

Kanaka Creek Elementary

APRIL 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.



Enjoy the Break

We have had an amazing term 2 with some incredible opportunities for our students. From joint mosaic projects with Maple Ridge Municipality sponsored artists to shared Choir endeavors with local musicians to whole school activities with BC Wheelchair Basketball Society, it sure has been a term of exciting learning. Term 2 also saw an increased focus on social emotional learning within the school as a whole and within individual classes. January saw students learning about teamwork while February saw students learning and focusing on kindness. The kindness theme culminated in a great assembly on "Pink Shirt Day" organized by our We Team. In March, we were focusing on Honesty. Students in Mr. Raible's Reading corner read books like "Ruthie and the (not so) Teeny, Tiny Lie" and "Zip, Zip Homework". In these books, students learned how lying can make a problem bigger and how it can affect us mentally and physically.

While it has been a great term, we know that all things are better in moderation. The benefit of our unique calendar is that we are able to have evenly spaced breaks within our learning cycles. Thus, we at Kanaka hope you are able to spend some quality time together with your children over this April break. There are many activities within the community that you can participate in which will still encourage learning. Nightly reading rituals and card games can also be great ways to encourage literacy and numeracy skills.

We hope everyone has a great break. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chad Raible, Principal



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[@KanakaSD42](https://twitter.com/KanakaSD42)

Great Things @Kanaka



The Kanaka Choir again provided some great backing vocals to children's musician, Rick Scott. Ms. Flanagan and the students practiced for weeks to learn the songs that were the foundation of a funny, entertaining, and touching night of music at The Act. A huge thankyou to the teachers and parents who helped put this night on.



Kanaka had a great opportunity thanks to the generous donation of Sarah Moore. Sarah helped bring in BC Wheelchair Basketball in to Kanaka for the last week before spring break. Our students and staff learned the basics of wheelchair basketball and then were given the week to try out their newly learned skills. What a great opportunity to be inclusive and learn a new skill!!!



Thank you to those families that participated in our fish fundraiser, 146 fish were purchased raising \$1300. Many thanks to the Reichelt Family for their ongoing contribution of supplies for our fish tank and for keeping the tank so clean. We want to thank them for the great idea for this fundraiser. Enjoy painting your fish over the break and remember to bring them back to be clear coated. Can't wait to see everyone's creativity!!

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 – **W**alk Away, **I**gnore, **T**alk It Out and **S**eek 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 Buddy Bench – a more inclusive playground



Well, our new Buddy Bench is now installed and being used. The buddy bench is a tool to help students who need someone to play with. Students who need a friend sit down and when other see them, they'll come and invite them to play. Before we installed the bench, we shared the ground rules: play with the first person who asks, two people on the bench can play together, if you see someone on the bench, ask them to play. So far, we've seen it connect lots of students together. A huge thank you to BJ Smith who brought this idea forward.



Moving?

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

Guidelines for Transferring Schools

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

Volunteers

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 if necessary, pick up a volunteer tag. Often parents may 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.

Yearbook Contest

For this year's school Yearbook, we are holding a contest to design the front cover. Any student can enter. Get out your crayons, pencils or paints and make a winning design! Make sure you do it in FULL colour.

For your entry to be considered, it must follow these rules:

- Use a regular 8.5 x 11 sheet of white paper
- Make your cover is vertical (up and down, not side to side)
- Include the school name and "2018 -2019" in the design
- Include your first name

Also, make sure to put your whole name and Division or Teacher's name on the back of your design. All entries are due by May 17.

Public Speaking

The 2019 Kanaka Creek Public Speaking event for grades 4 to 7 was held on March 26 and 27. All of the speakers did an excellent job and it was tough to choose the top candidates to represent Kanaka Creek Elementary at the District Speak Off. Representatives are:

- Grade 4
 - Winner – Oakley Arskey "What Teachers Do On Their Time Off"
 - Runner up - Owen Nirsimloo "Airbus A380"
- Grade 5
 - Winner – Bronwen Gander "My Great Grandma Steve"
 - Runner up – Keagan Black "Alzheimer's Disease"
- Grade 6
 - Winner - Seaera Smith "Friendship"
 - Runner up – Taylor McCambley "Should Search and Rescue Charge for a Rescue"
- Grade 7
 - Winner – Molly Baines "Communism"
 - Runner up – Allison Faulkner "Short People Problems"



Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony Committee

Our next meeting for the Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony Committee is Monday, May 13th at 6:30 pm

2019/2020 Class Placement Reminders

It is not yet the time for parents to submit input for class placements – this is typically done in May (forms will be available in the office). This is an advance reminder regarding the process of submitting input for next year's class placement. As per School District 42 expectations, please take note of the following:

- **We do not accept input that has specific teacher names on it** - We do accept information about your child's learning styles that might help us make stronger placements.
- **Teachers have a rich amount of information about your child** – this information makes for strong class placements and is based on a year-long experience with them.
- **We cannot make placements based solely on friendships** - if the social energy of the group is interfering with the classroom learning conditions, the group is often split to ensure the learning environment is beneficial for all.
- **Teachers cannot make any guarantees about next year's class placements** – We have changes in staffing and fluctuating enrollment which can occur up until the first week in September.
- **Parent requests are one piece of the information** we consider when placing students. We also have many other factors to consider and often our class placements are complex.
- **Our ultimate goal is to create balanced classrooms** that are beneficial for all.

Once again, please refer to the upcoming newsletters, should you be interested in submitting input for your child's placement.

PAC News

Your 2018-19 PAC: Chair – Alexis Playdon, Vice Chair – Kristy Wyllie, Treasurer – Amanda Maliwat, Secretary – Christine Calvert, DPAC Rep – Marlene McCaffrey and Eva Mentz, Hot Lunch Coordinator – Anthea Publow, Fundraising Coordinator – Amanda Griffin, Danielle Miller, Members at Large: Cathy Josic, Jackolynn Wright, Angela Downey, Carla Neiva, Louise Smith, Allison Didrikson, Shane Gehring, Faiza Karim-Jadavji, Shayla Forster, Heather Lambert

PAC meeting:

is at 7pm on Wednesday May 8th in the library.

Cook Books:

Be sure to order your cookbooks before the deadline of April 7th. They will be delivered in time for Mother's Day. \$15 each. Delivery will be on Thursday, May 9th. Pick up after school by the library.

Hot Lunch:

There will be 2 Hot Lunches in May! May 17 will be Boston Pizza and May 31 is TBD.

Popcorn Day:

Our next Popcorn Day is Wednesday May 8! We will be selling bags of popcorn for \$1 and will deliver it to the classrooms before recess. If you haven't already pre-paid for the balance of the year, you can do so by going to our online portal: <http://kanakacreek.parentcouncil.net>

Spring Break Ideas

Here are some local spring break camp ideas!

- Albion FC Soccer Camps April 1-5 or April 8-12. Cost is \$150 and includes instruction, ball and t shirt. https://albionfc.ca/webapps/spappz_live/event_registration_page?event_category=camps
- ACT Maple Ridge Young Artist's Camp April 8-12. Cost is \$200. Covers a multitude of art mediums. Call 604-467-7422 or visit www.mapleridge.ca/1484
- Wild & Immersive – currently they do not have anything specific planned during the Kanaka break, however, if you can get a group of 10 or more, they can make a program for your group (\$15 per student). Please check out what they have to offer! It sounds like a lot of outdoor fun <https://www.wildlearnings.ca/>

The Redesigned Curriculum at Kanaka Creek Elementary

PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Place-based learning connects students to the landscape, heritage and cultures in their community. They explore their own community and environment through project-based learning and outdoor education. It makes learning relevant as they look at real-life problems and situations and figure out ways to be involved and to help. Spending time outside can help students build independence and confidence, and improve their mental health through hands-on learning. Outdoor learning also allows them to build problem-solving and teamwork skills. When students feel connected to a place, they are invested in the long-term well-being of their community and environment.

For more information about the new curriculum, visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Coming in May – Inquiry Learning.



No matter the age, our students take advantage of the incredible ecosystem we have right around Kanaka Creek Elementary. Whether it be daily physical activity, science activities, or just a break from academics, our Kanaka Creek gives a wealth of learning opportunities.



Redesigned Curriculum: Know-Do-Understand

All areas of learning are based on a “**Know-Do-Understand**” model to support a concept-based, competency-driven approach to learning. In this model, three elements work together to support deeper learning: **Content (Know)**, **Curricular Competencies (Do)**, and **Big Ideas (Understand)**. BC’s new curriculum design enables a personalized, flexible and innovative approach at all levels of the education system. All areas of learning have been redesigned using this model.