

Mount Benson Elementary School

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NEWSLETTER

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Principal's Comments

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a very busy and productive first term and we are now feeling the welling excitement of the upcoming holiday season. Many activities are planned for the coming weeks which will undoubtedly fly by as they always seem to do at this time of the year. The beginning of December heralds that special time when the generosity of spirit enters our hearts and minds and we become even more mindful of those in our community who can use our help and support. It has been said that the measure of a society is in how it treats the least fortunate among them. Further in this newsletter you will read of how the Mount Benson community will be reaching out to support those less fortunate among us.

Report Cards

Student report cards go home Friday November 30th. Students and staff are to be commended for their efforts and achievements during this first term. As a staff we are very proud of the progress of our students. It has been encouraging for me to read the report cards and reflect on the many accomplishments of our students and their teachers. We enjoy sharing this record of their performance with you.

Report cards provide an excellent opportunity to **celebrate your child's progress and learning**. The report card is also an opportunity for parents and children to celebrate successes and to acknowledge the growth and achievement over the term. The report card also provides students an opportunity to review the challenges they face. It is a time for realistic evaluation and goal setting.

Report cards can be a basis for positive discussion at **home**. **Encourage your children's efforts. Applaud their achievements.** Assist them with constructive ways they can improve and help them set realistic goals for the next term.

Some Tips For Report Card Review:

- Remember that reading is the cornerstone to success in school
 - Encourage our children to be accountable for their mark
 - Comparing and criticizing are detrimental to our children
 - Adopt a positive and constructive attitude
 - Be cautious when praising and rewarding
- If you have questions about the report card, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for clarification or further information.

Young Entrepreneur Show—Friday December 7
Our Young Entrepreneurs invite parents, teachers and students to attend their "Young Entrepreneur Showcase" at Mount Benson Elementary. Some of our grade 6 students under the guidance of Mr. Kirby have



Dates to Remember

- November 30—Assembly featuring performances by Kindergarten and Grade 1 9:30 am
- November 30—First term Report Cards issued
- December 3—Head Lice check
- December 3—School Planning Council Meeting
- December 5/6—Christmas Store
- December 7 – Entrepreneur Fair – 9:30-11:20 Multi purpose room
- December 13--Christmas Concert – Performances 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 pm
- December 18—Mt. Benson Choir Sings at Nanaimo North Town Centre (formerly Rutherford Mall) 11:30 am
- December 21 – last day of school for students before winter holidays
- January 7 – Schools reopen
- January 15—PAC meeting 7:00 pm Library
- January 25—Assembly 9:30 am
- February 19—PAC meeting 7:00 pm Library
- February 21—One Woman Circus
- February 22—Assembly 9:30 am
- February 25—Professional Development Day
- February 26—Curriculum Implementation Day
- March 11—PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
- March 12—Second Term Report Cards issued
- March 14—Last day of classes before Spring Break
- March 26—Schools re-open after Spring Break

PowerPlay Young Entrepreneur Program. These enterprising students have committed to building new skills and are now ready to display their business plans and market their products.

This is a great event for other students to be inspired, learn about business and have fun. Students may visit the Showcase with their classes during regular class time. Both students and parents may want to bring along a nominal amount of money for spending - there will be a variety of crafts, treats, and lots of creative surprises. Prices generally range from 50 cents to \$4. The Showcase is being held at the school on Friday December 7th from 9:30 to 11:20 in the multipurpose room. Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there!

Holiday Gift Store—Wednesday December 5th and Thursday December 6th

Once again this year your PAC is operating the Holiday Gift Store. On December 5th and 6th the Learning Assistance Room 104 will transform into a holiday gift store where students can purchase very inexpensive gifts of their own choosing for siblings, grandparents, parents, etc... **This year, all gifts will be \$2.00, making it very affordable.**

By popular demand the gift store will be open for two days this year; December 5th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and December 6th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Christmas Concert—Thursday December 13th
We look forward to you joining us for a wonderful Christmas celebration: **“T’was the Night Before Christmas”**. In addition to the musical, our band and choir will also be performing. Mrs Murchie is coordinating this musical event for our school and with the assistance of staff and the wonderful voices and talents of our students it will prove to be a memorable event, and one that you will not want to miss.

Your students should have already brought home a notice outlining the specific requirements for their grade. A separate notice will be coming home next week outlining instructions for students and families regarding times for students to arrive in the evening and a response form to be completed to give us an indication of how many may be attending each performance.

There will be two performances: 1:30 pm and an evening show beginning at 6:30 pm. We can barely contain our excitement! See you there.

Safety on Roads and to and from School

Winter is a time of decreasing daylight and increasing traffic hazards and congestion. Icy, slippery streets, heavy rain, reduced visibility, and children wrapped in winter clothing and head coverings which can restrict their hearing and vision, all of these factors combine to create hazardous conditions for students both walking and riding in cars.

More children being driven to school means more congestion in our parking lot and environs. Please be considerate of other drivers and be constantly vigilant for our little people as they navigate the parking area to get to and from their rides.

It cannot be over emphasized how dangerous these few minutes at the beginning and end of our school day can be for students who cannot always be counted on to make the safe decision. It is our responsibility to keep all of our children safe.

Seasonal clothing

We just enjoyed our first snowfall of the season and had many students ill prepared for the cold and wet. Please ensure that students dress for the weather. A pair of inside gym shoes is a must and for some students having a change of clothes at school would be an asset. Please note below information regarding lost and found clothing.

Hampers

“Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.” Once again this year we will be accepting donations for our Christmas hampers and the Penny drive. Your generosity and spirit of charity will warm the hearts of many of our families this holiday season. Thanks to Ms. Favelle for coordinating our Hampers for Families collection and to Mrs. Burns for coordinating the Pennies for Presents campaign.

There will be a collection table set up outside the gym at the Christmas concert to accept donations of non-perishable food items. Also accepting Canadian tire money.

Pennies for Presents

Let the Competition begin!! Bring in your pennies (all monies accepted) and your name will be entered into a draw for a prize. Who will bring in the most, girls or boys??? **Let’s find out. Watch the containers fill outside the office.**

All money raised will go to the Nanaimo News Bulletin’s Pennies for Presents campaign. Let’s help give back to our community. You can drop your money off just outside the office and place it in the girls or boys buckets. Each time you make a deposit you can enter your name into the draw. Thanks to Mrs. Burns and family for coordinating and donating the prize basket.

PAC Items

Already your PAC is busily organizing for our Spring Fun Fair. A Fun Fair meeting will be held on Tuesday December 12th at 7:00 pm in the library. Many volunteers are needed. Come out and see how you can contribute.

The PAC will also be revising and updating the Mt. Benson School PAC constitution. Stay tuned for further notice about this activity.

Student Teachers

It has been a great pleasure to have Ms. Morgan, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Sorensen in our school as student teachers. Their last day with us in the classroom will be on Friday December 7th. They have brought a combination of indefatigable energy, enthusiasm, competence and warmth to the classrooms and have offered the students many opportunities for learning. The students and all of us will miss them and we wish them every success in their future teaching careers.

Emergency School Closures

It is that time of year again when we could get snow. If schools are closed due to snow, or any other problems such as power outages or bad weather, announcements will be on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM and WAVE 102.3 FM) by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please do not call the radio station --- tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis.

Kindergarten Registration

We will begin taking registrations in January 2008 for **next year’s Kindergarten**. Children who will be turning five years old in 2008 may register. Please encourage parents of children born in 2003 to register as early as possible.

