

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.

It has been a busy term at Mt. Benson elementary school and Spring Break is here. Of course the mention of spring brings forth images of bulbs blooming and trees in blossom, longer daylight, and time for the garden. The excellent stewardship our parents provide to our school and community is symbolized by our front garden. It looks absolutely fabulous and is so welcoming to people coming into our school.

We wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable Spring Break and a joyous Easter holiday. As Easter falls within Spring Break this year we will be returning to school on Wednesday March 26th.

Proposed School Closures—Over two hundred parents and members of the community filled our gym at the Consultation Meeting for the proposed closure of Mt. Benson Elementary last month. David Murchie made a presentation on behalf of the PAC and many parents and others added to his voice. Attached to this newsletter is a sheet on the consultation process schedule and how parents and others can provide input. On that sheet are email addresses and directions for contacting the Board with your questions or answers already provided. Please keep informed and plan to attend meetings and take the opportunity to provide your input to the Board.

Report Cards

Congratulations to the students and their teachers on a great second term. Report Cards went home on Wednesday. Report Card time is a time to celebrate with your child their achievements and successes. Students have worked very hard this term and the results attest to that hard work. There has been much progress, school wide. Well done! Report card time can also be an emotional time as some students and parents may feel some disappointment with their results.

Dates to Remember

Dates to Note:

Schools Reopen after Spring Break—
Wednesday March 26

Global Watch presentation—Friday March 28th 9:30 am gym

Class and Group Photos—Friday April 4th

PAC Meeting—Tuesday April 15th 7:00 pm library

Ready Set Learn—Thursday April 17th 1:00-2:30

Literacy Evening—Thursday April 24th 5:30-8:00 pm

Assembly—Friday April 25th 9:30 gym

Pro-D Day—Monday April 28th—School not in session

WRAP Fair—Thursday May 1st--Gym

Try not to focus on the letter grades or the numbers. Ask your child what they enjoyed, what they learned that most interested them this term, what they are proud of, what were some of their challenges, how did they meet those challenges, what did they learn about themselves?

Look at the report with your child and find the positives, even slight improvements. Look for opportunities to improve. Support your child with setting reasonable goals for next term. Try to help your child see a link between effort and success. By now they should have some goals for the year. The report card can be one way to measure the success of those goals. For example, is the extra practice in math paying off?? Set up a meeting with your child's teacher if there is some clarification or assistance needed.

Celebrate with your children their achievement this term. Look for positive growth in their learning. Encourage them in their learning by modelling 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.

Global Watch—this group of students from Wellington Secondary will be presenting to an assembly in our Gym on Friday March 28th at 9:30 am.

Student Registration

Kindergarten Registration. Children who are five years of age on or before December 31, 2008 may enter Kindergarten in September 2008. You are encouraged to register your child as soon as possible at your neighbourhood (catchment) school.

Children out-of-catchment may register also, filling in an "Out of Catchment Application". **Out of catchment applications must be completed by March 31st, 2008.**

Please bring your child's birth certificate and CARE card to the school office between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:30 pm Monday through Friday while school is in session. Please encourage people in the community with kindergarten age children to register as soon as possible.

Movie Nite—thanks to Terry and Lisa Burns and Madman MacKay for hosting another movie night in our gym this Friday March 14th beginning at 6:30 pm. Terry will be showing "The Bee".

Our Writing, Reading and Presenting (WRAP) Fair will be happening on

Thursday, May 1st. Students will be making displays (similar to last year's WRAP fair) that will be exhibited in the school gym on that date.

Students will be on hand in the gym to discuss their presentations from 1:45-2:45 and in the evening from 6:00-8:00 pm.

SPORTS REPORT

Basketball season is well under way with Mt. Benson entering teams in Bantam boys and Bantam Girls leagues. Thank you to Ms. Christensen and Ms. Favelle and to Mr. Snowden who are giving their time to coach these teams. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who have assisted with driving, officiating and of course cheering on our teams.

URGENT - Toys Needed

Is it time to clean out your children's toy box? Now that Christmas is over, families find that this is a good time to clean out their children's room. Mrs. Calder's annual sale for The Gorilla Foundation is in need of toys, books, games, puzzles, etc for the sale—date to be determined. You can drop off these items at Mrs. Calder's classroom beginning after Spring Break.

Ready Set Learn—Thursday April 17th 1:00 to 2:30. Program designed for three and four year olds and their parents to orient them to school and focus on

the importance of readiness play for literacy and learning. Please invite your friends and neighbours with preschoolers to attend. Please call the school at your convenience to leave the name of your preschooler and accompanying adult.

Literacy Evening—Mark Thursday April 24th in your calendars for our annual literacy evening. Enjoy a meal with parents and children of the Mt. Benson community and then listen to stories read in the classrooms. End the evening with a choice of books from the "take home tables". More information to follow. We will need children's books for the take home tables so please bring any books to Ms. Williams in the library after Spring Break.



Ministry Satisfaction Surveys

Students in grades four and seven will complete these ministry Student Satisfaction Surveys. The data collected will complement the parent surveys and provide our school with information related to student achievement and school safety. This information is helpful in planning as well as providing a District and Provincial perspective.

Think First

The John Howard Society will be once again presenting the Think First Program to our Grade 6 class. The presentation will be given in two sessions, one before and one after recess on Monday April 21st. The presentation is designed to reinforce with our students the impact of the choices and decisions they make in life. It is a powerful learning opportunity.

