

Kanaka Creek Elementary

YEAR END 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.



A Great Year

I can hardly believe we are at the end of the year. It has been an incredible year of fun and learning. Our staff, students, and parents have worked together to create an incredible amount of diverse opportunities for our learners. In the last month alone, our students have had year-end parties, ADST workshops at Thomas Haney, trips to the waterslides, Victoria, PlayLand, spray parks, and even 7-11. Our grade 7's have had their year-end assembly, their colour run, and their celebration at Thornhill Hall. Our PAC showed their appreciation to our teachers with a wonderfully catered lunch while our teachers and students acknowledged the countless hours of volunteers with a "volunteer appreciation tea".

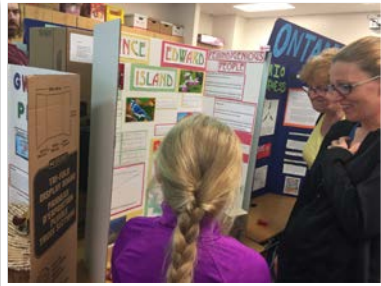
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and staff and students who have made this a wonderful first year here at Kanaka. Kanaka's mission statement is on each of our newsletters and we talk about our values: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe at each gathering. However, I feel the most compelling mantra we have here at the school is "Together We Are Better". These four words have best described the community of Kanaka for me this year. Our teachers collaborate together and provide opportunities that would not occur otherwise. Our parents volunteer in our library, classrooms, and on our PAC and without their support, we would not be able to provide the programs we do. Our support staff, our clerical staff, and our custodial staff all provide the services that ensure that our students are successful in all they do. Further, we have our community supports through Fraser Health, Dan the Recycle Man, our local RCMP, Ridge Meadows Fire Department, and so many other organizations that help provide opportunities for our students. Yes, truly at Kanaka, "Together We are Better". As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chad Raible

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@KanakaSD42



Great Things @Kanaka



Our grade 3's held their annual "Canada Fair" this month. Students researched geographical, social, and cultural areas within Canada. They then collated their learning on presentation boards and shared them with their classes. Finally, they had them on display and invited parents and other classes to share in the learning. What a great way to explore our great country!



Well, it was our annual carnival again this month and, as usual, it was a tremendous success. Our PAC carnival committee outdid themselves with cake walks, the Fire department, bouncy castles, hamster balls, a rock wall, an old fashioned midway, and of course, some great food. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time to make the event so successful.



Our grade 7's have finished all of their celebration activities. They have ran through clouds of colour, walked across our stage to the sound of their favourite memories, celebrated at ThornHill hall with a DJ, food truck, photobooth and so much more, and even went to the waterslides. What a great way to end eight years of learning at Kanaka. All the best in high school!

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/>

First PAC Meeting in Sept

The first PAC meeting of next school year will be the AGM & election of officers on Wed, Sept 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the library. Positions to be elected are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Hot Lunch, Fundraising Coordinator and District PAC Reps. Please message Angela Downey thedowneys@telus.net if you are interested in running for an executive position. As always, all parents are welcome at every meeting.

Heartfelt Good-Byes



A number of our staff are leaving us at the end of the year to pursue jobs in other schools and districts. We'd like to say good-bye to the following teachers: Ms. Green (taking a leave of absence), Ms. Russel (taking a leave of absence), Ms. MacGillivray (taking a leave of absence), Ms. Hsiao (working at Golden Ears next year), Ms. Mockett (covering for Ms. Smith and Mr. Beyer this year will be working at AR next year), Ms. Zolliker (covering for Ms. Perry this year). We'll also be saying good-bye to the following EA's: Jacqueline James, Jackie Catherwood, and Renee Ali. We wish them all the best in the future.



Are you Moving?

Please contact office staff to inform us if your child(ren) will not be attending Kanaka Creek Elementary in September. If you move over the summer holidays, please phone the school and leave a message on the answering machine or email KC_Reception@sd42.ca. Office staff will be back to work at the school on the week of August 27th

Class Placements for September

In the past week or so we have had a number of parents express concern about their child's placement for next year. We do value parents' input in regards to the learning environment that would best suit their child which is why we asked that you put this information in writing before June 1. Building classes for the fall takes a significant amount of time and thought. We have many variables to consider; boy to girl ratio, academic ability, social and emotional levels, work habits, behaviour, and of course, who does and doesn't work well together. We try very hard to balance all of these factors and to ensure that it is the best learning environment for ALL students. We do see the importance of having at least one friend for each child placed together, particularly for children that can become anxious easily. However, it is not the sole factor we consider. In fact, it can be beneficial for children to meet and interact with as many of their peers as possible. Existing friendships can still be fostered and maintained on the playground and outside of school time.

Final Term Report Cards

Report cards were issued either by way of the Parent Portal or by paper copy. You will notice some differences between our final term report and our previous (term 1 and term 2) reports. In our previous terms, students were involved in a "three way" conference with parents and teachers to celebrate their successes, and establish goals for the next term. In this process, students showcased a portfolio of work, and engaged in conversations regarding their strengths and areas of improvement.

In our final term, there will be no formal conference. Instead, teachers will be sending home a final report. Please check out the SD42 website for further information on our reporting model.

September 2018 School Start Up Info

The August break will go by very quickly, and we'd like to provide you with this information to better prepare you and your children for the September start-up.

September 4th, 2018 – school is in session from 8:30am-11:00am:

School re-opens for the 2018-2019 school year on Tuesday, September 4th at 8:30am for all grade 1-7 students. School will be in session **until 11:00 am**, at which time the students will be dismissed. Students will need a recess snack and their pencil storage box with basic writing and coloring supplies. **Please do not send the full complement of your child's school supplies on this first half day.**

Students returning to Kanaka Creek: are to "line up" at the designated entry doorway of their 2017-2018 classroom. Each class will be greeted by their current teacher (or an alternate staff member) and the students will spend the morning in their old classroom, or if this is not available, another area of the school. Starting the school year this way will allow students to share their summer experiences with their current teacher and classmates, and allow us the appropriate time to confirm enrollment before announcing class placements.

Students who have newly registered at Kanaka Creek: can go directly to the Library where they will be temporarily assigned to a grade appropriate classroom. Parents are welcome to stay until their children are comfortable. **They will be dismissed from the Library at 11:00 am.**

Students who have not yet registered: are to go directly to the office.

September 5th 2018-school is in session from 8:30am-2:20pm

All students are to return to the same classroom as on Tuesday, September 4th. Students will be informed via the classroom teacher and parent portal as to when to bring their school supplies.

The First Week

Our students will not be moving into their new classrooms immediately after the break. For several reasons, we may not be able to organize students into "final" classes until Friday (we need an accurate count for our enrollment, organization, and staffing). Please ensure you have a pre-arranged pick up spot until class placements are finalized. While students will be with their last year's teacher, it is still a valuable time of learning. Often, teachers pick up where they were 4 weeks ago with learning opportunities. Please ensure your children are attending that first week.