



October 2018 Newsletter

Blue Mountain Elementary

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Message from the Principal:

Fall is here! As a school we started by designing our own wings with the emphasis that all feathers together allow us to fly. The feathers have been created into a beautiful set of wings in the front entrance way - - titled, Find your wings and FLY! We are encouraging students to take a risk with their learning and soar. We had Open House for parents to see students’ classrooms. Many had their picture taken in front of the wings. Each student will have a photo taken in front of the wings. Students are having also been learning about apples and pumpkins, Orange Shirt Day/residential schools and developing a grow mindset, running and volleyball skills as well as continuing to progress with their literacy and numeracy skills.

As a staff we are continuing to work with students’ learning how to self-regulate their emotions and bodies. We are reviewing appropriate school behavior in the classroom and when outside. We continue to stress their communication, personal and social responsibility and their creative/critical thinking as they explore and learn with all their subjects. We are reviewing as a school how students can take care of our school and their own personal belongings We appreciate your support and encouragement with your child’s learning.

This year, we have 10 packs, each led by two teachers. These packs consist of 31 to 31 students, from kindergarten to gr 7. The focus will be promoting a school-wide community in a multi-age setting, with an emphasis on social emotional learning (belonging, social and self-awareness, responsible decision makings). Each pack will have an animal attached to them. For example, a wolf teaches us to communicate clearly, which is also attached to our Communication Core Competency. We are excited about this new learning experience for our students. The packs will meet every other Wednesday for one hour in the afternoon.

Enjoy these beautiful fall days . . .

Mrs. Scoular



Upcoming Events

- October 1
Open House
- October 5
World Teacher Day
- October 8
Thanksgiving
- October 9
Div. 1, 2, 3, 4. Bike Road Program
- October 10
Div. 1, 2, 3, 4. Bike Road Program
Be A Giant Program
- October 11
Gr 2 Recycling
7:00 pm PAC Meeting
- October 12
Div. 1, 2, 3, 4. Bike Road Program
- October 15
Div. 1, 2, 3, 4. Bike Road Program
Bookfest Public Library
- October 16
Hot Lunch: Hot Dog
- October 17
Kindergarten– Dental Screening
Shake Out BC
- October 19
Provincial Professional Development Day
- October 22
PHOTO RETAKES
Me-To-We Food Drive
- October 23
Div. 1, 2, 3, 4. Bike Road Program
Intermediate Cross Country
- October 24
Primary Cross Country
- October 25
Gr 6 Immunizations
- October 30
Hot Lunch: Pizza
- October 31
Halloween

WOLF PAW —recognition for one of the
Six Pillars of Character

- Div. 2 Diego,
- Div. 5 Harley,
- Div. 7 Kipton,
- Div. 8 Maddie, Kingston H.

Important School News

MEDICAL FORMS: Forms have been sent home for students that we already had marked as having a medical condition (allergies, asthma, etc.). If you are new to the school or your child has a recently diagnosed medical condition, please inform your child's teacher and we will send forms home.

WEST COAST RECESS

Since we all live in the rainy west coast, we will continue with our West Coast Recess. Students will be outside at recess and lunch unless it is raining heavily. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS DRESSED APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER EACH DAY (wear proper jacket, footwear, and bring an umbrella). Many students are outside at recess and lunch without proper jackets, footwear (boots) or warm clothing.

Each student should have a pair of dry indoor shoes and an extra change of clothing (particularly pants) kept in the classroom/backpack – just in case your child falls down and gets wet. By sending an extra change of clothes, this alleviates office pile up at the phone to call home and wasted learning time. Thanks for your assistance.

INDOOR SHOES are mandatory. ALL students need to have a clean pair of shoes left at school, so they can change into daily. These shoes should be either lace up or Velcro shoes as they will be wearing them to gym and playing active games. To keep our school clean and for your child's safety, indoor shoes are a must. Thanks.

STUDENT SAFETY: Children riding bikes or scooters should wear a helmet at all times and are not permitted to ride on school grounds. Let's keep everyone safe!

Parent Portal Reminder

DON'T MISS OUT on another announcement, event, newsletter or field trip! In the fall, all forms and announcements will continue to be communicated from the school through the SD42 Forms and Parents Portal. If you are not on the portal, please take a few minutes of your time to create an account at <https://parents.sd42.ca/>.

Parent make sure you have completed the policy/permission forms awaiting your approval on the portal!

District forms have been sent out through the portal. These forms are necessary to complete so your child can go on walking field trips, use iPads, etc. Please complete them ASAP. Remember to scroll down in each box as this indicates to the district that you have read the forms. If you have any issues, please come and see Mrs. Scoular.

Phone Use:

Just a reminder that children are not allowed to use the phone unless it is an urgent Situation. Coordinating home visits, etc., is something that students are expected to do the previous evening. The office phone must remain free for business or emergency calls.



BOOKFEST: This month in the library we are continuing with Bookfest. Our Bookfest students from grades 4-7 are reading 7 novels together and in November will go as a group to The Act to participate in trivia and meet the author of Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy Doug Savage. Bookfest students will be going on a field trip to the Maple Ridge Public Library on October 15 to meet Gabrielle Pendegrast author of Pandas on the Eastside. Also, this month the all students will be participating in the Global Read Aloud where students all around the world have the same books read to them in their classrooms and libraries. There is a primary picture book study of Julie Flett and Monique Grey Smith Books, the middle primary and early intermediate classes are reading A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold, and the upper intermediate classed are reading Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed. Happy reading everyone!

Hunger affects people from all walks of life. When you come together to collect food for WE Scare Hunger, you can help ensure a family has food on the table. By holding a food drive, you have the opportunity to contribute to your local community and raise awareness of the root causes of hunger.

Fact:

Each month, **more than 850,000 people** turn to food banks for help; **more than one third** are children and youth.

Our Me-to-We group is holding the We Scare Hunger **food drive** for the **month of October, starting today**. Please bring in **non-perishable food items and monetary donations to be donated to our local food bank**. We will have donation bins set up in the front lobby of the school. Students may also wish to collect item while trick-or-treating.

Hunger + Food Collection = Impact
PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRY DATE ON FOOD ITEMS.



The Redesigned Curriculum at *Blue Mountain*

CORE COMPETENCIES: *What are they and why are they in the curriculum?*

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to meet the needs of 21st century students. The new curriculum maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy while supporting deeper learning through three core competency areas: **communication**, **personal and social**, and **thinking**.

Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in life-long learning. Core competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning.

For more information about each core competency area, visit: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>

Coming in November – Curricular Competencies.



One of our literacy teachers is working alongside the classroom teacher to teach and assess student literacy skills.



Core Competencies: What are they and why are they in the new curriculum?
The new curriculum centres around the following three core competency areas: **communication**, **personal and social**, **thinking**. They are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning. During the school year, students will have an opportunity to self-assess their proficiencies in these core