

Mount Benson Elementary School

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NEWSLETTER

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Principal's Comments

It always seems incredible when the days start to lengthen and we indeed are facing another Spring. The time goes by so quickly. An early shift to daylight saving time has only hastened the change.

This last term the students and teachers have been working extremely hard. Report cards come home today. Report card time can be a stressful time for students and families. Students make continuous progress and the report card is an indication of where they are now. Student learning, in fact all of our learning could perhaps be best viewed as a work "in progress". We are never really finished learning and we are all unique, learning at a different pace and with differing styles. What does this have to do with student report cards? Just that it is important to remember each individual has strengths and areas, which could be more developed. We do not all master reading at the same time and in the same way. Just as we did not all learn to walk and talk within the same time.

We invite you to celebrate with your children their achievement this term. Look for positive growth in their learning. Help them see that there are areas they can improve in and help them set goals for that improvement. Encourage them in their learning by modeling learning. Encourage their curiosity and challenge them to enlarge their world through reading. Encourage their confidence by acknowledging their successes. Encourage their tolerance and acceptance of mistakes as just more steps in their learning journey.

Thank you to all of the parents and caregivers for your continued support of our students and their learning.

Have a wonderful Spring Break.

Kindergarten Registration

To date we have 18 kindergarten registrations for September 2007. Children who were born in 2002 are eligible to begin Kindergarten this year and may be registered by bringing in the child's birth certificate to the school office and completing the registration form. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten or know of a neighbour or friend who does please come in as soon as possible to complete the registration process. Early registration is helpful to schools for staffing and scheduling.

Dates to Remember

- March 14th – Report Cards sent home
- March 16th – Literacy Celebration
- March 16th – last day of school before spring break
- March 26th – students return to school
- March 29th – school assembly with grade 4/5 dance presentation
- April 6th – Good Friday – no school for students
- April 9th – Easter Monday – no school for students
- April 12th – 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. – Ready, Set, Learn
- April 26th – Gr 5 soprano, ukelele presentation
- April 30th – School Based Non-instructional day – no school for students

"There are two types of people in the world: the Irish and those who wished they were Irish."

Happy St. Patrick's day and have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break.



Grade 7 Course Selection and Parent Information Evening

If Spring break is here can Grade 8 be far behind? Our grade 7s will be meeting with Darlene Carolsfield, a counsellor from Wellington Secondary on Wednesday March 28th to begin the course selection process for Grade 8. A parent information meeting will be held at Wellington Secondary School on Thursday March 29th at 7:00 pm

Literacy Celebration

This Friday March 16th will be our **Literacy Celebration** day. A total of 5000 nights have been reading nights for our students. Thank you to all who have encouraged your children to read every night and return the reading record book(s). The celebration will see participating students have the option of seven different activities on Friday morning after an assembly celebrating our success. A pizza lunch will follow with grateful thanks to our PAC for supplying the pizzas.

Mt. Benson Web Site

Log on to the school district web site at <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/mtbe/>. Many thanks to David Murchie, a parent, who has devoted many hours in updating our school web-site. On the site you'll find a calendar, newsletters, and other useful information about our school. Your comments are welcome if there are items you would like to see added. Keep your eye on our logo!!

From the Library:

Thank you to all the families who donated books and their time to the BOOKS FOR KIDS fundraiser. I have not heard any final totals yet but I know there were a lot of books and I think it was very successful again this year. Our grade one class was the winner of the book drop for donations. With a huge thank you to Holly Cochrane for her donation.

A DRAGON size THANK YOU to Darlene D'lerma for her incredible and fantastical illustration that is now gracing our wall in the library. Please come and have a look at the beautiful addition to the library.



I am still looking for book donations for our Parent Lending Library. These can be any books you think other parents might like to borrow. Books on parenting, discipline, nutrition, or... We have a few titles but I would like to see this section grow.

We will be having another Scholastic Book Fair starting April 30 to May 4th. I was able to add and replace many titles from our last fair.

Have a wonderful and safe Spring Break!
Cathy Fowler
Teacher-Librarian
Mt. Benson and Woodbank



Assembly

Please join us on Thursday March 29 at 9:45 a.m. for an assembly to showcase a Grade 4/5 dance performance.



Ready Set Learn

The "Ready Set Learn" program is scheduled for April 12th at 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in Mount Benson school library. This program is sponsored by the Ministry of Education and is designed for parents of pre-schoolers (3, 4, and 5 year olds). The emphasis is on early literacy and the participants will have an opportunity to meet school staff, participate in activities and learn from others in the community. Each child will receive a "Ready Set Learn" package including a book by a BC author. Please plan to join us.

Fine Arts Performances

Last month the students enjoyed a day of drumming and dancing with Milton Randall and his amazing drumming workshop. All students had an opportunity to learn some basic rhythms and to drum in a group. The intermediate students formed a huge band and dance group and entertained the whole school in a rousing performance at the end of the day.

This month, Sand Northrup, the one woman circus came to town and conducted a full day workshop which culminated in a performance by the grade 7s for the whole school. Jugglers, balancing acts, and stilt walking were just some of the amazing feats performed by our students.

Your hard working PAC made both of these enriching opportunities possible. Without PAC support we would not be able to provide these types of activities for our students. **Thank you PAC**

Power to Parent

A video course and discussion group facilitated by Lorne Freedman is being organized for Mt. Benson parents. Eight sessions will be held over the course of eight weeks, dates and times to be announced. Topics include: cultivating and preserving powerful parent-child connections; addressing parenting challenges without sabotaging the relationship; disciplining in ways that don't divide or backfire; keeping from being replaced by competing attachments; assisting children who seek to dominate rather than depend.

This course has been developed by internationally renowned developmental psychologist Dr. Gordon Neufeld, a best selling and award-winning author. To register contact lfreedman@sd68.bc.ca

Parking Lot Safety and Courtesy

Please remember to keep lanes clear in our parking areas. At the beginning and end of the school day there is much traffic and congestion. This congestion creates an unsafe situation for our little people especially. The bus lane is a bus lane and should not be used for parking. Your cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

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