

Minnehada Matters

January, 2019 On the Calendar

Winter Programs Start

After-school programs start on Monday, January 14th.

PAC Meeting

Our next meeting is **Monday, January 21st** at 6:30pm in the library. Everyone welcome.

School-Based ProD Day

Monday, January 28th
School is closed while Minnehada staff participates in professional development activities.

Kindness Assembly

Friday, February 8th
Students will participate in a Coyotes-led assembly highlighting kindness and care in our community.

School Closure Day

All district schools are closed **Monday, February 15th**.

District ProD Day

On **Friday, February 22nd** district schools are closed to enable all district teaching staff to collaborate together.

Pink Shirt Day

Wear pink on **February 27th** to raise awareness about bullying and to celebrate standing up for kindness.

Three-Way Conferences & Explorations Showcase

On **Thursday, February 21st** all parents are invited to Minnehada for teacher conferences and an Explorations showcase. **We will dismiss students at 1:30pm.**



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:

Happy New Year and welcome to what promises to be an eventful and learning-rich second term. Our opening months of the 2018-2019 school year were marked by the arrival of nearly 200 new students to our school. We are very proud of their successful transition and the way our community has been working hard to uphold and live by core values and strengths that underlie our culture of care and student achievement.

It is our daily pleasure to teach and learn in such a strong community full of tradition and potential, and we are growing more excited by the day as we set our sights on **Minnehada 2020**, the journey to our new building and facilities. Please never hesitate to be in touch as we so highly value our partnership with you and growing our connections at every opportunity.

Sincerely, Ms. Susan Ross, Principal

Minnekhada Happenings

Bears

The Bears team teachers are happy to have students back after the holiday break! Our team has been enjoying P.E. together as a large group every Friday, building connections and having tons of fun. It's great to see students from different classes spending time with one another. We continue to have monthly team assemblies during which we are able to recognize students from all divisions for their work habits and social responsibility – we are very proud of our students! We would like to welcome new students Ryan S., Gianluca D. and Aleena G. to the team. Our next team swimming date is Wednesday, February 6th. Thank you for your continued support at home.

Teal Richardson, Team Leader

Hawks

Welcome back! This term the Hawks have rotated to new teachers on the team to participate in their second curriculum unit in Social Studies and Science. It is always an exciting time to learn in a new setting and we are looking forward to working with new student groupings. Our next team recognition assembly will be on January 25th and will feature acknowledgement of students who have earned positive recognition in areas of study and social action. Last month Hawks delivered a student-led assembly on Digital Safety and did a wonderful job teaching their peers about kind treatment of others online. On January 31st we are heading out for our Skating field trip and our third swimming afternoon is on Thursday, February 7th.

Stephanie Olsen, Team Leader

Eagles

The Eagles have a busy January ahead of them. It is the time of year that the Grade 8's start thinking about their future and Terry Fox Secondary. This month the Terry Fox counsellors are visiting our team on January 16th to discuss the course selection process, we are visiting Terry Fox for a tour on January 25th and some students will be writing Honours Exams. As well, the Eagles will be going on a few local field trips to Rock the Fox and to Port Coquitlam Recreation Center for a team skate. It's definitely an exciting time of year!

Frank Lore, Team Leader

Wolves

Happy New Year!

The Wolves have started 2019 with a celebration of music at Terry Fox Secondary! We will be walking to the high school on Wednesday January 16th at 9 am. The following day, we are scheduled to walk over to Hyde Creek for a swim. We also have plans to have a bake sale to raise money to have an artist-in-residence teach us how to draw Indigenous Art using shapes and letters. In addition, we are working with the staff at Hyde

Creek to offer spin bike classes and fitness center tours during team P.E., for students who are interested. Because we must hire an instructor, students who want to join will sign up and be charged a nominal fee of \$2. Many thanks to Hyde Creek for waiving room usage fees and covering part of the cost for the instructor. Stay tuned for dates.

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or any questions, please contact your enrolling teacher by e-mail. To help save the environment, please return the report card cover and envelope to your core teacher at your earliest convenience.

Sue Jackson-Gordon, Team Leader

Coyotes

The teachers of Team Coyotes want to begin by acknowledging the positive behaviour of our students during the activities in December. When students went into the community, they demonstrated their kindness and courtesy toward others. We look forward to more opportunities for special activities in the New Year!

Team Coyotes are excited to be back and are ready to kick off 2019! Teachers and students are slowly implementing our Technology in the Classroom initiative and will be in full swing by February. Please contact your child's enrolling teacher if you have any questions.

As a team, we are looking forward to running a school wide assembly on Friday Feb. 8th with a focus on Kindness. All classes will be exploring this theme and students from Team Coyotes will have the opportunity to run the assembly in front of the school.

Andrea Sumner, Team Leader

Minnekhada Athletics

Athletics at Minnekhada are an important tradition and offer opportunities for all students to participate and enjoy learning and playing together. We've had a very successful volleyball season with high levels of participation. Our athletes proudly represented Minnekhada during the playoffs with both our A and B Grade 8 boys teams bringing home championship trophies! Basketball season is now upon us and students are encouraged to come out to practices---practice times are announced during morning announcements. Once again Minnekhada will be hosting our Grade 5 basketball jamboree during the first week in March where we have planned a fun filled afternoon for our Grade 5 community.

Grade 6 Co-Ed intramural basketball started this week. Practices are Wednesdays at 7:45 am and Thursdays at lunch. It is not to late sign up! Although, grade 6 athletes do not have scheduled games versus other schools, there will be a tournament before Spring Break. See you on Wednesday at 7:45 am! Permission forms and requests for the one-time \$15 athletic fee will be handed out at the practice.

Zabeen Ladha, Team Leader

Explorations

With the New Year we have started our third term of Explorations. Students will complete 5 terms of Explorations over the course of the year. This term finishes on March 1st. Those in Art are starting the term by creating their Exploding Emotions Books where they respond to the emotions from music with mixed media abstract art and doing origami folds to create their books. Foods is ramping up with safety procedures in the kitchen before they start cooking their healthy recipes. Tech Ed is also starting with safety procedures in the shop and projects like the egg zip and robotic arms. Music is working on learning notes and basic chords for the guitar in the context of songs. In Digital Arts, students are logging on to their computers to create web pages, movies, animations, Photoshopping pictures, and coding robots throughout the term.

The extra-curricular activities offered by our Explorations teachers are also in full swing! Practices are running for Must Rock and Must DJ, Tech Ed club is working with their hands and building their skills, Photo Club is taking pictures for the yearbook, and Art Club is on their way to their annual field trip to the Emerging Talent Exhibition at the Evergreen Cultural Centre.

Make sure to check out what Explorations has to offer when you come to the 3 Way Conference in February!

Mary Otey, Team Leader

Professional Development, Curriculum and Communicating Student Learning

I am the Pro-D Rep. and New Curriculum/Communicating Student Learning Team Leader at Minnekhada. Here is an update on a few items staff are focusing on at our school. Thank you for your support with our Collaboration Wednesdays late start schedule that we have implemented this year! This has given staff collaborative opportunities to explore topics such as technology, Aboriginal content, Math differentiated learning, and inquiry. Our next Collab. Day is Wed. Jan. 23. On Mon. Jan. 28 we will be having a district Professional Development Day. Workshops exploring the new curriculum will be featured. Our next Three-Way Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 21st and will give students, staff, and parents an opportunity to continue our emphasis on self-assessment and core competency growth as well as goal-setting with students. Best wishes to all in 2019!

Tania Pettenon, Team Leader

Where to Find Important Information

Middle school is an active and dynamic environment and sometimes it can feel like information overload. While much of the information you receive at home will come via your child's classroom teacher's home-school communications, please also consult our website at (www.sd43.bc.ca/minnekhada) regularly and never hesitate to be in touch with our school office at 604-936-4261. Also, please ensure our office has your up-to-date email address as we often send email reminders and other information of interest to parents.

Collaboration (Late Start) Days: School Starts at 9:20am

Collaboration Days continue to be a wonderful opportunity for teachers to collaborate and plan implementation of fresh instructional ideas and opportunities for students. To date we have focussed on a variety of areas including technology in the classroom, specialized support services, revised Math curriculum and First Nations principles of learning. Below are the dates remaining this school year:

January 23rd

February 13th

April 17th

May 15th

A reminder that late starts (9:20am) are made possible by extending the instructional minutes in our timetable on regular school days to ensure our students are receiving the required amount of instructional time in the classroom.

Three-Way Conferences & Explorations Showcase: February 21st, 2018

Come out and connect with your child's teacher, conference with your child, and enjoy our Explorations Showcase **on Thursday, February 21st**. **Students will be dismissed at 1:30pm** in order to accommodate conferences. This is always a well-attended event and a wonderful way to stay connected to your child's learning experiences at school. Please mark your calendars! Information regarding scheduling will be forthcoming and your time preferences should be directed back to the classroom teacher.

Terry Fox Secondary: Important Dates for Grade 8

Parents of Terry Fox-bound Grade 8's are advised of the following upcoming important dates:

January 16th – Terry Fox counsellors visit Minnekhada to discuss course selection

January 25th – Student tour of Terry Fox (all secondary schools offers tours on this date)

Also, please find a **Grade 8 Transition Letter to Parents** posted on our website.

Minnehada 2020 Updates

Construction is well underway for our new school with the steel installation happening now for all areas of the building. Some of the gym walls have been installed and the interior framing for classrooms has begun. Very exciting!

Having recently visited some new openings in our district (congratulations Moody Middle, Smiling Creek Elementary and Banting Middle) and in neighbouring communities we are feel very fortunate to learn from their experiences as we at Minnehada delve deeper into the planning for our new home.

Please be reminded that under **Quick Links/Minnehada New School Plans** on our school website you can take a digital tour of our new school.



Warm for Winter: Leadership in Action

Led by Minnehada Leadership students, our **"Warm for Winter" campaign** is in full swing and will run until January 18th. We are **collecting non-perishable food items and warm clothing** to donate to SHARE Family and Community Services. This year we elected to support our community in the months following Christmas break when shelves at food banks are depleted yet people remain in need. Students can drop off donations or non-perishable food in their classroom and blankets, socks and sweaters in the office. Thank you for your support!

Pink Shirt Day: It's Cool to Be Kind

Annual Pink Shirt Day will take place on February 27th this year. We are encouraging all students to participate and showing that our standing up for kindness toward one another in our school community really matters. While kindness and anti-bullying education matter all the time at Minnehada, during the month of February we take a special focus with our **Kindness assembly on February 8th** and the observing of **Pink Shirt Day on February 27th**.

Once again this year **Terry Fox Leadership** is selling t-shirts for \$10 (in pink or black with pink lettering) with **It's Cool to Be Kind** logos. Order can be made on your www.schoolcashonline.com account and the deadline in January 25th.

Community School Updates Winter 2019

Winter 2019 Programs

This coming program session we are offering after school programs that include art, drama, sports and education. There is still time to register for programs!

We have space in the following programs:

Monday's 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Origami

Tuesday's 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Special FX Make Up *Level 2*

please note that you do not need to have taken level 1 to participate

Wednesday's 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Crossfit *limited space available*

Friday's 3:00PM - 4:15PM

Futsal

PRO D Day January 28, 2019

Babysitter Training

PRO D Day February 15, 2019

Game Design

If you're interested in registering, please [click here](#) OR email Laura McKinley at lmckinley@sd43.bc.ca

Current Projects and Initiatives

Project Impact

The Community Development team for the District has been working with Dr. Steve Perry measuring the impact that our after-school programs have on students. The project has come to an end and on January 24, 2019 we will be presenting our findings along with other districts in the province.

Youth Development

Currently working on developing and implementing a Youth Development Program following the Moresports model. We hope to deliver material to students in the next week or so and offer our first orientation day by the end of January. Please watch your emails and notices coming home for more information in the coming weeks.

Planning and developing our Summer Day Camps for this upcoming summer season. There will be a Grades K – 3 camp at Minnekhada this summer and a Grades 4-6 camp at Pitt River. More information coming soon!

Should you have comments and/or suggestions for the programs that we offer, please don't hesitate to contact Laura McKinley at lmckinley@sd43.bc.ca

Ski & Snowboard Club: Mt. Seymour & Whistler Opportunity

Our first Ski and Snowboard Club evening at Mt Seymour is this Friday January 11th. We had an amazing interest in the learn to ski program this year. Parents of participating students should be at Minnekhada at 9:45pm for pick up. Many thanks to the parents and teachers who volunteered to drive so we could accommodate more participants. Upcoming dates are: January 11, 25 and February 1 and 15.**

In addition, we will be organizing two weekend day trips to Blackcomb Mountain, transportation by coach bus. Beginners are welcome and students will be in lessons/guided tours all day. Students are reminded to listen to the morning announcements for the meeting. Registration will be first come first served (with completed permission forms and payment). Too fun!

**February 15th date could change to the following week due to School Closure Day.

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.

PAC News

Our next PAC Meeting is on **Monday, January 21st at 6:30pm** in our library. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Attending meetings is a wonderful way to get connected at Minnekhada and to meet other parents engaged in discussion about supporting students at our school.

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](#).