

Kanaka Creek Elementary

JULY 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.



...And Then There Was One

This is my first year here at Kanaka and I had heard about the balanced calendar and how it is a great way to help students stay regulated during the school year while ensuring they don't lose too much knowledge during the summer months. I had also heard how staff and parents truly enjoyed the extra time around Christmas and the April month off for vacations and relaxation. However, I was not ready for being the only school in the entire district working through July. While the rest of Maple Ridge is off on summer break, our students are still hard at work. We have some great activities planned and as you'll see in this newsletter, our teachers work hard at making learning fun and engaging. However, there is still a number of key concepts students need to learn before the end of their school year. Please help us out by sticking to a scheduled afternoon (meal times, bed times, etc.) as much as possible to ensure your child(ren) are ready for the next day of learning. You can find more tips on the third page of this newsletter.

June was another incredibly busy and exciting month. Be sure to read the articles in the newsletter to hear some of the great things our students do together. However, there is not enough space to show all of the great things our students do. This month, individual classes did special "Father's Day" art, released butterflies, learned from "Dan the Recycle Man", saw Quail eggs hatch, build lawn chairs, hiked around Stave lake, kayaked at Whonnock, learned drama from a specialist, participated in our district reading assessment, and so much more. As always, if you have any questions or want to find out more, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chad Raible, Principal



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@KanakaSD42

Great Things @Kanaka



At Kanaka, we strive to provide a diverse, well rounded education. Our kindergarteners participated in their very own "Paint Nite" in July. Students were treated to some brief instructions. Then, they followed along as the instructor showed them how to make an acrylic canvas painting. Their artwork has brightened up our walls here at Kanaka.



Our grade 3's have been working hard creating a "Canada Day Open House" to remember. Students researched a particular province or territory and found out about the history and culture of that area. Students then presented to their class. Finally, parents and other visitors went between rooms and learned from our students.



Divisions 1,2,3 and 5 spent two days over in Victoria on an epic field trip. Students had a private tour of the legislature, explored the museum of natural history, toured around Victoria in a double decker bus, and learned about endangered species, morse code, and so much more at Fort Rod Hill. A huge thank you to the parents who drove and volunteered their time.

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/>

Congrats to our Athletes

Kanaka performed extremely well again this year at the district track and field meet. We had a number of students who got top place in their event. Our grade 4 and 5's received their ribbons at our last assembly while our grade 6 and 7's will get their in July. For the fourth year in a row, Kanaka won top place for the large school division. A great job to all who were involved!!

The Language of the Drums!!



Each year our PAC provides funding for a special presentation/workshop to celebrate Canada Day. This year, we brought in Milton Randall to teach us and to give a workshop on drumming. Our school was split in to groups of 100 students and they went in to the gym and were taught some basic drumming patterns. Our intermediate students then presented to our younger student in the afternoon. The peak of the performance was a 300 person conga line started by our intermediates. It was a great day for all involved.



Attendance in July

While students at other school are starting to enjoy their summer break, we still have a few weeks to go at Kanaka Creek and there is much learning still to pack in over that time. The beauty of the Kanaka Creek balanced calendar is that families enjoy one month long breaks three times per year. Please strive to attend school every day in July. It is also sometimes hard to get students to sleep at night when it is still light outside and other children are outside playing but it is important to arrive to school on time as not to disrupt learning. Below are some tips:

Tips for Getting to School on Time

The Night Before Stuff:

- 1) Pack lunches and fill water bottles. Doing it when it's late and you (or the children if they're able) are tired beats racing to do it when it's early and you or the children are tired.
- 2) Choosing outfits ahead of time is a great idea, of course. It also never hurts to have them pick a backup in case they are in a panic and have changed their mind when it is time to get dressed. That way, the potential ten-minute, "But I don't want to wear THAT today!" discussion can hopefully be tackled in two seconds with an, "Okay, here you go, then!" at-hand solution.
- 3) Check for any due library books, permission slips, homework to turn in, etc. and be sure they are all placed in the child's backpack.
- 4) Put the backpacks by the front door. You would think they are too big to lose - you would be wrong.
- 5) Have each child put their shoes on top of their backpack. Put a sock in each shoe.

Traffic Safety

Please remember to keep the roads around our school safe and set a good example for our children.

- ▲ Be sure to use the crosswalks when returning to your vehicles after school – do not J walk!
- ▲ Consider parking a further distance from the school and enjoy a walk with your children on these warm days.
- ▲ Be conscientious of our neighbours and do not block or park in private driveways
- ▲ Be respectful of our parking lot monitor who is a volunteer and has the students' safety in mind.

Gr 7 Leaving Ceremony

The Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony will be held on Monday, July 23 from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Due to fire regulations, there is limited space in the gymnasium so we ask that students limit their invitations to four people. There will be a dinner/dance in the evening at Thornhill Hall from 5:30 – 9pm. Appropriate attire for the day would be casual dress clothes. We want the students to look good, have fun and enjoy this special moment with family, friends and teachers but we do not want it to be a financial hardship for anyone. Thank you for your support.

Grade 7 Colour Run

Grade 7's students are invited to participate in Kanaka Creek's Fourth Annual Colour Run to celebrate the end of their final year at Kanaka. On July 20th at 1:30 you may notice some colorful kids running by at the end of the day. All are encouraged to cheer and support as the students gather on the field at 2:20pm for pictures. The color powder is made from food coloring and corn starch so please be aware if there are any potential allergy concerns. A consent form signed by a parent/guardian is required.

Lost and Found

Students and parents are reminded to check the lost and found that has now being displayed on tables outside the computer lab. All unclaimed items will be donated on Wednesday July 25.

Posting on Social Media

Just a reminder to everyone who uses social media. When posting photos of your child participating in a school-sanctioned event (i.e. fieldtrips, assembly presentations, in-class activities) please do not post pictures of children other than your own.

Dress Code Reminders

In matters relating to individual dress and grooming, students are required to exercise good judgment, exhibit responsible behaviour, and endeavor to reflect respect for themselves and their school. More specifically, as we enter a time of warmer weather, a reminder that the wearing of clothing that is unduly revealing is unacceptable and students may be asked to cover up or be given a school t-shirt to wear.



e-Report Cards

Many of our classroom teachers are participating in the School District No. 42 Parent Portal e-Report. The e-Report initiative's goals are to provide parents timely information regarding their child's learning through a secure portal environment.

Kanaka Creek Has Talent

The "Kanaka Creek Has Talent Show" will be on Friday July 20. Primary show (grades k-3) will be at 10:30 and the intermediate show (grade 4-7) will be at 9:00

Book Fair News

The Book Fair Committee would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the June Scholastic Canada Book Fair. I would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to the parent volunteers who gave their time and helped create a fun experience for our kids. Armanda Bowser, Jordana Bowser, Cher Duguid, Debra Douglas, Brenda Gerbrandt, Megan Hudson, Shweta Kulkarni, Judi Lee, Marlene McCaffrey, Sheree McNulty, Anthea Publow, Diane Sandor, Christine Strand, Tania Teixeira, Amanda Varma, Coral Widdowson.

In addition to volunteering their time during the book fair, thank you to Coral Widdowson and Sheree McNulty who spent many hours before hand preparing for this event. Kanaka Creek families and teachers support is a key part in acquiring new books and resources for our school library and classrooms. After four days including Family Night, the book fair **raised \$1,547.22**. BIG SMILES. Hope to see everyone at our next Scholastic Canada Book Fair in November.

PAC News

The Kanaka Creek PAC AGM will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 pm in the school library. Please try to come out for the elections. Please see the back page for more information on volunteering.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Our staff are preparing for our annual volunteer appreciation tea. Teachers will be sending out invitations. If you have helped out in any way around the school during the year, we invite you to come to the library on Tuesday, July 17th at 8:30am so we can thank you for all of your hard work throughout the year.

News From the Library

All library books are due by **Wednesday, July 11, 2018**. Please scour your closets and bookshelves for those missing items! If they are lost, please inquire in the library as to their value so you can pay for their replacement. Students going to grade 8 will have difficulty getting their ID cards/ Concession Fare passes if they still have not returned or paid for overdues from grade 7.

Also, just a reminder that Bookfest will run again next year for students in grades 4 to 7. See you in the Library Learning Commons!

"Motion Commotion" Summer Reading

Move, groove, and prove that you can make a *Motion Commotion* this summer when you join Fraser Valley Regional Library's **2018 Summer Reading Club**. There is a club for everyone - preschoolers, kids, teens, and adults - and it's all absolutely free! Make reading fun this summer! Kids who read over the summer do better at school.

There's so much to do at the library this summer:

- Join the Summer Reading Club and get a reading record to keep track of the reading your family does. Anything goes! You can read novels, picture books, information books, graphic novels, magazines, audio books, etc.
- Visit the library for stickers and weekly contests.
- Win prizes and earn a medal.
- Come to special events (*Norden the Magician*, *Storyteller Shayna Jones*, *Puppets in the Park*, *Greater Vancouver Zoo*, and more!).
- Sign-up begins mid-June.

For more information, call or visit your local public library:

Maple Ridge Public Library
604-467-7417
Liza Morris
Community Librarian
lmorris@fvrl.bc.ca



PAC 101

Did you know you were already a PAC member? - All parents/guardians of children in a school are members of the PAC (Parent Advisory Council) and entitled to attend meetings. The principal and/or vice principal will also be a member of the

PAC as well as an appointed teacher representative who attends the meetings to provide information, answer questions, and discuss school matters and parental concerns.

What is the difference between a PAC Member and PAC Executive? - PAC Executives are those parents/guardians who have chosen to hold an official position within the PAC and are elected to that position at the Annual General Meeting.

PAC Members can help the PAC throughout the year in fundraising, other PAC initiatives or simply just to attend the PAC meetings to find out what's happening.

Who is allowed to vote? - All parents/guardians of children in a school are entitled to vote at the PAC Annual General Meeting.

The principal and teacher representative do not vote. At regular, monthly executive meetings, only elected executive members vote. Other parents, administrators and staff representatives may attend the executive meetings, but do not vote.

What happens at a PAC Meeting? - Every month, typically the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the library, the PAC meets to discuss what's been going on in the school for the past month and what is planned for future months. Topics of discussion could include: new fundraising initiatives, how to spend the PAC monies given via grants or earned through fundraising and any concerns or issues that may have been raised by the parents via the PAC Executives.

What are the PAC Executive positions and what do they do?

PAC Chair - Speak on behalf of the council. Prepare and distribute an agenda and preside at meetings. Appoint committees and ensure that council activities are aimed at achieving the purposes set out in the constitution. Be a signing officer and submit an annual report.

Vice-Chair – Support the Chair in their duties and assume their role in their absence or upon request. Accept extra duties as required and be a signing officer.

Secretary – Record and keep the minutes of all PAC executive and general meetings and forward them to the executive and the principal for approval before posting to the website. May be a signing officer.

Treasurer – Manage the finances for the PAC, including coordinating the budget documents, making bank deposits and distributing funds, presenting the budget and/or the financial report at the monthly PAC meeting. May be a signing officer.

DPAC Executive – Attend PAC meetings once a month at the district level. Represent, speak, and vote on behalf of the PAC. Report to PAC on matters relating to the DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council).

Fundraising Coordinator – Coordinate all the fundraising activities that the PAC has agreed upon at the PAC meetings. Source new fundraising ideas and assemble teams/committees to execute each initiative.

Hot Lunch Coordinator – Source Hot Lunch suppliers and coordinate one Hot Lunch per month. Recruit volunteers to help with each lunch.

I'm not sure I want to be an Executive so what can I do? - Tailor your volunteering to play to your strengths. Within a parent group or school community there are many ways to contribute, some of which are sure to complement your strengths, interests, or professional skills.

How much time will I have to commit to? - Whatever you can manage! Volunteering can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Spend an hour popping popcorn on a Friday morning, 2 hours counting Hot Lunch money on a Wednesday evening, a few hours handing out flowers or frozen desserts on a Saturday morning or volunteer to be part of a planning committee for a carnival or gala. There is always something to do at varying times and days of the week. An extra helping hand is always welcome and 'many hands make light work!'

Why is Volunteering important?

Volunteering makes a big difference. Research consistently shows that kids whose parents are involved in their schools do better.

We hope to see you at the next PAC meeting!

Together we are better!