

January 25, 2017
On the Calendar

Student-Led Conferences

Conferences are being held on **Thursday, February 22nd from 1:00 – 6:00pm. Students will be dismissed at lunch, 11:55pm.** We are excited to invite parents, students and teachers to our 3-Way Conferencing evening.

Social Media: The New Addiction and How It's Affecting Our Youth

On February 8th, parents are invited to Heritage Woods Secondary to learn more about the landscape of youth and social media. 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Explorations Rotation Change

Students will start their next Exploration on Monday, February 1st.

PAC Meeting

Our next meeting is Monday, February 19th at 7pm in the library. Everyone welcome.

ArtStarts Performance

Cadence visits Minnehada to perform at 1:30 on Wednesday, January 24th.

Spring Concert

Tuesday, March 13th at 2pm is our annual Spring concert. Come out and enjoy the performance.

Minnehada Matters



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:

What a pleasure it has been to welcome 2018 at our school. At Minnehada we place high value on the partnerships we share with parents and our community. Our common focus to uphold core values and a culture of achievement and care for our students is something we strive to bring to life in all aspects of our programs and opportunities.

Please never hesitate to connect with your child's teachers or school administration. We hope you are finding ways to keep connected to the learning and experiences your children are having in their daily journeys at Minnehada and are always available to help enhance or support your family's experience at our school.

Sincerely,
Ms. Susan Ross

Minnekhada Happenings

Here is a sampling of the many events and happenings currently underway at Minnekhada Middle:

- Our Grade 8 Eagles are excited to be off to Terry Fox for a tour of secondary school. It's already time to be planning for courses in the Fall! While we must plan for the transition, much of our energy is focussed on finishing their last months at Minnekhada in positive ways, from a Winter Ball to year-end events and planning for camp at Timberline Ranch in June.
- Band and Choir are well underway with students arriving for a 7:45am class to grow their experience in Music and Performing Arts. Our choir recently represented Minnekhada at a middle school festival at Kwayhquitlum and sang beautifully. We look forward to a band and choir performance at our Spring Concert on March 13th.
- Leadership is in full swing and has many facets at Minnekhada where we highly value student involvement in modeling our school values and supporting a culture of care and belonging. It is wonderful to see so many keen students involved. From Me to We, school-wide kindness initiatives, theme-days and outreach, our students make us proud.
- Athletics are well underway and we are busy inviting our students to play, organizing practices and games and having special events like our Grade 8's vs Staff game. We have a high turnout of kids connecting to our sports program and are very pleased with their involvement in Intramurals at lunch. Congratulations to our Grade 8 Boys volleyball players who placed 1st in the district and Grade 8 Girls and Grade 7 Boys who placed 2nd. We'll be hanging championship banners in the gym!
- Close to 100 students across grades are involved in our extracurricular Art Journeys program and will be attending the Emerging Talent Exhibition at Evergreen Cultural Center. In their club, Art Journeys students imagine and design their own unique and individual projects then get down to the business of creating their art.
- Our five area focus in Explorations this year: Art, Music, Drama, Tech Ed & Digital Literacy has created a solid range of opportunities for our students to showcase their strengths and learn in a broad range of applied skills. Kids are in mixed groups and it's been an effective way to help our students form connections with new friends outside their core classes. From the creation of animated presentations about responsible use of social media to performance to building, everyone has the opportunity to find a strength.
- Must Rock and Must DJ are rocking and rolling. Minnekhada is proud of these unique and creative opportunities for our students and we love to witness the growing talents and collaboration between students in these groups.
- Coding Club is a place where students put to work their creative and computational thinking skills. Minnekhada staff was treated to a training session on Pro D Day by one of the club participants. It was satisfying to know that our students can teach our teachers new skills too!
- Grade 6/7 students have been on the road visiting SFU, Rock the Fox, as well as skating and swimming in our local community. We are exceedingly proud of how well they've represented Minnekhada away from home.

PAC News

Our next PAC Meeting is on **Monday, February 19th at 7pm** in our library. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Minnekhada PAC is hosting an upcoming **Purdy's fundraiser** for Easter. Information will be sent home with students in early February and the order deadline is March 2nd. Thank you for your support.

DPAC is hosting a free information session at Heritage Woods Secondary on February 8th at 6:30pm entitled ***Social Media: The New Addiction and How It's Affecting Our Youth***. Everyone is 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.

Pizza Hut Lunch - January 30th. It's easy! Sign up at www.munchalunch.com to place your order. No paperwork necessary. Pay on-line.

Dilly Bar Sale – February 8th at lunch in the cafeteria. \$2 each.

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 is continually 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, their ability to self-assess and the big ideas that are at the forefront of the new curriculum.

This year's first formal report was a new district developed template common to all School District #43 middle schools and teachers initial foray into using the format provided us with many opportunities to reflect on the quality of our communication with parents.

Student-Led Conferences: February 22, 2018, 1:00-6:00pm

Your child has delivered home a notice to register for a three-way conference opportunity with their core teacher on Thursday, February 22nd. Explorations teachers will be greeting students and parents in their rooms and available both before and after your child's scheduled conference time. It is important that students have the opportunity to share with parents their learning and developing competencies in Explorations. We hope you enjoy the visit to Explorations spaces.

All students are dismissed at 11:55pm (Lunch) on conference day, Thursday, February 22nd.

Parents are also reminded that **Explorations** report cards will come home at three occasions during this school year in the formal report card envelope: Rotation 1 in December, Rotations 2 & 3 in March and Rotations 4 & 5 in June. However, please feel welcome to contact your child's Exploration teacher at any time for a progress update at Explorations switch times.

School Website: Where to Find Our Calendar and News

Parents are encouraged to consult our school website under Quick Links, Calendar and Announcements to locate information regarding upcoming school events and district information. While classroom teachers will communicate information particular to their divisions, we do endeavor to keep our site and up-to-date source for school-wide and district information. Parents are reminded to consult the district website (www.sd43.bc.ca) for information regarding cross-catchment applications (due February 8th) and Programs of Choice information.

Minnekhada's site: www.sd43.bc.ca/school/minnekhada

Ski & Snowboard Club: Whistler Opportunity

Our Ski and Snowboard Club is planning two Saturday trips to Whistler Mountain. The dates are **March 3rd** and **March 10th**. Please have your child visit Mr. Gould or the office for more information. Conditions on the hill are fantastic!

Counsellor's Corner

A reminder to Grade 8's that all course selection forms are due to the classroom teacher **by February 16th**. Please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Butterfield at ybutterfield@sd43.bc.ca with any questions or concerns.

Digital Responsibility and Cell Phones at School

We continue to help support our students to make good choices with the use of technology and cellular phones at school. Thank you for supporting our efforts at home as this goes a long way toward helping us teach appropriate use of cell phones in students' workplace: school. Attached to this newsletter please find a refresher copy of our ***Digital Responsibility Guidelines***. Congratulations to our students who have overwhelmingly demonstrated very positive and respectful attitudes toward our expectations at school. Well done, everyone.

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](#).

