

Walton Elementary School Newsletter

November / December 2013



Remembrance Day Service wreaths on display
(made by Mrs. M. Wilson)

Walton Remembers

Our entire learning community gathered on November 6th for a morning of remembrance. Joined by Walton parent, Captain John Harrop, all students, staff members and many parents gathered in the Walton gymnasium to remember the many men and women who gave up so much to fight for freedom. Our student wreath layers, promoters of peace, choir members and reciters of poetry were appropriately solemn; and the service was beautiful.

Some opening thoughts ...

It is a great honour to be working in the capacity of Acting Principal at Walton Elementary School. With this position comes a responsibility that I take very seriously. I am amazed every day at the incredible dedication of our teaching and support staff, not to mention our devoted parents and their wonderful, inquisitive children. The entire Walton Learning Community is committed to excellence. I would like to share with you our Walton School Mission, which summarizes this commitment to excellence:

At Walton School we are committed to providing opportunities for students to become compassionate, respectful citizens and lifelong learners in a diverse society.

I welcome conversations with you about our school, its programs and processes and how we can best meet the needs of your children.

K. McMeiken

Mo-Vember at Walton

Walton staff and students celebrated *Mo-Vember* Day at Walton on November 22nd. Donning considerable facial hair, our 21 divisions of kids, our teachers and many parents participated in our Friday morning fitness assembly. A number of classes collected money for the Canadian Cancer Society as well.



Walton students boogying en masse with their moustaches



Tis the season of giving



Our Walton community is abuzz with excitement for the holiday season. Teachers and students both are engaged in a variety of activities in class related to winter and to Christmas. Our newly formed promotional committee, consisting of grade 4 and 5 student leaders, is busy preparing posters and other supporting materials in an effort to promote programs designed to provide assistance to needy families in the Tri-Cities area. Our students would appreciate the assistance of Walton families in these *spirit of giving* campaigns.

- **Typhoon Haiyan Relief:** please consider donating loose change to our school's Typhoon Haiyan Relief campaign. Starting on Wednesday, December 4th, and lasting two weeks until December 19th, our school would like to raise money for the Canadian Red Cross as it works to raise money for the communities in the Philippines that were decimated by Typhoon Haiyan. Walton teachers will be given collection envelopes for their classrooms. There will also be an opportunity for families to donate the day of the Christmas concerts.
- **Christmas Food Hamper Donation Program:** our school is, once again, running a canned food drive, in an effort to feed families who are less fortunate in the Tri-Cities area. Students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items for this food hamper donation program. Decorated boxes will be placed underneath our Walton Christmas tree just outside the school library. Last day to donate is Monday, December 16th.

INCENTIVE FOR WALTON STUDENTS: our promotional committee's student leaders have set a target of 1,000 non-perishable food items (2 per Walton student) for this year's campaign. An ability of our school community to reach this target will result in our students being treated to a feature-length movie on the last day of school before winter break. Check out our progress by viewing the Christmas Food Hamper Donation thermometer beside the school Christmas tree.



Walton Christmas Concert – Comfy Chair Auction
THIS COULD BE YOU!!! See details below.

Walton Christmas Concert Comfy Chair Auction

Sit back and relax in comfortable, plush, front row seats for four at your child's Christmas concert. Avoid the need to arrive early to reserve seats. Imagine not having to joust with others for the best seats in the house!!

These seats will go to the highest bidder for EACH of our two Christmas concerts scheduled for December 19th. Fruit punch and popcorn will be provided.

Minimum starting bid is \$20 with \$5 incremental bids above this. A clipboard will be placed at the Walton office from Dec. 9 – 17. Bidding closes at 3:00 on Tuesday, December 17th. The highest bidder will be contacted by phone.

All money collected from this comfy chair auction will be used to purchase a gift card at a local grocery store outlet for a needy Tri-Cities family.

BID EARLY ... BID OFTEN!!

Tis the Season of Giving con't

- **Warm Clothing Drive;** our school would like to collect warm clothing for children and adults without this winter season. In particular, we would like donations of these new and/or lightly worn items:
 - **winter jackets, coats and snowsuits**
 - **winter footwear**
 - **warm blankets and pillows**
 - **bed linens**
 - **warm socks (new)**
 - **underwear (new)**

All adult-sized clothing will be taken to the Vancouver Homeless Shelter by Mrs. Rae, while children-sized donations will be given to the Helping Families in Need Society.

Donations of these items can be dropped off in boxes labeled "Warm Clothing Drive" located outside the Walton library. Donations will be collected from Friday, December 6th until Friday, December 20th.

Christmas Baking?? We would like to encourage Walton families to donate baked goods as well, to accompany the adult-sized clothing donations for the Vancouver Homeless Shelter. **Donations of baked goods can be accepted on Friday, December 20th only due to limited storage space.**



Christmas Concerts

Walton's two Christmas concerts will be held at these two times on Thursday, November 19th:

9:15am: for families of students in divisions 1 (Finlay), 4 (Rajwani/Korbely), 5 (Jeanneau/Zhou), 10 (Smith), 13 (Howells), 14 (Dupuis), 15 (Cui), 16 (Vanderliek), 17 (Hoang/Krgovich), 20 (Stoody), 21 (Suen)

1:00pm: for families of students in divisions 2 (Friend), 3 (Howey), 6 (Palmer), 7 (Shum), 8 (Dane/Cimaglia), 9 (Wegrich/Lynch), 11 (Evans), 12 (Chiang), 18 (Biedka), 19 (Thiara)

PJ Day – December 20th

Friday, December 20th is PJ Day at Walton. Please encourage your child to wear a pair of pajamas to school that day. Dismissal on December 20th will be the usual 2:45pm time.

Extreme Weather School Closure

In the event of heavy snowfall, ice or windchill, it may be necessary to close schools. On inclement weather days, an announcement will be made on local radio stations CKNW (980), CKWX (1130) and CBC (690) by 7:30 a.m.. You can also check the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca (hit refresh to receive the latest updates).

Please check our school district website before trying to contact the school.

Clothing Drive



A Day in the Life of Walton

Walton has benefitted from its participation in the Coquitlam Express Hockey Club's 'Adopt A School' program this season. The Express team has generously donated to our school 5 pairs of hockey tickets to each of its home games this season. Many Walton students from grades K-5 have enjoyed these games and the experience of watching a game live. Our school was fortunate to be visited by ten of the Express players on November 26th, all of whom read stories to groups of primary students. The players were kind enough to sign autographs and compete against our grade five students in a pick-up floor hockey game in the gym. Walton's grade four students cheered loudly for both sides. Great sportsmanship and fun were shared by all who participated. The Express will make a return visit to Walton on Tuesday, February 4th, 2014. We can hardly wait!!



A Day in the Life of Walton con't

Division 1 Students Participate in a Totem Pole Raising Ceremony

Mr. Finlay's grade 4/5 students were treated to a wonderful ceremony in mid-November when they participated in a variety of projects that celebrated First Nations culture. These students were given guidance by one of our School District's aboriginal support workers, who taught them how to make beautiful button blankets using coloured felt and featuring many different animals indigenous to the Northwest Coast. The students also designed a part of a totem pole by intricately designing and colouring the image of an animal sacred in First Nations culture. These images were used in a totem pole raising ceremony that was attended by a number of School District personnel of aboriginal ancestry.



Scholastic Book Fair

Walton is holding its annual Scholastic Book Fair on December 2nd and 3rd from 2:45 – 6:00pm each day. With line ups down the hall and out the front doors last year, Mrs. Augustyn has moved the Book Fair into the Walton school gymnasium this year. We anticipate that the Book Fair will be well attended, and that the larger display space will prove an excellent venue, accommodating many more people than the library can. Geronimo Stilton also put in an appearance during the Book Fair set up on the Saturday morning before the Fair. Come and get some of your Christmas shopping done!!



Lost and Found

Please check the items that are laid out along the edge of the ramp nearest the library, and claim anything that belongs to your child. Anything not claimed before winter break will be donated to a charity that supports needy families.

Emergency Drills at Walton

In an effort to be as prepared as possible in the event we are faced with a real emergency, our entire school has been practicing earthquake and fire drill evacuation procedures. Rehearsing the proper steps regularly confirms that staff and students both know the steps to take to ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

Our school will undertake a **code yellow lockdown** drill next week. A lockdown could be triggered by a violent person in the community or within the school. It could also indicate a wild animal on the school property or be a precaution due to a police incident in the neighbourhood. **Code Yellow** is a passive lockdown that indicates a threat outside the school building or in the general vicinity of the school. A code yellow lockdown involves locking the exterior doors, lowering the shutters, locking the interior doors and taking / submitting attendance electronically to the office. During a code yellow lockdown, no one enters or leaves the building. **Code Red** is an active lockdown that suggests a threat within the school building. A code red lockdown involves locking all exterior doors, turning off the lights, lowering the shutters, locking all interior doors and hiding the children so that they are out of sight of any windows or doors. Attendance is taken and submitted electronically to the office. Nobody leaves or enters the building.

In preparing our students for a lockdown drill, we explain the drill as *just another way to keep everyone at Walton safe*. We explain things in kid-terms, and do not go into detail about the potential reasons for needing to go into a lockdown situation.

Calendar

Monday & Tuesday, December 2 nd & 3 rd	Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday, December 3 rd	Grade 5 Volleyball Jamboree, Pinetree Secondary
Friday, December 6 th	PAC Pizza Lunch / Report Cards Distributed
Week of December 9 th	Code Yellow Lockdown Drill
Thursday, December 19 th	Christmas Concerts
Friday, December 20 th	PJ Day / Last School Day before Winter Break
Monday, January 6 th	School re-opens
Tuesday, January 14 th	Mandarin Bilingual Program Info Meeting (6:30pm)
Friday, January 24 th	ProD Day
Friday, January 31 st	PAC Movie Night

Have a wonderful winter break. May it be a time of love, laughter and quality time shared between family and friends.