

Kanaka Creek Elementary

FEBRUARY 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.



Learn by Exploring

What a great month we've had in the new year!! Already, our students have had a

ton of opportunities to explore their learning in different ways. It is great that learning can take place all throughout the day and often occurs with many of the adults who help support Kanaka. Often, our students have the opportunity to learn with their teacher, their big or little buddy, our librarian, or our support teachers and helpers. Whether it is a guided novel study, an exploration of scientific principles, or a trip to the local ice rink, learning can occur anywhere.

In February, we are entering in to a month where we focus on social responsibility. Students are using valentine's day as a theme to explore how we can be caring and compassionate to each other. This will culminate in February 28th – Pink Shirt Day. This is a day where communities come together to encourage and celebrate prosocial activities. At Kanaka, we strongly encourage students to use their WITS (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help). Further, we strive to live out daily our "4 Be statements": Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. Please feel free to use this same language at home while solving conflicts.

Upcoming Events

Feb 6 th	BC Lions Assembly 11AM Rec girls BBall @ BM
Feb 7 th	Popcorn Day Comp boys BBall @ Albion PAC Meeting – 7pm
Feb 8 th	Toastmasters – 10:30am Div 22 – Justice Institute Gr 6/7 Winter activities Div 9 – Vehicle challenge K vision/hearing screening Cup Stacking – 12pm
Feb 9 th	No School
Feb 12 th	Family Day – No School
Feb 13 th	Pro-D – No School
Feb 14 th	Comp boys BBall@Kanaka Valentines Day
Feb 15 th	Gr 6/7 Winter Activities Choir Practice
Feb 16 th	Gr 4/5 Winter Activities PaC dance @ 6pm Rec Boys BBall @ Kanaka
Feb 19 th	K Vision/Hearing screening Rec Boys BBall @ YE
Feb 20 th	Rec Girls BBall @ Kanaka
Feb 21 st	Comp Boys BBAI @ YE
Feb 22 nd	Comp Girls BBall @ Kanaka Div 20/21Mr. Men Tea – 10:10
Feb 23	PALS – 3:15pm – Library Gr 4/5 Winter Activities PAC Hot Lunch - Pizza

Follow us on twitter!
[@KanakaSD42](https://twitter.com/KanakaSD42)

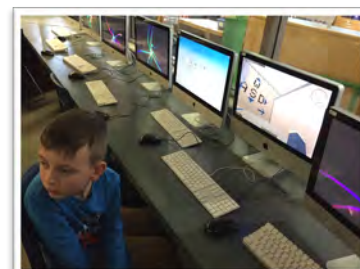
Great Things @Kanaka



At our last school assembly, we celebrated with our grade 3's as they showed us their knowledge about the Haida culture, and saw some of our "cup stackers" show their stuff. We also said a heart felt "thank you" and "good bye" to Ms. Steil who retired at the end of January. She'll be missed around here. Good luck!!



Our school this year has joined the literacy network. Some of our teachers are joining with the district literacy facilitator, Denise Upton, to meet and discuss ways to encourage literacy skills in our students. Here we see one of our kindergarten students telling a story based on her creation.



Recently, Ms. Thirkell has been able to install a Minecraft server at Kanaka. This is the first in the district and has allowed her to incorporate Minecraft in to our computer studies classes. Students learn spatial awareness and cooperative strategies as they explore the many different worlds.

W I T S

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.

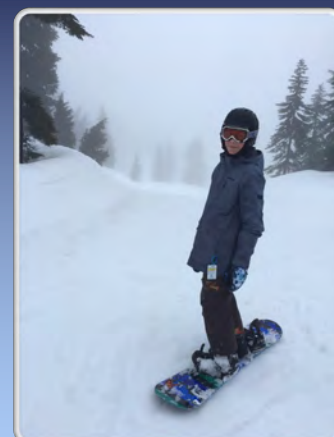
Please visit the WITS Program website for more information. <http://www.witsprogram.ca/kids/>

Welcomes/ Staff Changes

We've had a few changes to our staff recently. Ms. Wakeling is now teaching our grade 7 class. Ms. Munro is now supporting the classes Ms. Steil was in while Ms. Bishop is now teaching our French prep and support position. Further, Ms. Mockett is in for Ms. Smith and Ms. Charron is in for Mr. Moran.

Winter Activities

Both our grade 4/5's and our grade 6/7's are participating in "winter activities" this term. Our students have a choice between a number of fun physical activities – rock climbing, bowling, skating, swimming, skiing, snow boarding, or visiting Extreme Air Park. Studies show that students who have physical activities such as these within their school day perform better in the classroom. We hope to build lasting habits that will continue as our students get older. A huge thank you to all the teachers who have organized and supervised these great activities.





2018/19 Transfer Guidelines

These guidelines apply to students who want to:

- Transfer to Kanaka Creek from another school in Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows
- Transfer out of Kanaka Creek to another school in Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows

Parents need to go to their current school to request a student transfer form. The current school will keep this form. There will be a series of three meetings to decide on transfer requests in the months of April, June, and August. Once decisions have been made at these meetings, parents will be phoned to let them know. Families who move into a school catchment need to go to that school to register. If they are hoping to attend a different school, they can indicate this on their registration form.

In general, acceptance criteria for prioritizing new registrations are:

- Students who live in catchment
- Students who live out of catchment with siblings already in the school
- Out of catchment without siblings
- Out of District with siblings
- Out of District without siblings

Grade 8 Registration

Grade 8 registration for the 2018/19 school year opens at noon, February 15, 2018, and must be completed on the parent portal. The online registration form will automatically populate with your child's secondary catchment school. This is determined by your address (not your elementary school). You can check the School District website <http://www.sd42.ca> for your catchment school and if you recently moved, make sure the office has your correct address. Please note that new development areas may not reflect accurate results of your catchment school. Please call and confirm with the school if necessary. Families will be able to request their first two choices of schools. Registration numbers are limited by capacity. Details regarding acceptance criteria are noted below.

The size of the school facility may limit the number of out-of-catchment registrations that can be accommodated. The school district will accommodate catchment registrations first, then attempt to accommodate sibling out-of-catchment registrations. Sibling placement cannot be guaranteed, however. Our acceptance criteria are as follows:

1. In-catchment area students who, in the previous year, attended the school;
2. In-catchment area students who, in the previous year, were placed by the district in a different school due to a lack of space
3. Siblings of in-catchment area students (grades 8 to 11);
4. New in-catchment area students;
5. Siblings of out-of-catchment area students enrolled in the school (grades 8 to 11);
6. Out-of-catchment area students currently attending an SD42 school;
7. Out-of-district students currently attending an SD42 school;
8. Students not currently attending an SD42 school but residing in Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows;
9. Out-of-district non-residents

All Grade 8 online registration must be completed by noon on **March 2, 2018**. Date and time will be a factor after catchment and sibling students are placed. When a school is declared full if registration did not occur by March 2, 2018, students may not get their catchment school. Parents will be notified after Spring Break as to where their child is assigned.

Movement between schools after March 2 deadline requires a transfer process. Transfer forms are available at all secondary schools.

The ability to transfer will be limited by building space and available staffing. See Student Transfer Guidelines.

A review of transfer requests will be completed before the Grade 7 orientation date in May. Individual meetings and/or visits will occur after placement

Grade 7 News

Pizza Hot Lunch will be held on February 23rd. Funds raised will go toward the Grade 7 Leaving celebration.

Volunteers and Visitors

A reminder that all visitors and volunteers are expected to report to the office by way of the main entrance, sign in, and collect a visitor or volunteer tag. This is a safety and security measure as it is important for us to know who is in the school. Displaying the tag also tells children that you are a welcomed guest in our school. When children see an unfamiliar face in the school or on the playground, they will likely view you as an unwelcome 'stranger' and for younger children this can cause them some unnecessary anxiety.



KC Kids Choir – (after school choir)

Any choir members who have signed up on the portal but not yet paid for their t-shirt, please do so as soon as possible.

Any Kindergarten students wanting to sign up on the portal to be part of the Fred Penner performance at the ACT – please do so ASAP. Speak to your child's teacher for more information

School Closures

On rare occasions schools may be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. Public announcements affecting closure of schools will be made by the Superintendent of Schools. For the purpose of announcing emergency closures prior to the opening of schools, the radio stations listed below will be contacted by the district office. The announcements will be made between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m.

News 1130 AM CKNW - 980 AM CBC - 690 AM
Global TV news

As well, you can check the school district website and district social media feeds for updates: www.sd42.ca
SD42 Twitter feed (@sd42news) SD42 Facebook feed,
When schools are closed, we cannot make calls home to let you know; nor, can we answer all the phone calls to ask if school is open.

Emergency Release Forms

This term we will continue to practice our emergency procedures including fire earthquake and lockdown drills. Also, please ensure your Emergency Release forms are returned to the office as soon as possible. These forms will allow us to release your children to someone other than you in the event of a serious emergency resulting in school closure.

Kindergarten News

Glove Your Neighbour wraps up February 15th. Kindergarten classes are still accepting donations of "adult sized" hats, scarfs, socks, gloves etc.

Mrs. Hoogstins is looking for donations of dress up items for our dramatic play area

Kanaka is an "Allergy Aware" School

We have a number of students in our school with severe food allergies, the most common being to peanuts. Please be aware of any severe, life threatening allergies in your child's classroom and pack lunches accordingly. Thank you for helping to keep all our students safe.

KC Kids Choir – (after school choir)

Library Books: Please make note of your children's library day, and consider returning their books a day early. That way, they can always sign out new books with their friends during Library Time. Once the books are overdue, parents will automatically start receiving overdue notices to the email address registered on the Parent Portal.

LOOKING FOR GAME DONATIONS!

*Ms. Nagy is trying to set up a "C3 Club" (chess, checkers, cribbage) that will occur in the library at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you have any gently used games of **chess, checkers, or cribbage** that you no longer want, the library is looking for donations!*

Pink Shirt Day – Feb 28

February 28, everyone is encouraged to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. The original Pink Shirt Day was organized by David Shepherd and Travis Price of Berwick, Nova Scotia, who in 2007 bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a male Grade 9 student, Charles McNeill, was bullied for wearing a pink shirt during the first day of school.

Fish Tank Maintenance

Thank you to the Reichelt Family who maintain our aquarium and who have generously donated a new Pleco Fish, Mufasa. See if you can spot him!

Outdoor Days

We are trying to get our students outside on a greater number of days throughout the year. Staff and parents feel this is a healthy choice for students, and the simple fact is that many students prefer to be outside during recess and lunch. For this reason, please help your children learn to dress appropriately to be outside during our Lower Mainland Winter /Spring weather. Some of you are sending extra socks and pants, which has proven to be a helpful thing for your children. As well, please remind your child(ren) that our fields can get quite slippery and muddy during rainy times. We are reminding students that, if they get too dirty outside, they can be quite uncomfortable in class for the rest of the day. If your child brings home wet clothes, please send a fresh set back to the school.