

# **News from the Eagle Ridge PAC**

*January 2009*

## **Happy New Year to all our children, staff and parents at Eagle Ridge.**

Hello and welcome back. We hope you all had a wonderful winter break and are ready and refreshed to tackle the New Year.

### **Winter Concerts**

Just before winter break saw the Winter concerts which were a huge success. Thank you to all the children and staff who put an enormous amount of effort and hard work into producing 2 wonderful shows which were hugely enjoyed by all who were able to come and watch. As usual, at our concerts we offered up The Best Seat in The House and managed to make a magnificent profit of \$333.44. We also had a Bake Sale and this raised \$176.00. So, thank you to all who participated in those two events. Also, many thanks to all those who gave up their time to help out. We couldn't have done it without you.

### **PAC meeting dates for 2009**

Wednesday 14th January  
Monday 16th February  
Monday 9th March  
Monday 6th April  
Monday 11th May AGM  
Monday 8th June

The meetings will be held in the school library and start at 7pm. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and welcoming new faces to the meetings. Childminding is available at the meeting.

Parents, we need your input! Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the PAC webpage at <http://public.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/EagleRidge/pac/Lists/Potential%20Fundraisers/overview.aspx> and tell us what fundraising events you would be interested in supporting and helping with.

### **Upcoming events:**

On Thursday, April 23, 2009, our school will be hosting a very special "Day of Wellness" for all the students. The school may be asking for parent volunteers closer to the date, but presently we are putting a request forward to any families who either work for, or have contacts with, companies who may be able to provide items that would go towards making a take-home package for each student that would serve as a souvenir of their Day of Wellness. Examples of donations would be plastic bags to hold the materials, pens, magnets, water bottles, pads of paper, etc. We would be looking for approximately 410 of each item. As well, many of the Instructors for this day will be donating their time to be with our children, so we are also looking for gift donations that we could present to the instructors after the event. Examples would be gift cards, gift baskets, etc. If you have further questions, or if you are able to make a donation, please contact Mr. Hutchinson at [dhutchinson@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:dhutchinson@sd43.bc.ca).

### **Snow Concerns:**

It has been a somewhat interesting and white start to the New Year. With all this snow around and the possibility of ice we would like to remind everyone to be patient and to exercise caution when walking or driving to and from school every day. Safety must come first.

The DPAC office has been receiving calls and emails regarding snow accumulation, school access, and student safety around our District this week.

**The following is a message from the DPAC president Heidi Hass Gable:**

First of all, I'd like to thank all of the District maintenance staff, school administrators, teachers, all other District staff, parents, our municipalities and many neighbours for coming together to figure out how to make school drop-offs and pick-ups as smooth as possible under difficult circumstances! It has been wonderful to see how many people have come forward to help out, rather than sit back and complain! I think this is exactly how our learning communities need to come together - all working collaboratively to find solutions.

We have schools that have organized drop-off zones and neighbours who shovelled parking spots and sidewalks to make sure families and students could pass safely. Teachers and administrators have come in early and stayed late - going above and beyond to make sure our children are safe and cared for! We really do have amazing communities, don't we?

There were also things that we can learn from this experience so that we can be better prepared to better handle the next snowfall. District Leadership has already spoken to DPAC about next steps, including consideration for an ability to selectively close schools and suggestions to improve communications.

The current focus of the District and our school communities must be on making it through the current situation - including work to clear drains as this snow melts and rain adds to the mess. Please do all you can to help, even if it's being patient as you drop off or pick up your children! Shortly after this snow disappears and we're back to some semblance of normal, we will pursue further conversations with the District.

If you would like to provide feedback to DPAC so that we can represent those concerns to the District during these discussions, please feel free to forward your comments, requests or suggestions to our office at:

Mailing Address: DPAC 43, 1100B Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam B.C., V3J 2G3

Email: [dpac43@telus.net](mailto:dpac43@telus.net)<<mailto:dpac43@telus.net>>

Fax: (604)939-3695

I ask that you provide your contact information with your submissions so that we can follow up if necessary - please include your school and any specifics, such as street names, etc.

NOTE - if you have already contacted either the Board Office or the DPAC office, you do not need to send in another message. Your comments are being tracked and forwarded already.

Thank you all very much!  
Heidi Hass Gable  
DPAC President

Here's wishing everyone a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.