

Kanaka Creek Elementary

JUNE 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.



Summer is Upon Us

Well, we a couple of days in to June and summer is definitely here. While the weather doesn't always cooperate, our students and staff are in the "Summer Swing" of things. During this past month, we have been focusing on classic summer activities. Our primary classes have completed their primary cross country run while our intermediate classes have been practicing hard for the track and field meet which will happen next week. Further, our classes have been planning ice cream fundraisers and freezie fundraisers to help raise funds for activities. Three of our grade 5 classes just participated in a camp experience while four of our grade 6 and 7 classes will be going to Victoria. Classes have brought in art experts, drama experts, and many more to augment our students' learning experiences.

As we get fully in to the third term of the 2017/18 school year, it is important to note that we are starting to plan for next year. In the last few newsletters, we've asked parents to help us by keeping us informed of any changes. If you are moving or looking to transfer schools, it is important to know that as soon as possible. This helps us in our planning processes for next year. While class placements don't get finalized until the first week in September, the more information we have up front will help ensure we are making the most informed decisions as to which child is in which class. Please be sure to read the important announcements in this newsletter to help inform you about important dates and information for next year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chad Raible



Follow us on twitter!
@KanakaSD42

Great Things @Kanaka



Our green team has grown in size this year and their hard work has paid off. They helped Kanaka win the SD42 Energy Challenge award this year. Through their efforts, the school has tried to turn off lights when not in use, go to “litter free lunches”, and bring reusable water bottles instead of juice boxes all to help and protect our school’s environment. Congrats, green team!



Our PAC put on another fun event for our school community in May. Families were invited to come out and watch the first Incredibles movie in our gym. Families brought blankets, lawn chairs, and mats and enjoyed the show while munching on popcorn, candy, and pizza. Entry was by donation and was well received. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out!!



Mr. Beyers, Ms. Murphy’s, and Mr. Rondpre’s classes had a great couple of nights at Timberline Ranch this week. The kids rode horses, learned archery, played a ton of new games, and spent time connecting with each other. Each night ended with a group game and a campfire – keep thinking up those challenges and skits for next year!!

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/>

Volunteers Needed

Looking for your inner power? Want cars to obey you with the wave of your hand? Don one of our high vis safety vests and you will experience the power while keeping our students safe in the parking lot. If you can help, please email Mr. Raible at chad.raible@sd42.ca for more details. Your inner power awaits!! We’d like to thank: Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Lambert for their efforts.

Presentations Galore!!



Our students are an incredible audience and, thus, we often have a number of presenters who enjoy coming to show their talent to us. This month, we were entertained by the senior bands at GSS. We also had an incredible performance from a group called Speed Control who taught us about the Canadian history of rock n roll. We even had our monthly assembly where we acknowledged our Gauss contest participants, our Cross-Country participants, and had another minute to win it extravaganza. Thanks, Kanaka, for being Respectful and Responsible when in assemblies!!



Are you Moving?

Please advise office staff immediately if your child(ren) will be attending a different school in September. As we have already begun the process of staffing for next year, it is important that we have as accurate a picture as possible of our September enrolment.

Welcome to K Reminders

We have decided to shake things up a bit at Kanaka Creek Elementary this year. We are holding two different kindergarten orientation sessions. Why? We have found that there is always so much going on at the traditional Welcome to Kindergarten sessions that important information doesn't get to the parents, so we are planning:

- Parent Information Session for Thursday, June 7, at 3:15pm (This session is for PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY)

AND

- Welcome to Kindergarten session on June 15, at 12:45pm (This session is for students AND Parents/Guardians - official invitation will be emailed).

This year's Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:30 am to accommodate the new Kindergarten Orientation meeting.

Reporting Absences

We have several options for reporting student absences. **Please be sure to notify the office, even if you have already told the classroom teacher.** You can report on the parent portal or you can email KC_Reception@sd42 (but please note this is for absent/late reporting only). You can also still phone us any time at 604-467-9050. We have 24 hour voice mail available.

Volunteers/Visitors

We are so fortunate to have many parents give their time and energy volunteering at the school. However, student safety is important to us. With this in mind, we ask that if you are in the school assisting in a classroom or with a specific activity that you check in at the office and pick up a volunteer tag. **Often parents will be in a classroom or out on the playground at recess and lunch to visit with their child, and although we do not want to discourage this, it is important that you are wearing a school identification tag to alert students and staff that you are not a stranger.**

Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony

The Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony will be held on Monday, July 23 from 10:30 am until 12:00 pm. There is limited space in the gymnasium so we ask that students limit their invitations to four people. The dinner/dance will be at Thornhill Hall from 5pm – 9pm. All details are posted on the parent portal. Next meeting is June 11 at 6:30 pm

Gauss Math Contest

Twenty-seven students at Kanaka Creek Elementary accepted the challenge to participate in the Gauss Mathematics Contest on May 16, 2018 through the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. Students from all across Canada and around the world participated in the contest to stretch their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills. Congratulation to following students for taking the challenge:

Grade 7: Hailey, Rebecca, Ava, Zahra, Keira, Bradley, Manjot, Arabella, Dylan, Sam, Owen,

Grade 6: Eric, Joshua P., Kayden, Josh M., Marco, Keenan, Molly, Shaana

Grade 5: Declan, Edvin, Brooke, Brayden, Cole, Elijah, Keya, Josh,

Honourable Mention goes to Keenan, Arabella, Dylan, Sam, Owen, Molly and Shaana for scoring in the top 25% of the school and to Shaana for earning the top score! For more information on the contest and to find resources to challenge your child in math visit <http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/>

Playground Reminders

The playground is a very busy place during recess and lunch. Please leave baseball and lacrosse equipment at home to avoid potential injuries. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dress Code Reminders

In matters relating to individual dress and grooming, students are required to exercise good judgment, and endeavor to reflect respect for themselves and their school. More specifically, as we enter a time of warmer seasonal weather, a reminder that we should dress in attire that is applicable for a school setting, not for a beach setting. Please see Mr. Raible if you have questions.



Intermediate Track and Field Meet

Children have been chosen to represent Kanaka Creek at the District Track and Field meet on Thursday, June 7th for Gr. 4 & 5 and Friday, June 8th for Gr. 6 & 7

The meet will take place at Maple Ridge Secondary School; it starts at 8:30 a.m. and finishes at approximately 2:30 p.m. We ask that the children attending be at MRSS at 8:10 a.m. in order to warm up and get organized. Parents are responsible for getting their children to the track meet and home afterwards. Teachers cannot leave until all students are picked up, so please be prompt. Your children are training hard so that they can achieve their individual best in each event in which they are entered. Please continue to encourage your child(ren) in this regard.

Maple Ridge Secondary School will be in full session on both meet days. The parking lots at either end of the school are for staff and students and may not be used by visitors. Parking will not be available at the north end by Mt. Crescent Elementary. Please try to car pool to help cut down on the traffic in the area. Your help and cooperation with the parking situation is much appreciated.

Plenty of spectator seating is available in the grandstand and you are welcome to bring lawn chairs to sit closer to events that are taking place in the various areas around the track. The infield area will be used for marshaling and first aid, and is therefore out-of-bounds to spectators. MRSS Culinary program is hosting a concession where lunch and snacks can be purchased. Please feel free to come and watch your child participate and to cheer on your child's school.

The meet will be a 'rain or shine' event. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Please send snacks/lunch, a water bottle, sunscreen, a hat, track pants and sweatshirt and a waterproof coat in case of rain. No valuables should be brought to the track meet, as their security cannot be guaranteed. All students must wear running shoes for all events. No spikes or bare feet are permitted. Students must wear their numbers on the front of their shirts. There will probably be a school banner and/or tent for the children to gather around.

Track and Field events may run ahead of designated times (or behind). As a result, participants should be at the meet one hour before their track and field event. It is the participant's responsibility to be aware of scheduled times in the event schedule. Please remember that the meet is run by volunteers and that mistakes do happen at times. Your consideration is much appreciated by meet organizers and volunteers.

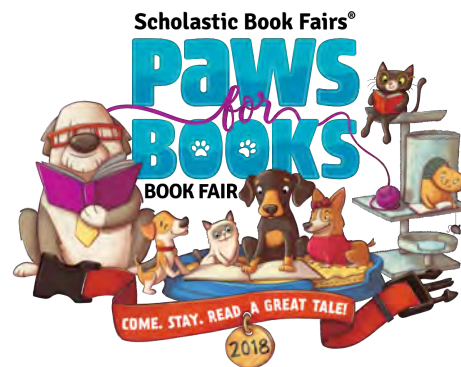
Your child may be part of a relay team. The team depends on the attendance of all of its runners or it cannot run.

A special thank you goes out to all the intermediate teachers who spent time on the mini track meets we had at the school. Thank you also to those teachers who have been spending time coaching the children outside of class time.

Scholastic Book Fair

"It's time to PAWS for Books! The spring book fair is coming June 1 - 6, and we invite students to bring in a photo of their pet to add to our wall of amazing animal friends.

Place the photo in the bag located at the front desk labeled



Please note that we **cannot** guarantee the photo you provide will be returned and **cannot** be responsible for any damages. If you would like your photo returned after the book fair, make sure you include your name and division number on the back. COME. STAY. READ A GREAT TALE!"

Lost and Found Items

Our lost and found is overflowing with winter coats, shoes, hats, dishes and toys. If you are in the school, please take a look for any items that may belong to your child, or ask your child to be sure to take a look for any missing items. The lost and found is located just inside the main entrance to the school. By the end of July, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

PAC News

The Kanaka Creek PAC is busy as always!

The summer carnival is being planned for July 5 from 5-8 pm, so be sure to save the date for this family fun event. The PAC will be sending out a sign up link for volunteers. This event can only run if enough volunteers sign up!

Next PAC meeting is June 7th in the library at 7:00 pm



2018/19 Class Placement Planning

During this time of year, we begin to start planning for the next school year. The School District has assigned our tentative staffing allocations and we will be increasing by one division next year. In late June/early July we will begin the process of completing initial class compositions and we will add your input to our extensive list of information regarding your children. Please do not feel you need to give input into class placements, as a great deal of thought and care go into the placement of each child. It is important to note, that the input we do receive does not take precedence over our teachers' input and opinions as we try to develop classes. The input parents provide, often serves as a reminder of what we already know about your child, and it is simply one more piece of information we use during the process of completing classes.

Many factors are taken into account when creating classes, the main ones being:

- Each child's academic needs
- Each child's social needs
- Emotional consideration for each child
- The number of students per class
- The balance of male to female students
- Each child's learning style
- Fair distribution of students with extraordinary needs

Additional note: Our school composition often changes over the summer (with students moving in and out of the school); therefore, the organizations made in June/July are tentative and cannot be considered permanent. These preliminary organizations form the foundations for final class groupings that occur after the first day of school in September - when we have confirmed our enrollment for each grade level.

Please refer to the school website for the Parent Input Regarding Placement 2018-2019 form. The form posted online outlines the criteria for parent input – which in a nutshell states the letter should include “special and significant educational circumstances” sought, rather than naming a specific teacher.

Combined vs. Single-Grade Classes

" Combined classes are defined as classes with more than one grade level and one age in a classroom. There are many terms for the combined class structure such as; split grade, multi-age, multi-level and multi-grade. There are several reasons why schools create combined classes. When school staffs look to organize their students, they have to balance the educational needs of their students with the staffing they receive from Human Resources, as well consider the legislated contractual agreement.

There is a good chance that your child will have the experience of being in a combined grade class at some point in their elementary school years. Within the combined class there will be children of both grade levels working at similar levels of performance. Dr. Joel Gajadharsingh, of the University of Saskatchewan, is one of the leading investigators of combined classes in North America. His findings were summarized by the Canadian Education Association and concluded that children achieve at equal levels whether in combined classes or single grade classes. The quality of the learning experience is the same; in fact in some cases, their achievement levels and their ability to get along with other people are as good as, or better, than students in single grade classrooms. Findings also show that in classes where there is more than one age level, children learn to become more independent, responsible learners, have better study skills and attitudes towards school, and develop a greater degree of social responsibility. In standardized tests, students did as well or better in combined classrooms in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The School Act, which governs BC schools, stipulates that all teachers must teach the prescribed curriculum. Teaching strategies that address diversity, meet individual needs, and satisfy Ministry requirements with respect to content and processes of learning, work well in both combined and single grade classrooms and can be performed in such ways that students in combined grade classrooms do not repeat or “miss out” on prescribed curriculum.

The Redesigned Curriculum at *Kanaka Creek Elementary*

HOW DO WE ASSESS AND CELEBRATE LEARNING?

How Do We Assess and Celebrate Learning? Assessment and the curriculum are interconnected. Assessment is rigorous and based on learning standards, core competencies, literacy and numeracy. Students reflect and self-assess to build important higher-level thinking skills.

Students set criteria, design inquiries, and participate in self and peer assessment, as well as setting goals for next steps. Teachers document student learning over time using collections of student work and demonstrations to create a profile of individual strengths, areas of growth, and areas for further development. Through multiple means and varied strategies, the student's learning is made visible, and their successes celebrated.

For more information about the new curriculum, visit <http://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum>.



Students in division 4 are using skills from many disciplines - Math, Science, Applied Skills – to make lawn chairs. These chairs, when finished, will represent the wealth of learning that went in to creating them.

The Redesigned Curriculum at Kanaka Creek Elementary



Grade 5 students are exploring cultures through the foods they create. Events like this allow teachers to assess learning without relying on typical paper based methods.



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 competencies.*