

Kanaka Creek Elementary

OCTOBER 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.



Was that a Month Already??

Wow! Can you believe we're already in October? We have had a great month of learning already. Students transitioned smoothly in to their new classes in the first week. After that, it was a flurry of learning expectations and routines. Students learned about nutrition at Save on Foods, did art activities at the Act, saw a raptor exhibit come to the school, and so much more. Our school now has a new piece of playground equipment for our intermediates, we joined with our RCMP for our annual Terry Fox Run, and participated in "Talk like a Pirate Day". On the last school day of September, we honoured those who were victims of the residential school system by wearing an orange shirt, learning about the policies that tried to force assimilation on our indigenous population, and how reconciliation is starting across the nation.

As we start the school year, please know you don't need to wait until the end of our term conferences to talk to our teachers and administration. If you are noticing challenges or struggles, it is important to voice these to your teaching team (classroom teacher and support teacher). Often, strategies such as preferential seating, reduced work load, increased time allotment, text to speech software, or flexible seating arrangements can do wonders to increase a student's social and academic success. Alternatively, teaching teams might decide to do school-based or district-based testing to see if more supports are needed. No matter what is done, effective communication is the key to ensuring success both now and, in the future.

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

Chad Raible, Principal



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Great Things @Kanaka



Do you know a pirate's favourite letter in the alphabet? Why, it's "ARRRGHHH" of course. A huge thank you to Ms. Wakeling's class who organized "Pirate Day" at Kanaka. Us scurvy land lubbers did our best to dress and talk like the rambunctious scally wags we want to be. Our classes did pirate activities, walked the plank, and even had a pirate breakfast... ARRRGHHH!!

On October 28th, Kanaka joined with many schools to wear an Orange shirt in memory of indigenous students in Canada that were forced in to residential schools through government sanctioned assimilation policies. We learned about this practice and its impact on approximately 150,000 indigenous children during its 100 year existence.

Already, we've had a number of our classes explore place-based learning by travelling to where the learning occurs. Here you see Ms. Mantel's enjoying a class picture on their overnight trip to Camp Squeah. The students had a great time camping, doing some great activities, and getting to know each other a bit better.

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/>

The Apollo is a Hit!

A huge thank you to our PAC for installing our recent piece of playground equipment – The Apollo. It's like an amusement park ride available for recess/lunch. Our intermediate students get recess/lunch days and our primary teachers take their students out occasionally during daily physical activity. Parents, if you want to try, remember, keep you hands/feet in and don't jump off the top!!

The Terry Fox Run!!



Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with our Terry Fox Run last week. A special "thank you" goes to Ms. Moran, Ms. Stewart, Ms. Lyman, Ms. O'Halloran, and Ms. Fuhrmann for organizing this event. We also had help from parents, THSS leadership students, and our students. We learned a bit more about Terry and his vision. A huge thank you to the Maple Ridge RCMP for supporting and running in the event. We are proud to say we raised \$775.45 from classroom donations. You can still donate if you wish. Congratulations to all our students who participated.



Student Verification Forms

Student verification forms were sent home with your child last month. When you receive your child's form, please review, make any necessary changes and return to the office as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct emergency contact information for your child. If you did not receive or have misplaced your forms, please contact the office for a new one.

Medical Alert/Request for Medication

If your child has an existing medical condition it is of the utmost importance that you fill in the appropriate medical forms for us. Please drop into the office to pick up the appropriate forms or contact the office and we will make sure the forms go home with your child. Please note that as per School District #42 Policy, staff may not administer medication to students unless the appropriate forms are completed and signed by a parent. These forms should be filled out and returned to the school as soon as possible.

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.
- ▲ Please pull as far forward in the drop off/pick up zone
- ▲ Please do not park or stop in any fire lanes (stay off the yellow lines)

Dogs at School

Just a reminder to not bring your pets onto the school grounds.

School Photo Retakes

Photo Express will be here on October 22 for re-take photos.

A Whole Lotta Shaking Going On

On October 18th, officially "ShakeOut BC Day," millions of people worldwide will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:20 a.m. during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills and Kanaka Creek Elementary school will be joining in. We will be doing our drill before recess. For further information, please visit <http://www.shakeoutbc.ca>

Planners/School Supplies

You can pay for your planners and/or school supplies online on the parent portal for another few weeks. If you would rather pay by cash or cheque, please send the money to the school as soon as possible.

Volunteering in Our School

We greatly appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents in our school. As volunteers you are in a position of trust and as such, it is essential that privacy and confidentiality are maintained. The children's safety is of prime concern to all of us. We ask that you respect the following guidelines:

- Remember that everything you hear or see regarding students is **confidential**
- If you cannot make your scheduled time please let the teacher know as soon as possible
- Please sign in at the office and wear the volunteer tag provided to you. In the event of a fire alarm, please report to the secretary on the upper basketball court near the school gym.
- Treat all members of our school community with respect.
- If you are supervising students on a field trip we ask that you keep a close eye on them, stay off your cell phone, and follow the expectations as established by the teacher at all times. We strongly request that no unofficial stops are made, such as stopping to treat the students to slurpees or ice cream.

Lunches Requiring Cutlery

Just a reminder to pack cutlery when required in your child's lunch bag or send a set that they can keep in their desk. We do not have a supply of plastic cutlery in the office. If you have any concerns, please let us know in the office.



Lost & Found Volunteer

We are looking for a parent or two to help keep our Lost and Found items organized and on display (currently located behind the front entrance doors). If you are interested helping out please contact the office.

Kanaka Choir Begins Again

Choir Starts: THURSDAY OCTOBER 4, 2018; 2:20-3:20

Grades 1-7: Boys and girls in Grades 1-7 are WELCOME to join. We meet on the stage each Thursday

*(Kindergarten students will be practicing for a different concert during class time)

Performance: The concert will take place on **Thursday, December 6th at 7pm** in the gym

Fee: There is no fee this term, but students will be asked to provide some items for their costume (a specific coloured t-shirt, bug antennae). Details to follow!

*It is important to sign your child up for choir on the portal for attendance /safety reasons. If you have questions about the concert, please contact Miss Flanagan (Dawn_Flanagan@sd42.ca)

Library News

Ms. Nagy is looking for parent volunteers to come into the Library Learning Commons (LLC) and help out! Help is needed in organizing/shelving books but other tasks may be added as time goes by! If interested, please contact Ms. Nagy at 604-467-9050. Thanks so much!

It's not too late to join Bookfest 2017! So far, over 30 students have signed up and are madly reading through the eight books selected by SD 42 teacher-librarians. Students in grades 4 through 7 are eligible to join this extra-curricular club. Events to look forward to include a special movie screening of one of the books, an author visit, and (on November 29) a special "fun and friendly" trivia competition against other school teams. Sign up in the Library Learning Commons (LLC) today and start reading!

News from the Library

At the PAC AGM, the new executive was voted in. Your new PAC executive are:

- Chair: Alexis Playdon
- Vice chair: Kristy Wyllie
- Treasurer: Amanda Maliwat
- Secretary: Christine Calvert
- Fundraising Coordinator: Amanda Griffin
- Hot lunch coordinator: Anthea Publow

Popcorn Day is Wednesday, October 3

Hot Lunch Friday, October 26 – be sure to sign up online to access this hot lunch at <https://kanakacreek.parentcouncil.net/>

Have any great ideas for fundraising? Or for spending fundraising dollars? Why not come out to a PAC meeting? Studies have shown that children achieve more when their parents are engaged with their school! We also try to keep our webpage updated regularly: www.sd42.ca/kanaka then click the PAC page.

NEXT PAC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 7:00 PM

Parent Portal Sign up/ Consent

All of our announcements, consent forms, school fees, and field trips are available on the portal. If you haven't already created an account, please go to <https://parents.sd42.ca> and click on register. To link your child(ren) to your account, you'll need a linking key available from the office. Once done, be sure to fill out the consent forms to ensure we know who can take photos of your child(ren), and where they can be showed. There is also forms to access our internet/computer services and give permission for "walking field trips".

Absent/Late to School?

We strongly encourage everyone to be here as much as they can and promptly. Occasionally, though, we get ill, have appointments, or have a special activity. Please plan ahead and phone (604-467-9070) /email (kc_reception@sd42.ca) or report your absence. Our office staff contacts all families who haven't done this and your attention will ensure their job goes much quicker.

The Redesigned Curriculum at *Kanaka Creek Elementary*

How has the curriculum been redesigned & how does this benefit student learning?

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to support the changing world students are entering. The redesigned curriculum is student-centered and flexible, maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy skills, and includes Aboriginal perspectives.

So how and what will your child be learning? Each month in our school newsletter we will highlight a key feature of the redesigned curriculum and share stories about how this feature is being implemented in your child's classroom. We will also tell you about why these skills and abilities will help your child succeed.

Kindergarten to Grade 10 teachers are now using the new curriculum in all our schools. The redesigned curriculum for Grades 11-12 will be introduced in 2019/20. For more information about the new curriculum, visit <http://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum>.

Coming in October - Core Competencies.



“Hands on” learning activities happen in every grade here at Kanaka. On the left, we see a group of grade 6’s building a lawn chair as part of their ADST curriculum. On the right, our kindies are exploring scientific and environmental principles as they harvest potatoes.



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.