



École Nestor News

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Dear Parents:

January 13, 2017



Principal's Message

We have enjoyed a more typical Canadian winter experience and the students really used the snow as best they could! We had so many sculptures built on the fields during the snow and the winter art projects were a little more real to us! Everyone returned to school refreshed after holidays and got to work quickly. I asked a student yesterday what she learned and it was lots of stuff about penguins! They always have a very busy day learning about new concepts and how to get along with others. This year we have also been doing a lot of work on thinking critically about what we are learning and our strategies for doing our best. I have seen posters, group projects and it is all amazing work, not just socializing. These are ways to show their learning, not just through pencil and paper tasks, but through conversation, models projects and written work as well.

With all their work, the feedback they receive from their peers, their teachers and, most importantly, you, serves to guide them on to success. Recent research on descriptive feedback indicates that if a comment contains a "coaching tip" it is a very powerful tool that can guide students forward in their learning more quickly. A good start may be "Good job!" but adding a comment for a writing project like 'I really liked the part about the swamp monster...you really described him well.' This gives the child an idea on how to keep building up new stories so they are interesting to read. A parent comment such as "wow! That is really well done!" or "you worked hard!" gives encouragement and shows you take an interest or are proud of their effort. Occasionally, comments can go deeper; for example one that says:...'good start on that model, can you paint in more detail on the diorama? Let's look in the book together' will take them further in their learning. As a team, we can all support our learners' successes! Student-led conferences are coming soon and the planning has begun in earnest! The children are eager to take you through their portfolios of their work to date; it really is important to them to share these choice pieces with you. The everyday comments and conversations you have with your child are so important in building their skill level and helping them along the learning journey. For the students, these are the best "report cards" they have because they have a special audience with you!

Mme Darlene Proulx
Principal
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Board games are coming back into vogue these days. That's great news! What does the research say?

Not only are they a wonderful way for families to reconnect during a busy week but also to work on reading and social skills in a fun way. Research tells us that there are many benefits to playing board games:

Social Skills:	Reading & Language Skills	Math Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Taking turns, · Using manners · Praising others · Avoiding put-downs · Admitting defeat · Practicing good sportsmanship · Reading expressions on faces · Winning gracefully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Using oral language · Asking and answering questions · Reading and following directions · New vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Strategy · Logic · Number concepts · Counting · Money · Time



Reading with your child: What's a parent to do with "Home Reading"?



These days "home reading" is a common term and parents frequently ask questions about it. It can be a great experience or a chore, or even a little of both! Here's the scoop on "home reading":

It is meant to be a pleasurable experience between parent and child. In your house it may be snuggling on the couch, before the tuck into bed or get-together as dinner is simmering. It is not meant to be a "reading lesson" or a burden on the family. It is meant for the child to show you what they can manage independently and a time to have your attention. An additional benefit for many is developing a sense of responsibility for their books and their progress!

Usually "home reading" packages sent home can take a few different forms. Some teachers send home plastic bags of books with numbers or labels on them. Other teachers send home photocopied series of books. Other students come home with library books or books chosen from classroom collections. Other teachers prefer to leave children to make choices. Usually the books will be just that, books, rather than a story collection or "reader" as we had when we were children. This is a way to make reading "authentic" for children. There is not one "perfect formula" for success, other than time in the company of a parent or guardian. In terms of guidelines, it could be a weekly program or "return the package when you've finished each one a few times." Some parents express concern that the books sent home are too easy and request harder material. Students spend hours in class focusing on their reading skills and its hard work! During these "guided reading" lessons, students have the support of their teacher and concentrate on particular skills. Perhaps they are building connections, maybe visualizing or inferencing but its all hard work! When we send reading home, we want students to build on their love of reading. We want them to have successful experiences with their books. For more about "home reading" and what it means for your child this year, please contact your child's teacher and chat about it.

Parking issues in the neighbourhood

Before and after school parking is extremely difficult in New Horizons, our Nestor neighbourhood. There are 2 peak times, right at the beginning and the end of the day, when parking is not allowed around the school. These areas are clearly identified with signs; bylaw officers do come to enforce this and give tickets to those who do not obey the bylaw. Please remember to keep clear of driveway and please teach your children about being a respectful neighbour by obeying the bylaw and parking elsewhere. Walking to school from your parking spot a block away is a great time for a fun conversation with your child and is a real bonus for the family!



Late to School



I have been reviewing daily attendance books and notice so many students coming in late and I am concerned that many classes have a difficult time getting their day off to a good start with the number of late arrivals that happen on a regular basis. This week, in some classes there have been over 40% of the students arriving late in the morning!

Routines are very important for children, as you know. In the home, personal care routines, family chores and bedtime routines are great ways for children to develop independence and grow in maturity. School routines are equally important for school success. It is hard to start your day well when you miss the morning line up fun with your classmates or miss the morning language or calendar routines. It is very unsettling or embarrassing for many children to arrive late into the classroom door. We know as adults that being on time is critical for success in the workplace and would not consider showing up to work a few minutes every day! Please make arriving to school on time a family priority. **A reminder that the first bell goes at 8:50 a.m. and students should be in their classes by 8:55 a.m.**

English Kindergarten Registration Reminder

Registration for English Kindergarten starting in September 2017 will be held throughout the district on **January 31st, February 1st and February 2nd**. All applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and it is very important to register during these dates to secure a spot in English Kindergarten. The office will take registrations at 9:30 a.m. up until 3:00 p.m. daily. See the attached list of documentation needed to register.

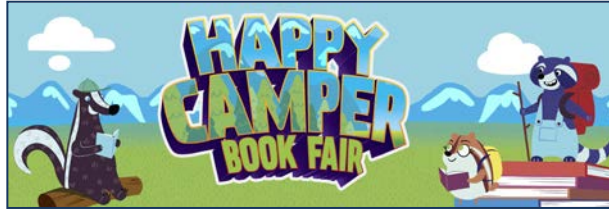


Cross Boundary Requests

We are currently at capacity and are accepting in-catchment registrations only. However, the cross catchment request process will be available on-line on the district website beginning **Friday, February 3rd @ 9:00 a.m.** and closing **Thursday, February 9th at 4:30 p.m.** This process is for all cross catchment requests for Kindergarten through to Grade 12. On the district website, www.sd43.bc.ca there will be a button for Kindergarten Cross Catchment and one for Grade 1 to 12 cross catchment requests. The district response to cross catchment requests will be communicated in writing and/or email during the week of February 27th.

Scholastic Book Fair 2017

We are having the Scholastic Book Fair on **February 20-22nd**. The Book Fair will take place in the Library. Information and pamphlets will be sent home shortly.



This is a very worthwhile fundraiser and a great opportunity to browse and buy books! Proceeds from the fair will go towards the purchase of new books for the Library. Watch for a notice coming out soon, listing times and more details for the Book Fair.

Dates at a Glance



Jan. 25	Last Day for Pink T-Shirt Orders
Jan. 27	Good Stuff Awards @ 9:00 a.m.
Jan.30	Professional Development Day – Nestor (School Closed)
Jan. 31	Hearing Screening Grade 2's
Jan. 31 to	English Kindergarten Registration at the Nestor Office
Feb. 2	(9:30 to 3:00) daily
Feb. 1	Student Led Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00 p.m.
Feb. 3 - 9	On-Line Cross Catchment Requests (Beginning @ 9:00 on Feb. 3 and ending on February 9 th @ 4:30) on-line @ www.sd43.bc.ca
Feb. 13	Family Day (School Closed)
Feb. 20-22	Book Fair in the Library (times to be announced)
Feb. 21	Dance Fest – Grades to be determined
Feb. 22	Dance Fest – Grades to be determined
Feb. 23	Good Stuff Awards / Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 24	District Professional Development Day – School Closed
Mar. 9	Term 2 Report Cards go Home
Mar. 10	Last Day prior to Spring Break
Mar. 13 - 24	Spring Break
Mar. 27	Return to School after Spring Break
Mar. 28	Running club starts (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Kind Regards,

Mme Darlene Proulx
Principal