



# Forest Park School News

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Principal: Mrs. Jacquie Poulin  
Vice Principal: Mr. Jim Pascoe

Secretary: Cathy Peace  
Karen Dendes

November 30, 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Once again I am amazed at how quickly the first term of the school year has gone. I look forward to reading each child's report card and hearing of the progress they have made this first term. It has been rewarding to move throughout the classrooms and see Daily 5, students building their learning stamina, inquiry, technology - the list goes on. Our students have been working hard and I am encouraged to see their growth.

The month coming up is certainly a busy one. December is always an exciting time with lots of special events and activities in the classroom and at home. Sometimes the 'busyness of the season' can become overwhelming, here are a few tips that may help children cope with all the 'extras':

- try to stick with a regular bedtime and routine at bedtime as much as possible, children still need their sleep, especially at this time of year
- maintain routines for homework and reading time as routines help to keep structure to the day
- ensure children get lots of healthy, nutritious food throughout the day (to balance out the extra treats that tend to be abundant at this time of year)
- take time to get a bit of exercise, go for a walk or a swim, as exercise can reduce stress for everyone
- ask children how they are doing, they can often tell us when it is getting too busy

We do have a few 'festive events' planned here at school also so please check your child's planner regularly for notices and information. It is a busy season; we hope to make it fun and enjoyable too!

Looking forward to a great December,

Yours in education,

Mrs. Jacquie Poulin



## HOLIDAY FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT

Our first Holiday Family Craft Night is quickly approaching. It will be held on Wednesday,



December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. As our teachers put the final touches on preparing the materials for the craft being offered in their room, we are excited about how everything is

coming together. We hope that many Forest Park families will join us for this fun filled evening. More information will be provided in the near future.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

We will be conducting our annual 'Food Hamper Drive' with donations collected and passed on to the Salvation Army on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Each classroom will have a special collection box distributed by the student leadership team with donations accepted daily from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>. Non perishable food items such as canned meats, canned pastas, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese, rice, soups, pork & beans, juice, peanut butter, jams, and lunch bag items are all acceptable and much needed. Thank you for your continued support in an effort to meet the needs of many struggling families in our community. Your support is greatly appreciated!



## PRINCIPAL'S SHINING EXAMPLE

Congratulations are extended to the following students who have earned a special recognition through the Principal's Shining Example program. We continue to receive exemplary projects from students on a weekly basis and look forward to viewing new work throughout the year. We would like to recognize the following deserving students: The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

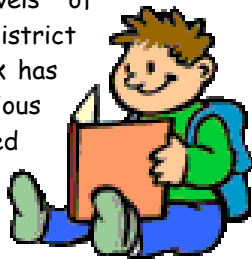
## MEETING WITH TEACHERS

When teachers and staff are in the school before the school day commences, it is to prepare for the day. They are on a tight timeline with little flexibility because when the bell rings, the school day begins. A conversation that seems like it might take just a few seconds can easily meander into many minutes that keep a class waiting for their learning day to begin. If there is a message that must get to the teacher, the student planner works as an excellent communication tool. If it is an educational or personal student issue, it deserves the time and attention that can only come from a scheduled appointment. This will afford the teacher the opportunity to reflect on the issue and give it the consideration that a truly effective solution requires. To make an appointment, simply call the office and we will ensure that the teacher will get back to you quickly to address your concern.

Thank-you for your attention to these details. Minimizing interruptions and optimizing learning in classrooms will help facilitate our school goal of building responsible, independent learners.

## LIBRARY NEWS: Reading Link Challenge

Our library has once again teamed up with the Vancouver Island Regional library to bring back the Reading Link Challenge for some of our grade four and five students. 14 students have been selected to work in teams to read 6 books and answer questions, advancing through three levels of friendly competition to the District and/or Island level. Forest Park has won the final challenges in previous years and has been presented with a plaque that is hanging in our library. More importantly, however, the students have had fun being involved and have been able to celebrate their love for reading! The book titles were announced this week and students have just begun reading. We will have a practice challenge early in the new year. Stay tuned for details and good luck to our two teams!



## TRAFFIC SAFETY-PARKING LOT

Anyone driving children to Forest Park is well aware of our daily traffic challenges. Drivers are urged to exercise extreme caution at all times in the parking lot as well as the drop off/pick up area. Congestion at peak times (arrival, dismissal) means children must occasionally walk between cars. Please be extra



vigilant when pulling in, backing out or driving through. We have many new youngsters and families using our parking lot this year. **Motorists are reminded NOT to stop in the fire lanes or to stop in the drop off/pick up zone in front of the school.** This is becoming a major issue both in front of the school and in the parking lot. Please do not stop in the front area near the red line as this is for the daycare buses only. Also, the 'curve' of the parking lot (near the bike racks) is clearly marked with a 'NO STOPPING' sign. We require all parents to comply with this request as the parking lot is becoming increasingly dangerous for students and drivers.

## STUDENT SAFETY

Please be aware that students should not be arriving prior to 8:25 am. There is no supervision until that time. Conversely, all students should be going home immediately after school for the same reason. We only have supervision near the pickup area after school and ask that students are not here later than 2:45 or 3:00 pm



School District 68 endorses helmet safety for all students riding bicycles, skateboards and scooters. Please ensure that your child is wearing a helmet if they are using a bike, skateboard or scooter to come to or from school. Students are also reminded that they must carry skateboards and get off their bicycles and scooters and walk them on school property during school hours. No Exceptions.

## EXTRACURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

The guidelines/expectations outlined below serve to enhance our extracurricular program in terms of student commitment, academic and behavioural expectations, student conduct in various social settings and positive peer relationships. Our goal for all students is to maximize participation, exercise fair play and contribute to the team in a positive manner.

- A student must observe all expectations set down by the coach/sponsor. Repeated infractions relative to expectations will result in a student being dismissed from the activity/event.
- Attendance at all practice sessions is mandatory unless the student has a valid reason for his/her absence.
- A student must attend classes on days when

practice or games are scheduled unless there are extenuating circumstances. Illness shall be reported to school office and coach/sponsor by telephone.

➤ A student who fails to keep up with his/her academic expectations e.g. assignments, homework, or disobeys both classroom and school rules, may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the classroom teacher grants permission.

➤ A student suspended from school or having a detention may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the disciplinary period is lifted.

➤ Students are expected to meet the established 'Code of Conduct' in all extracurricular activities. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action in consultation with parents/guardians.

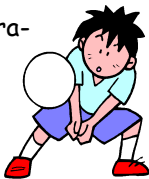


### CROSS-COUNTRY

Congratulations to all of our athletes that participated in both the Zone and District Meets. You trained very hard and it showed by your positive results. A special thanks to Mrs Paziuk and Mr Zimmer for coaching. Congratulations to the following athletes that made the District Meet: The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

### VOLLEYBALL

We have moved right into our next extra-curricular season - volleyball. We have four teams this year and are looking forward to a great season. All parent drivers please remember to get their criminal record checks. Good luck to all the teams.



Bantam Boys - **Coach - Mr. Kotai** - The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

**Bantam Girls** - Coach - Ms. Carver - The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

**PeeWee Girls - Coach - Mrs. Christensen** - The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

**PeeWee Boys - Coach - Mrs. TKB & Mr. Zimmer** - The names have been removed from this online version for safety and privacy. These names appear on the newsletter sent home to parents.

Many thanks to the coaches for working with these teams this volleyball season. Good luck with your season!

### INCLEMENT WEATHER - DRESSING APPROPRIATELY

Please ensure that your child has a warm coat, mittens or gloves, boots, and a hat at school. We know that those December winds can come in from the North and make recess a little chilly. Thanks for your help with this matter.



### LATES

A reminder to all families - to promote responsibility and a value for education, we will be encouraging students to arrive to class on time. When students are late, they often miss information given first thing in the morning, basic directions on a task, and disrupt the learning environment of the rest of the class. Sometimes students are late due to medical, dental or other appointments, these are the exceptions and we understand they will occur. Outlined below is the policy in regards to all other lates, please review it carefully with your child(ren).

*"It is a matter of common courtesy to arrive for classes at the proper time and students are encouraged to develop lifelong habits of promptness.*

*Students who arrive late often disrupt the operation of the classroom by requiring the attention of their teachers or classmates to assist them in getting started on their assignments or to re-teach all or part of a lesson.*

*To encourage and promote responsibility, we are asking all students and families to make a strong effort to be at school on time.*

*For the chronic tardiness, a letter will be sent home to parents with a copy to be placed in the student's file."*

Thank you in advance for your support with helping us develop responsible student citizens at Forest Park Elementary School.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice.



If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closures on the school district website, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca), and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.

## INFORMATION ABOUT KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

### **Regular English Kindergarten Program Registration for 2016-17**

Registration for the regular English Kindergarten program for September 2016 will start at all elementary schools on Monday, January 4, 2016. Complete information about registration will be available on the school district website in the near future ([www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca)).

### **French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1 Application for 2016-17**

Please note the process for Early French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1 registration has changed from the past process. Parents who wish to apply for a September 2016 space for their child in the program must do so in person at the District Administration Centre, 395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo after January 4, 2016. Please note that siblings of current French Immersion students must also follow this process.

Detailed information is available at [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### December

Mon., Dec. 7	Brechin Bowling Div. 1 & 2 (10 am)
Tues., Dec. 8	Brechin Bowling Div. 3 & 4 (10 am)
Tues., Dec. 8	PAC mtg. - 7:00 pm - Library
Wed., Dec. 9	Brechin Bowling Div. 5, 6 & 7 (10 am)
Wed., Dec. 9	First Term Reports go home
Thurs., Dec. 10	Skating Div. 8-12 (12:30 pm)
Fri., Dec. 11	Skating Div. 13-16 (12:30 pm)
Wed., Dec. 16	Family Craft Night 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Thurs., Dec. 17	Whole School Christmas Breakfast
Fri., Dec. 18	Last day before the Winter Break

**School re-opens Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

