

Kanaka Creek Elementary

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

At Kanaka we strive to develop a community of responsible learners who strive to attain their potential in a safe, cooperative and healthy environment.



Spark Creativity

We'll, we're into our final week of school. Term 1 is completed and we are starting to

think about all things Christmas. As you move in to winter break and the holiday season, I would encourage families to strive to make the term 2 goals our students created during the conferences alive throughout the next term. Putting goals on the fridge or in another area of the home can help draw attention to the goals. Further, parents can talk through the strategies of how these things will happen in the second term.

November was another fun-filled and exciting month at Kanaka. Our staff explored "design thinking" and "creative play" at the recent professional development day. Teachers have explored these concepts in their classes this month through events like the entrepreneur fair, "Wonder Wednesdays", use of the "Kanaka Creates" bins, and so much more. While basic literacy and numeracy skills are still extremely important, a growing number of researchers have stressed the importance of building children's sense of creativity and innovation in a growing workplace. As always, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Upcoming Events

Dec 5 th	Div 16, 17, 19 – Aquarium Field Trip Div 6&11 Bake Sale @ recess
Dec 6 th	Christmas @ Timberline- all K classes Div 3 – London Drugs Charity Field Trip
Dec 7 th	Div 6&7 – Planetarium Field Trip
Dec 8 th	Christmas Concert @ 7pm Div 4 – recorder concert AM Div 4 – Swimming PM Div 14 - Swimming Kindergarten Christmas Concert Start of Winter Break!!
Dec 11 th –	School Closed for Winter Break
Jan 5 th	School reopens (full day)
Jan 8 th	Skating – div 11, 15, 17
Jan 17 th	PAC Pizza Hot Lunch EAT FIRST
Jan 19 th	Gr 6/7 Winter Activities – Day 1
Jan 25 th	Non-instructional day
Jan 26 th	Assembly – 10:30am
Jan 29 th	Science World – Div 12-15
Jan 31 st	

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Great Things @Kanaka



Grade 6 & 7 students had a treat this November. Instructors from the HUB bike program came and taught basic bike maintenance, riding skills, and road safety. They encouraged those students who live close to the school to consider biking to school. It's great exercise and will alleviate our parking concerns.



During November, our students honoured our fallen veterans by learning about Remembrance Day and why we remember on Nov 11th. The community honoured veterans at our assembly with songs, spoken word, and artwork. We thank Ms. Fuhrmann for organizing the event.



If you haven't had a chance to visit our school, be sure to visit the office and see our newly renovated fish tank. We would like to thank the Reichelt family. They have donated their time and a lot of resources over the past few months ensuring our finned friends have a clean, warm home.

WITS

WITS is a pro-active program encouraging children to make safe and positive choices when faced with peer conflict.

The WITS acronym – **Walk Away, Ignore, Talk It Out and Seek Help** provides a common language that children and adults can use in their environment to solve social problems.

Please visit the WITS Program website for more information. <http://www.witsprogram.ca/kids/>

Principal for the Day

A huge thank you to Charlotte Lackey who ran our school for a day in November. Charlotte won the opportunity through the Entertainment book fundraiser. She brought treats to our teacher, visited classes, helped our librarian, and helped out our secretaries. She even had lunch with Mr. Raible. Way to go!!



Entrepreneurial Spirit

Kanaka Creek grades 7's were engaged in the entrepreneurial spirit this month. As part of the health and career component in their curriculum, the students came up with products and a marketing strategy. They could only spend \$20 on their materials and needed to create a strategy to achieve a profit. The gym was then transformed into a lively bazaar with items ranging from bath bombs, to marshmallow cannons, and to sock monkeys. What a great way to raise money for charity and to learn a bit about marketing.



2018 Kindergarten Registration

Please note Kindergarten registration for September 2018 begins on **January 4th, 2018** at 12:00 noon for families with siblings already registered at Kanaka (currently in Grades Kindergarten to 6) and will close at 11:59 pm on January 10th. All Kindergarten registrations will take place on-line and will be set up through the parent portal. If you do not have an available computer, we will provide access to one at the school or at the District Education Office.

As you know children with siblings in attendance at the school are given priority during the registration process. ***If you have already registered an older child on the portal, this will show up during the registration and you will be given priority, otherwise it will not acknowledge that the Kindergarten student you are registering has a sibling that attends Kanaka and you may lose out on priority placement.***

Thank you for taking the time to register on the portal. Please visit <http://www1.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration> for more information.

Lost and Found

Items will be on display beside the computer lab on tables until December 8th. After that they will be packaged up and donated to charity. Please be sure you or your child checks for lost items prior to Friday.

Parking Reminders

It has been brought to our attention on more than one occasion that parents are blocking driveways of homes near the school and not being extremely co-operative when asked to move in order for the homeowner to enter/leave their driveway. **Please be respectful of our neighbours and park legally.**

To drop off your child(ren) please enter through the first white gate and exit through the north white gate on 234A Street or the gate on Gilker Hill. **The road is ONE WAY.** If you use the "drop off" area, please remain in your vehicle. Please find parking on Kanaka Way or 234A Street. Passes for daycare vans and for families dropping off students with mobility issues are required prior to 2:20.

Please take some time to consider the "Drive to 5" program, which is to have a prearranged spot that is five minutes from the school where you can drop off and pick up your child(ren). The goal of this initiative is to develop a healthier school, reduce the emissions and congestion from vehicles in our parking lot and make walking or cycling to school a safe and fun event.

Suspicious Activity?

To report vandalism on school property during the break or anytime (e.g. damage to playground equipment, graffiti, trespassing, excessive noise), call 604.466.4357.

Emergency Student Release Forms

In January, your child(ren) will come home with emergency release forms. This is to ensure we have a robust way to release your son/daughter to someone you've given authorization for in the event of an emergency. For some families, parents will be unable to get back to the school in a timely manner if we needed to release the students because of a natural disaster. Thus, it is important to have names of people who live close to the school and are available during the day in case this occurred. Please see Mr. Raible for more details.

Choir News

Concert – Dec 7th @ 7pm: The KC Kids' Choir and Mrs. MacInnes' class have been working together to present the Christmas Musical "It's Christmas, Carol!" Everyone is welcome. We will be performing in the Gym at 7 pm. **(No choir practice after school on the 7th).**

Reminder: Our January term practices will start up after school on Thursday January 18th. This year we will be preparing a concert to perform at the ACT with the fabulous FRED PENNER! (The concert is scheduled for 7 pm at the ACT on Wednesday, March 21st. Tickets go on sale December 1st - great Christmas presents for Granny and Granddad!) A notice will go out on the portal the first week of January to sign up.

Kindergarten Christmas Concert

December 8th 9:30 am in the Gym. The kindergarten classes have some special songs and poems that they have been practicing to celebrate the holidays. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to attend this brief (20-30 minutes) concert.

Kindergarten Xmas @ Timberline Ranch

A reminder to all Kindergarten families that Wednesday, December 6th, we will be going to Timberline Ranch (rain or shine) Please dress accordingly, carpool if you can and (sorry) no strollers please.

Office Reminders

December 2017



Winter Activities

Grade 6/7's: If you have not yet given permission or payment on the portal, please do so ASAP. Dates are January 25, February 1, 8 and 15.

Grade 4/5's: If you have not yet received a portal notice, please contact your child's teacher. Dates are February 2, 16, 23, and March 2.

Grade 5 Active Pass

Maple Ridge Parks is once again offering The Grade 5 Active Pass, which provides all grade 5 students residing in Maple Ridge FREE ACCESS to a variety of opportunities including swimming, ice skating, drop in gym and skateboarding! Applications will be available at the school later this month or you can visit <https://www.mapleridge.ca/1474> for an online application. Students will receive a free water bottle when they submit their application.

Library News

Bookfest Club members enjoyed a private screening of the movie *Wonder* on November 20. The movie is based on one of this year's Bookfest books by R.J. Palacio. The story is truly heartwarming and Ms. Nagy recommends reading the book as well as seeing the movie. Bookfest Club members also participated in the 34th annual Bookfest Competition on November 29 where they had a chance to challenge their knowledge of the books they read during Term One. As well, students were able to hear from author Norma Charles, author of *Last Chance Island*, another of the Bookfest books. Ms. Nagy congratulates all participants for their reading efforts in Bookfest 2017! Well done!

PAC News

Your PAC executive are:

Chair: Angela Downey, **Vice chair:** Carla Neiva, **Treasurer:** Amanda Maliwat, **Secretary:** Louise Smith, **Fundraising Coordinators:** Sarah Bratt, Amanda Griffin & Danielle Mille, **Hot lunch coordinators:** Anthea Publow, Crystal Rogers & Sarah Bratt, **District PAC reps:** Christine Calvert & Sonia Baines, **Members at Large:** Angela McFadyen, Jackolynn Wright, Lynsey Pashley, Becky Coote, Kristi Tetzlaff, Deanna Lackey, Laura Kelly, Alexis Playdon

Thank you to everyone who supported the PAC November fundraisers that earned a total of \$2,569.41 for our playground.

- Kicking Horse Coffee \$ 237.15
- Neufeld Farms \$1,711.00
- Subway Hot Lunch \$ 621.26

Next PAC Meeting – Wednesday, Dec 6th @ 7:00pm

Book Fair News

Our *Saddle Up and Read Book Fair* was a roaring success thanks to all the students, teachers and families who came out to support us. We even had a few students round up Mr. Raible for a prize throughout the week. Together, we raised \$1,646.71 for our library! What a spectacular way to support literacy at Kanaka Creek! A special thank you goes out to the Book Fair Committee and volunteers: Jackolynn Wright, Sheree McNulty, Coral Widdowson, Kirsten Mah, Armanda Bowser, Lynn Roberts, Amanda Dodgson, Dian Sandor, Cher Duguid, Christine Calvert, Shweta Kulkarni, Megan Hudson, Brenda Gerbrandt, Debra Douglas, Marlene McCaffrey, Cathy Josic and Candice Brown. We couldn't do it without you! Our next book fair is coming in June. Parents please keep your eyes open for a special invitation to join the spring book fair committee this May. Happy Reading! - Jackolynn Wright.

Me 2 We News

November Movie Night: A huge thank you to the students who set up for this great event. Students and parents alike enjoyed a holiday tradition – the watching of the "Polar Express". Students brought in pillows, PJ's and blankets and enjoyed the film on the big screen with the big sound of our gym. Money raised will go to the We Village in Africa.

Santa Land: Our Me 2 We elves have been creating a winter wonderland on our stage. Students will have the opportunity to come down on Monday to have a picture with Santa. We'll have another opportunity for **selfies** without Santa on Wednesday. The minimum donation is \$2 per picture.