

DR. A. R. LORD ELEMENTARY

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Principal – Liz Kloepper ~ at Franklin Elementary
Associate Superintendent – Maureen Ciarniello
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Vice-Principal - Mrs. Sarah Gray ~ on site at Lord
PAC Chair: Kathy Mehan

Friday, January 28, 2011

Dear Families;

It is a pleasure working with the students at our school; everyday, I am amazed at the learning going on in the classrooms and on the playground. It is wonderful to see our young students problem solving with each other, taking the time to listen to each other respectfully when someone is sad and making amends. While children often need a little bit of adult guidance to manage some of the trickier, more emotionally charged situations, our students respond quickly and positively learning from each situation. As school staff, we see the children grow in their ability to work through the regular ups and downs of friendships more and more independently as the years go on. It is our hope that the students will carry these skills with them throughout their lives, creating peace in our school and beyond.

Please read on for more on the classroom high-lights for divisions 1, 2, & 3. News from divisions 4 - 7 will be coming in the next newsletter. Also, you will find a calendar attached for the month of February. Please join us for the special events if your schedule permits.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gray
Vice Principal

CLASSROOM NEWS

There are always many exciting things happening in our classrooms every day. Here are just a few high-lights from the intermediate classes to share at this time.

Div. 1 “We Day” Follow Up ~ Students in division 1 have been inspired by the mission of Free the Children. They have decided, together, to donate money to help those in need in Kenya. The grade 6 and 7 students are earning and donating the money themselves – not just asking their parents for a hand out. These students have come up with creative and selfless ways to make a substantial contribution. To date, they have raised well over \$100 towards their charity of choice! Congratulations, division 1! What an inspiration to all of us!

Div. 2 Aboriginal People Unit & Soapstone Carving ~ Grade 5 & 6 students will be working with artist Robert Cahill to create soapstone carvings of an arctic animal. This enhances their study of the Aboriginal People, combining Social Studies and Fine Arts in a hands on way to learn the process and history of soapstone carving.

Div. 3 ~ The teaching and learning in this classroom now occurs with a Smart Board as an integrated tool. This is an interactive way to bring the power of technology into the day to day learning for students. The Smart Board is basically a computer screen enlarged for all students to see easily – the size of an overhead projector screen. The

Smart Board screen responds to touch so files and images can be opened and viewed easily as easily as opening files on a computer. Also, links to the web make it simple to show You Tube clips or other educational slides that enhance the teaching of a particular lesson or idea.

Another exciting event in division 3 was the first visit by high school students from West Van. Students got together with their new big buddies to read and work on their First Nations study. More visits to come!

ARE YOU MOVING?

We are already starting to look at our registration and enrolment for next September. Please return the hot pink "Are You Moving?" notice in early February. One form per family works well for us. Thank you for your help.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Please join the PAC for **Family Movie Night** on Friday, February 18 at 6:15pm, Toy Story 3 (yes, the same day as Pro-D) Looking forward to see you there!

TENNIS...COMING TO LORD!

At the end of February, all classes will be learning to play tennis from a specialist instructor from Tennis BC. We look forward to learning the principles of fair play and sportsmanship through tennis!

KNITTING CLUB

Grade 7 students were invited to join our knitting club. Special thanks to our volunteer Cathleen who does both one to one reading and is leading the way with our young knitters. Students are making coasters, scarves and other great items with

their new needles and soft wool. What a super hobby and a great opportunity!

HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Homework club – this is available for all students aged 9-12 years on a drop in basis. An SFU student is working at Hastings Community Centre every Thursday from 3-4:30 to help students with projects, assignments and homework. This is a free club so take advantage of the extra help!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We continue to accept registration for students entering Kindergarten next fall. Now is the best time to get those little ones registered as it allows us to plan ahead for the Welcome to Kindergarten events in the spring. Please let your friends and neighbours know about our great school and encourage them to come into the office to register with us at Dr. A. R. Lord.

PINK SHIRT CAMPAIGN ANTI BULLYING DAY IN BC

Have you heard about the Sea of Pink or Pink Shirt Campaign? It is coming up on Wednesday, February 23. This is a student-led initiative that started in Nova Scotia in 2007 by two grade twelve boys who encouraged others to wear pink as a symbol that they would not participate in bullying. Their actions were in response to homophobic taunting of a grade 9 boy for wearing a pink t-shirt to school. All students are encouraged to wear pink on February 23 as a statement against bullying.

Although we believe that it takes a community-wide effort over time to really reduce bullying, single events like the Pink Shirt Day can raise awareness and draw

attention to an issue, while generating energy to address it in a more in-depth way. In particular, we like this idea because it is being promoted largely by and for students, and it highlights homophobic taunting and intolerance as a particular form of bullying. A summary of the pink shirt story is at <http://www.religioustolerance.org/homschbul.htm>

ICE CARDS

In September 2010, the Vancouver Policing Centres presented the ICE (In Case of Emergency) program to the VSB. ICE cards are being distributed to all students through the school.

ICE is an internationally recognized acronym used as a name in a cell phone contact list or on a card carried by a person that Vancouver police, Vancouver fire, BC Ambulance Service responders have agreed to look for as the contact number for whomever appropriate to speak to or to reach on the person's behalf, in the event of an emergency.

For the cards to be effective, parents/guardians should enter the student's name and one or more phone numbers of people they would want emergency responders to contact in case of an emergency. These can include phone numbers of parents, grandparents, guardians, care givers or family friends. More information about ICE is posted on the bulletin board in the main hall, near the office.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents,

teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2011 the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

This year, the survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey

Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. All that is required is a logon number that the school will provide to participants; please come to the office for your own unique logon code. Each code can only be used once. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site, without a logon number.

School computers will be available to parents during parent/teacher interviews on Wednesday, March 16 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. For parents who do not wish to use school computers, local public library computers or computers at the community centre could be used.