



THE COAL TIPPLE

Coal Tyee Elementary School Newsletter
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January 2012, Newsletter #5

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jill Williamson & Mrs. Julie Nychuk

<http://www.coaltyee.mysd68.ca/>

Dear Parents:



We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday filled with family and friends. We want to thank you for all your support at our Christmas concert and for all the donations that went to our Christmas food drive which helped over 12 families in our community. Thank you to all the staff who volunteered their time as well to make these programs the success they were.

Your child(ren) and staff have returned from their break refreshed and ready for the learning opportunities that lie ahead. As January unfolds, it is a perfect opportunity to re-establish routines and regular habits to support your child(ren's) school life. Here are six ways to assist you in this regard:

1. Regular bedtimes with time for brushing teeth, bathing and quiet reading time helps to calm active children and enable them to sleep well each night.
2. Consistent wakeup times, healthy breakfasts and sufficient time to dress and gather school books enables children to begin the school day on time and in a calm way.
3. Regular daily homework time (with parental support as needed) is essential to help children feel competent and confident in class.
4. Ensure there is a balance between active play and television or computer time. Time with friends and family is essential to developing positive social skills and sense of belonging.
5. Computers should be in a highly visible area of the house. A child's computer time must be monitored and should follow specific safety guidelines regarding site and program access.
6. Share a caring conversation and a smile with your child each day.

We are also at that time of the year when we are accepting registration for new, in catchment, students for September including kindergarten students. If you know of a family with a child who should be entering Kindergarten in September in our neighborhood please encourage the family to register their child immediately. **More detailed information is on the third page of this newsletter, including important information for our Grade 7 students who will be off to high school in September.**

I would like to thank our PAC for their strong leadership and for all their hard work this school year! They have spent countless hours behind the scenes working on various projects and activities that make Coal Tyee a very special place for our students and their families. We have many dedicated parents who help out with classroom and/or school related activities. Remember that the PAC includes all parents of the school. Please attend meetings and become active with the PAC sponsored activities.

Yours truly,

Robbie Dhillon,
(Acting) Principal

TENTATIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011 – 2012 Please note the BCTF job action may change or cancel some of these dates. Up to date information is available at www.sd68.bc.ca

PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed Jan 18
PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed Feb 15
Pro-D [district wide].....	Mon. Feb 20
Pro-D [school based].....	Tue. Feb 21
Report Card 2 issued.....	Wed Mar 14
Last Day before Spring Break.....	Fri. Mar 16
First Day back.....	Mon. Mar 26
PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed Mar 28
Good Friday (school closed).....	Fri. Apr 6
Easter Monday (school closed).....	Mon. Apr 9
PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed Apr 18
Pro-D (school based).....	Mon. Apr 23
PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed May 16
Victoria Day (school closed).....	Mon. May 21
PAC (7 PM library).....	Wed Jun 20
Report Card 3 issued.....	Wed Jun 27
Last Day of School.....	Wed. Jun 27
Pro-D Day (school-based).....	Thu. Jun 28
Administration Day.....	Fri. Jun 29



MEETING WITH TEACHERS

First thing in the morning, 8:50, as well as right at the end of the day is a particularly busy time in classrooms with students getting ready to start or finish their school day and parent's picking or dropping students to and from class. At 8:50 teachers are trying to start their classes and at 2:25 trying to help students as they leave for the day. These times are not appropriate to be having conversations with teachers about students as **privacy of students, including your own child, cannot be guaranteed in this environment.** Teachers are always happy to meet with parents, please contact the office and a message will be left for the teacher of your child to contact you to schedule an appointment.



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

I am happy to report over 500 cans were collected during our 12 days of giving campaign prior to the break! Great job Coal Tyee and thank you to Mrs. Reynolds for organizing this event along with Ms. Boudreau's and Ms. Gummer's class.

ABSENCES OR LATES



If your child is absent or late for school please phone as early as possible to notify the office (and preferably before 8 AM). The school office does have a 24 hour voice mail and you can leave a message stating your name, your child's name, and your child's teacher. This will avoid the phone call from the office to you in the morning, as well as help us to ensure all students are accounted for as quickly as possible. On the topic of lates please ensure your child arrives to school prior to 8:47 as class starts at 8:50 and being late to class can cause distractions for students and staff.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT THANKS

As our December newsletter went out prior to our Christmas Concert I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Raducu, and our students, for all of her efforts in making our concert a success. Also thank you to Mr. Rounding (our band instructor) and the rest of the staff at Coal Tyee for organizing their classes for the shows, and displaying a lot of art work in the gym, and around the school. A special thank you to Mrs. Smoker for all of her “behind the scenes” work in ensuring everything was set up perfectly for the day. Finally thank you to all of the guests who made it out to the concert. It truly was remarkable to see so many people out to the show.

DRESSING FOR WINTER



I would like to remind parents that we expect our students to go outside to play during our recess breaks. This is a healthy activity. Thank you for sending your children to school

prepared for the cold, wet winter conditions. It is also helpful for students to have spare clothing available at school in case they get wet or fall in the mud.

SNOW RULES AT COAL TYEE SCHOOL

We'd like to remind parents of the “snow” rules at Coal Tyee Elementary School. The following rules are enforced for the safety of students:

- There is “no snowball throwing” on the grounds
- Students are not to participate in activities that may injure other students – face washing with snow, kicking chunks of snow/ice, etc.

It is important that our students understand the rules and our concern that snowballs can cause serious injury, especially to a person if struck in the eye.

VOLLEYBALL



Volleyball season started up in mid November and will be over by the end of this month. Thanks to Mrs. Rhonda Wood (Bantam Girls—Grade 7), Mrs. Julie Wood (Bantam Boys—Grade 6/7), and Mrs Alyson Aitken (PeeWee Girls—Grade 6) for helping to coach our various teams this volleyball season. Many thanks also to Bryce Williamson

(Mrs. Williamson's son) for helping to referee many of our games.

BASKETBALL



Basketball season starts later by early February and ends by mid April. If you are interested in helping with coaching or refereeing please contact Mr. Dhillon. **Currently we need coaches for PeeWee Boys (Grade 6, with game days on Monday's after school) and Bantam Girls (Grade 7, with game days on Thursday's after school).**

Thank you to Mrs. Brayden and Mrs. Adamson for offering to look after our PeeWee Girls and Bantam Boys Basketball teams. Volunteers coaching teams will be required to go through a criminal record check. We are also in need of referees for our basketball season (schedule TBD). If you are interested in coaching or officiating please contact Mr. Dhillon in the office.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT 2012 GRADE 4 and 7:

In January and February, all Grades 4 and 7 students in British Columbia will be taking the provincial Foundations Skills Assessments (FSAs) in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy.

This year, the FSAs will be administered between Monday, January 16 and Friday, February 24th. Each of the three assessments has two components – a written component and an online component. A “walk-through” of the assessment is available on-line at: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample_tests.htm

The FSAs have been administered every year since 1999 and they provide a provincial, system-wide measure of achievement for elementary students. These tests provide a snapshot of information that tells parents, teachers and schools in each district across the province how well students are doing in reading, writing and numeracy. The assessments are based on the learning outcomes of the curriculum and the results help educators plan for improving student achievement.

The tests are mandatory for all Grades 4 and 7 students. The few exceptions include:

- students with 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,
- English-as-a-Second Language students who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses.

Parents can request that the Principal excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances are those which are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive and beyond a student's control. If this applies to your child, you should contact Mr. Dhillon directly to discuss the details. **Please ensure contact has been made prior to Wednesday January 11th.**

The FSA results do not make up part of a student's report card marks, but parents may wish to discuss the results with their child's teacher. Individual tests and results will be sent home to parents on or before March 31, 2012.

For more information about the FSAs, visit the Ministry of Education's website at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

SCHOOL CLOSURES



The following is a reminder about the Board's school closure policy for students and employees.

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.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please do not park in front of the school on Sun Valley Drive between 8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.—2:50 p.m. as this is a Kiss & Go Drop Off and Pick Up area only during these times. If you are dropping off your child please consider using the area near the swings or on Mountain Vista Road in order to reduce congestion on Sun Valley Drive right in front of the school. If you want to park at the school please use the parking lot near the swings or park on the street along Mt. Vista Drive.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The official signing of the 3rd Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) was held at Beban Auditorium in December (after our last newsletter went out). Coal Tyee supports its Aboriginal students in taking pride in their



heritage and feeling confident in their ability to reach personal goals. The AEEA document aligns with the four quadrants of the traditional medicine wheel: **Spirit** (“supporting success”), **Mind** (“academic achievement”), **Body** (“history and context”) and **Emotion** (“sense of belonging”).

BIKE SAFETY



During the Winter months there is less daylight. This increases the dangers on the roads with students cycling to school in very poor lighting conditions. It is very important that students wear brightly coloured clothing or reflective tape so others can see you better. Ideally the

importance of having proper lighting affixed to their bike is the best way to allow for others to see you best as a cyclist. Just a reminder, it's against the law to ride a bicycle without a red rear light and a white light on the front. Also always wear your helmet --- "It's your last line of defense!"

Constable Wade RCMP School Liaison Officer

KINDERGARTEN AND GENERAL REGISTRATION

We are now taking registrations for Kindergarten children born in 2007 for the 2012-2013 school term and will continue until June 15, 2012 for those seeking an assured space in the catchment area. Registration will be taken during school office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (2:15 on Friday's). Parents are required to present as proof of age at the time of registration.

Also, **proof of your address will be required. This can be a credit card**



statement, utility bill, mortgage statement,

municipal tax bill, or rental agreement with your name and address, or a notary-authorized letter. We encourage parents to register as soon as possible. We would appreciate the assistance of Coal Tyee students and parents in spreading the word about registration to families in our community who don't have older children attending the school.

Registration is now also open for children, at any grade level, living in our catchment, but attending another school, who wish to attend Coal Tyee starting in September. The same deadlines and proof of address information (as above) apply.

OUT OF CATCHMENT REGISTRARTION

Pupils currently approved for Out-of-Catchment attendance need not apply for subsequent years. They will be permitted to remain at their current school unless otherwise advised.

GRADE 7-8 REGISTRATION

Our Grade 7 students are automatically "transitioned" to Wellington Secondary, as Wellington is the high school that our school "feeds" in to. There is no need to apply for Wellington Secondary as this is automatically taken care of for your child.

Grade 7 students, with the consent of their parent/guardian, who wish to transfer to a secondary school other than our designated high school (Wellington) are required to complete an Out-of-Catchment application form and submit this form to the high school your child wishes to attend as soon as possible. **The deadline for Out of Catchment application is Friday March 30th and applications are on a first come, first served, basis so early registration is encouraged and you can apply starting January 3rd.** These forms are available from our school office, or at the school your child will be applying. There is no guarantee that your out of catchment request will be granted, however the form is needed to start the process. Please let Mr. Dhillon know if this is the case for your child.

If you currently live in the catchment area of another high school and your child plans to attend that high school (ie not Wellington) please ensure the student registration forms are completed and submitted to that high school. There is no out of catchment form necessary in this case. If this is the case for your child please let Mr. Dhillon know.

READY SET LEARN EVENT – A Healthy Start to Learning



Ready Set Learn is scheduled from **9:00-10:00 AM on Tuesday June 12th**. It is designed for 3 and 4 year olds (who will **not** be attending Kindergarten in 2012).

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN SEPTEMBER 2012

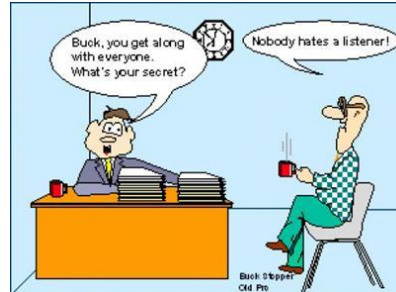
There will be an event for students starting Kindergarten in September 2012 on **Tuesday June 12th, from 10:15-11:20 AM.** Please ensure you have registered your child for Kindergarten, as well as for this session if you plan to attend.



PARENTS CAN MODEL GOOD LISTENING SKILLS

FOR CHILDREN

Look on any report card and you won't see a class marked "Listening," yet studies show that children spend between 50 and 75 percent of their class time listening.



Children need to learn listening skills. A parent can model good listening behavior for his/her child. Here are some tips to become a better listener:

- **You can't fake it.** Kids can tell whether you're

really paying attention by the way your reply (or don't reply). Forget the phone. Turn off the TV.

- **Listen with your eyes** as well as your ears. Look your child in the eye as you listen.
- **Encourage your child** to open up. Some kids seem to need an invitation before they'll start talking. Try setting aside some time each day to talk about school. If you're home after school, have a glass of milk while you listen to the story of your child's day. If you're at work when your child gets home, create time for some one-on-one talk when you get home.
- **Listen patiently.** All people think faster than they speak. Also, since children have a smaller vocabulary and less experience expressing themselves, they take even longer to find the right word. Make your child feel you have all the time in the world.
- **Listen to non-verbal** messages. Tone of voice, facial expression, posture and energy level often say as much as the words your child is speaking.

PARENT QUIZ – ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

We all think we're good listeners, but studies show that most people can do a better job.

Have each member of your family take this quiz. See if you agree with each other!

Give yourself five points for things you think you do very well, zero for something you really need to work on – or any score in between.

- ___ 1. I do not interrupt family members when they are talking.
- ___ 2. Each person in my family can count on me for some uninterrupted listening time each day.
- ___ 3. I do not do other things while "listening" to people.
- ___ 4. I maintain eye contact with my family when they speak.
- ___ 5. My family would consider me a good listener.