elementary:
Time: 7-9 PM.
Book Cost \$20.00 (payable first class)**

Facilitated by: Marna Omichinski / Youth Worker

To Register: Email: momichinski@sd43.bc.ca

Phone: 604-313-8902