

COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



January 2016

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ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

A very happy new year! We hope your holiday was filled with many memory-making family times. We would like to thank all the parents who were able to make time in their busy schedules to attend a concert, help make gingerbread houses, flip pancakes, and organize craft sessions (whew!). Your participation and commitment to your child's education adds so much to his or her school experience. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming winter events!

Jan Ramsay, Principal

Kent Percevault, Vice Principal



Thank you PAC!

Once again, we would like to extend our thanks to the Columbia PAC for spoiling us all with the annual Pancake Breakfast. A special thank you to Andrea Neill and Lori Tite who organized the event. As always, the breakfast was a delicious treat for students and staff alike! We also want to thank those who braved the cold (and early starting time!) to prepare the pancakes, and the many volunteers who served them. The PAC pancake breakfast is a tradition that has been going on for many years and one that is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!



Weather reminders...

We all love when the snow falls, and we can enjoy sledding on the hills. Just a few reminders though: students are only allowed to bring **soft-sided sleds** (such as crazy carpets) to use on our hills, and are only allowed to sled on designated areas. They must also wear snow pants when sledding (so that you don't get the call to bring dry clothing to change into!). Also, with the cold weather coming, it is important that students are dressed appropriately **by wearing jackets, mittens and hats.*** Thank you for ensuring your child is prepared to enjoy being outside for recess and lunch breaks!



*It is very helpful as well if you could put your child's name on his/her sled before sending it to school. Thank-you!

Safe Arrival

THANK YOU to the parents who have called to let us know if their child is absent or going to be late. It saves us time and effort making numerous phone calls. Regular attendance at school is expected and critical for student success. However, if due to illness or unforeseen circumstances your child is absent, we do appreciate a phone call to the school. 250-770-7676 or you can also email Mrs. Hack chack@summer.com



French Immersion 2016-2017



FRENCH IMMERSION

Registration for 2016 / 2017

INFORMATION MEETINGS

For parents of current Grade 5 students:

Information sessions for parents of Grade 5 students regarding registration for September 2016 Grade 6 Late French Immersion classes will be held as follows:

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7:00pm, KVR Middle School

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7:00pm, Summerland Middle School

A letter, along with an application form, regarding next September's Grade 6 French Immersion classes will be available January 22, 2016 at all elementary school offices, the Okanagan Skaha School District No. 67 Board Office (425 Jermyn Ave., Penticton) or on the district website at www.sd67.bc.ca

Deadline for applications is 12:00 Noon

Monday, February 1, 2016

The program is available to all students residing in the Okanagan Skaha School District entering Grade 6 in September of 2016. Students outside the district are permitted to enroll on a space-available basis (i.e. after Okanagan Skaha School District students have been accommodated).

Please note: these will be the only information meetings scheduled regarding French Immersion.

Coming up on the Calendar!

Monday, January 4 th	- Back to school
Wednesday, January 13 th	- PAC Meeting in library, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 19 th	- Purple Pirate Performance, 1:30 pm
Thursday, January 21 st	- French Immersion Information Meeting at KVR Middle, 7:00 pm
Monday, January 25 th	- 5 C's assembly, Recognition of Consideration And Family Literacy Day "Stop, Drop and Read"
Monday, February 1 st	- Deadline for French Immersion applications
Thursday, February 11 th	- Ready, Set, Learn 9:30—11:00 am



Transfer Request



The window for students requesting transfers from their catchment / current school to an other school in School District No. 67 for the September 2016 / 2017 school year is **8:00am, February 1, 2016** to **4:00pm, April 15, 2016**. Transfer requests received prior to February 1 will be date / time stamped as "February 1, 2016, 8:00am" and transfer requests received after April 15 may not be considered until September 2016. Although a sibling's attendance at a school will be given priority as per Choice and Flexibility Policy #305, it should not be assumed that the transfer is approved. A transfer request still needs to be completed and must go through the transfer process. If you are unsure, please check with your school secretary.

Kindergarten Registration

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children born in 2011 are eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2016. Parents, who feel their child is not yet ready for kindergarten, may defer enrollment for one year. Please contact Wendy Hyer (250-770-7700) at the School Board Office for information on this.



Placement in your neighborhood school kindergarten is based on your address and registration date. The earlier you register, the more likely your child will attend a school close to your home.

Register at your neighborhood school during regular school hours. **A birth certificate will be required as well as your child's BC Care Card, parental BC Care Card and proof of address (i.e. driver's license, utility bill, lease agreement).**

2016 SOEC Skating Party

What: 3rd Annual SOEC Skating Party in support of student humanitarian work in Tanzania

When: Sunday, January 17, 2016

Time: 5pm – 8pm

Where: South Okanagan Event Centre

Cost: Entrance by donation, \$5.00 minimum

A limited number of skates will be available. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own equipment.

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be sold as well as hot chocolate



All proceeds from this event go to supporting SD#67 Humanitarian work in Tanzania.
Contact Sandra Richardson at 250-490-5666 for more information.

Foundation Skills Assessment

FSA Information for Parents of Grade 4 Students—January 11—February 19, 2016

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well British Columbia students are learning foundation skills in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils to evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. The FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills tested are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial performance standards. The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and Grade 7 students in public and provincially funded independent schools.

FSA Requirements

The Student Learning Assessment Order (Ministerial Order 60/94 as amended) (the "Order") requires school boards to ensure that the FSA tests are administered to and completed by students in accordance with the assessment protocols, instructions and invigilation procedures established by the Ministry of Education. In accordance with the School Act, only the Principal has the authority to exclude children from participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment. Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances. In such circumstances, parents must discuss their request with the Principal.

The following is an excerpt from the Ministry's 2016 "Foundation Skills Assessment (FAS) Administration Instructions 2016" about participation guidelines:

Who Should Write the Assessment?

All students write FSA including:

- *All students enrolled in Grade 4 or Grade 7 of the English program, French Immersion program or Programme francophone, including students enrolled in a distributed learning program.*

All students enrolled in non-graded programs who were born in:

2006 write Grade 4 level

2003 write Grade 7 level

- *English Language Learners (ELL) – formerly known as "English-as-a Second Language (ESL)" students.*
- *Students with special needs who require adaptations, as documented in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).*

Students receiving learning assistance services.

Exceptions include:

Students who have previously written the FSA. Students write the FSA for a specific grade once only. If a student is retained, s/he does not write a second time.

Students who have IEPs documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing, or numeracy and who cannot meaningfully participate in all or part of the assessment, even with adaptations.

Students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations or who would need such extended periods of time as to create a hardship for the individual student.

Those students who are reported and funded as receiving English Language Learning (ELL) support who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses to the reading or writing or numeracy sections of the FSA.

Principals identify which students, if any, are excused from one, two or all three components of the FSA. Principals must notify a parent or guardian if they intend to excuse a student from participating in one or more components of the FSA. Such notification should be made prior to the administration date by letter or telephone call.

Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances.

Principals of public schools are to send a list of excused students to their superintendent.

Calling Columbia Families!

Research shows that the number one activity that can help strengthen families is sitting down to eat a meal together. But we also know that families are busier than ever, and finding this time can be difficult. Columbia Staff has an idea to help with this.



Starting on January 14th, some of the staff will be hosting a 'Family Night' at Columbia. During this time (Thursdays from 5:00-7:00 pm) a group of families and staff will meet together at Columbia, and parents will have a chance to connect with their children (while dinner is prepared for them!) eat as a family, then play some games, do crafts, or sing some songs. This opportunity is being offered to our Columbia community, but we will only be able to host a certain number of families – so if you are interested, please phone and talk with Jan Ramsay (250-770-7676) and we will register your family.

This opportunity is free to families, but you **will** need to commit to the six sessions being offered (see below), and there is no 'drop-in' for this activity- you must be registered. During the two hours, you will be together as a family (and yes, children who are not yet in school, or who go to a different school are invited as well- this is a 'whole family' event), but you will also have some opportunity to socialize with other families as well. We look forward to hearing from you if you are interested in this opportunity for your family!

SESSION DATES:

Thursday, January 14th
Thursday, January 21st
Thursday, January 28th

Thursday, February 4th
Thursday, February 11th
Thursday, February 18th

Winter Concert!

Our wonderful winter concert featured every child up on the stage, singing or acting or dancing- wow! The gym was packed for both shows (over 300 at each!) and judging from the smiles on the audience's faces, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. And a big thank you to our PAC, for a very successful bake and book sale.



Family Literacy Day



To recognize Family Literacy week, parents and caregivers are invited to join us at our morning assembly on Monday, January 25th for a chance to 'stop, drop, and read'. Rather than dropping your child off in the morning, please feel free to come and join us for our 5 C's assembly at 9:00 am. We will begin by recognizing several students for demonstrating commitment to learning, and then we will move into a sustained time of reading. There will be books available in the gym and students (and parents!) are welcome to bring a book also. We will then all 'stop, drop, and read' for twenty minutes. You may be reading just with your child, or with a small group of students, including your own- it's up to you. Come celebrate the joy of reading with us!

Ready, Set, Learn



Columbia Elementary School will be hosting a *Ready, Set, Learn* session in February, supported by the Ministry of Education. This session is intended for families of **3 or 4 years olds** who will be attending Columbia Elementary in the future. Our *Ready Set Learn* session will be held Thursday, February 11th from 9:30—11:00 am. Parents and their preschoolers are invited to join us for a morning of information and a chance to see what kindergarten life is like. Also, if you are aware of parents with children that will be attending Columbia Kindergarten in the next two years, who may not have received this information, please pass this along to them and encourage them to attend. Please register for this program by calling the office at 250-770-7676.

5 C's Assembly

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for demonstrating consideration at our December assembly:

Madison Howarth, Branson Crawford, Kinley Loewen, Jesse Valoma, Caitlyn Simpson, Isla Bowland, Jake Martin, Georgia Yates, Nick Panov, Riley Barker-Wurflinger, Kyra Arneil, Aiyana Boring, Byron Murphy, Cameron Norris-Preston, Halle Hesla, Kaiden McIvor, Marcus Flores, Heyden Blondin, Kylen Ondrack, Caleb Bedard, Isabella Carter, Hunter Murray, Maggie Chisholm, Jordis Hickie, Emma Todor, Sydney Pepper, Ronin Driver, Cash Lewendon, Moriah Bouthillier, Avy Martin, Cameron Taylor
Kaden Coolidge, Carys Panov, Henry Seddon, Brenner Green, Arden L'Heureux, Chase Pierpont, Savannah Hansen and Travis Adolph.



Penticton Vee's Anti-Bullying Night!

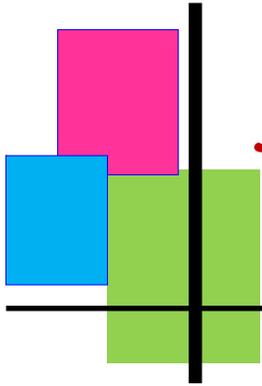
On Saturday February 13th, Columbia families have the opportunity to attend the Penticton Vees' hockey game and show their school spirit! Students' tickets are FREE, and adult tickets are only \$8.00, with \$2.00 from every ticket going back to our school. As in past years, reserved for each participating, encouraged school spirit they have special sections and we are to show our by wearing 'blue and orange' Columbia colours and cheering the game on! More information will be available in the February newsletter. Hope to see many of you there!



Clubs, Clubs, Clubs!!

January is a month for new beginnings, and one way Columbia staff is celebrating the new year is by offering a variety of clubs for our students. Students in grades 4 and 5 will have the opportunity to join a construction club or a spool knitting club on Wednesday at lunchtime, and we will once again be running chess on Fridays at lunch for students in grades one through five. As well, our Columbia skipping club for students in grades 2-5 will be starting up, with practices on Tuesday at lunch and Thursdays before school. And if that's not enough, intermediate students will also have the opportunity to play basketball (practice and games schedule to be determined). Hey- but that's not all! There will also be a spelling bee in February, so students in grades 3-5 who would like to try out for this will be practicing on Mondays at lunch. We certainly won't get bored in the coming months!





January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Back to School	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in library	14	15	16
17	18	19 1:30 pm Purple Pirate Performance 	20	21 French Immersion Information Meeting at KVR 7:00 PM	22	23
24	25 5 C's Recognition Assembly and <i>Family Literacy Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						