

Pinewood Elementary School Newsletter

Encouraging Open Communication between School and Home

December 2016

Karen Giles, Principal



Happy Holidays

May this holiday season be a happy one for those you love and may Joy and Peace and Prosperity be yours all the New Year through.

We are encouraging all families to donate canned food to the Salvation Army during the week of December 12-16. We will be collecting house team points and trying to fill Mrs. Giles' office with donations.

Help us help those less fortunate.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Mass Christmas Choir -December 7 at 7:00 pm (Alliance Church)
- ◆ Pro-D - December 5 (Students Not in Session)
- ◆ December 9 - Primary classes to Fort Steele
- ◆ Canned Food Drive for House Team Points (Dec 12-16)
- ◆ Hot Lunch - December 15
- ◆ Red & Green Day & Swim in pm December 16
- ◆ December 22 - Dance in pm
- ◆ Winter Break - December 23-January 8

Reduce Holiday Stress



The holidays are coming up and although many parents look forward to having their children home from school, they also find that after a few days it isn't so easy to have the kids underfoot all of the time. Here are a few ideas for maintaining sanity over the holidays...

Help kids plan or structure part of each day

With school age children, help them plan or structure part of their day, then let them figure out what they are going to do to entertain themselves for the rest of that day. Do not fall into the trap of seeing yourself as the resident entertainment committee.

Be clear about the rules from the start

Make your rules for the holidays clear as soon as the vacation starts.

Plan lots of one-on-one fun with your children

Plan lots of activities one on one with your children. This is a great time of year to bond and feel close to your family.

Limit Screen Time! Be Active! Get outside & play!

Dear Parents

As November comes to a close, we want to acknowledge all of the kindness and support that Pinewood has received over the past year.

Thank you to our Parent Advisory Council and to the Cranbrook Salvation Army. A huge thank you to Hot Shots for their kind donations for our Breakfast Club. We have also been fortunate to have a large number of individuals donate both healthy foods and money to the program this past year. Our Pinewood Music program is also the beneficiary of the popularity of the ongoing Locals

◆ Coffeehouse concert series this year. Thank you for your donation.

There are a few exciting events going on at Pinewood in December including the Canned Food Drive for house team points (December 12-16) for the Salvation Army; Red & Green Day and a swim on December 16. There is also a dance on December 22.

Just a quick reminder...There is absolutely no parking in the bus loop...not even Santa & his sleigh!



Please welcome our new staff members Mrs. Yadernuk, our new Teacher/ Librarian



Volleyball



The Volleyball season has come to a close. Thank you to the parents and the students for a very successful season. A special note of thanks to our coaches, Ms. Belisle, Ms. Rundberg & Mrs. Conroy. Pinewood's Girls' & Boys' teams developed good skill and sportsmanship. Basketball is underway and we look forward to seeing our mixed team play games in the new year.



Pinewood Virtues Program

The purpose of the Virtues Project is to develop a culture where respect, patience, self-discipline, tolerance and joy for learning are among the virtues our student's master. The character education of our students has become a priority. We wish to focus on making our school a caring community where all

students are encouraged to live by the virtues. Approximately every six weeks, we will focus on a different virtue. The virtue will be introduced at an assembly. Each classroom will display a copy of the focus virtue poster and discuss it.

Pinewood "ROCKS"

Student Expectations on the Playground

Students at Pinewood are expected to be **KIND**

- Include others
- No put-downs
- Play fair
- Be empathetic

Respectful, Organized, Cooperative, Kind, Safe



"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss.

December's Virtue is Courage

- Brave heart
- Do the right thing
- Take a risk
- Feel the fear and do it



Pinewood PAC News



The Pinewood Parent Advisory Committee ("PAC") meets the THIRD Wednesday of each month.

There will not be a PAC Meeting in December.

New Parents are **ALWAYS** Welcome!!!

The Next PAC Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 18

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Pinewood Library



Aboriginal Education Update

Mrs. R. James, Aboriginal Support Worker

Metis students from Pinewood in Grades 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Metis Flag raising at City Hall on November 18. Our Grade 4 students have experienced the Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump Edu-Kit in their class in November.

I would like to wish all of the students and their families Peace and Joy this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Each December, I like to include the following recipe from Mrs. Claus in our newsletter...

Reindeer Milk Candy

- 1 can Eagle Brand Milk
- 2 cups Brown Sugar
- ½ cup Butter
- 1 cup Golden Syrup

Stir all together over medium heat until it comes to a rolling boil. Pour into lightly greased cookie sheet, let cool, then cut into rectangles. Wrap in waxed paper and store in a cool place. Yum!



Nistamu (Nistamoo) when the sun goes down - December



Drink Water and Milk Most Often



When you are really thirsty, cold water is the number one thirst-quencher. There is also a reason that Pinewood School has a Milk Program. Kids need calcium to build strong bones, and milk is a great source of this mineral. How much do kids need? If you are younger than 9 years old, drink 2 cups of milk a day, or its equivalent. If you are over 9, aim for 3 cups of milk per day (or its equivalent). You can mix it up by having milk and some other calcium-rich dairy foods. Here is one combination:

- 2 cups (about half a liter) of low-fat or nonfat milk
- 1 slice cheddar cheese
- ½ cup (small container) of yogurt

You probably will want something other than milk or water once in a while over the holidays. Try to limit sugary drinks, like sodas, juice cocktails, and fruit punches. They contain a lot of added sugar. Sugar just adds calories, not important nutrients.

Curriculum Corner - December 2016 Mrs. Giles

Communicating Student Learning with Parents

The BC Ministry of Education is redesigning the curriculum and assessment to fit with the modern education system needed for today's world. These changes impact the way schools teach, assess and report on student learning.

In School District 5 and at Pinewood Elementary School, we are looking to communicate student learning with parents on an ongoing basis. This means there will be a change to the traditional report cards. We will make sure students can show what they have learned - and apply it. (We are still measuring success and standards will remain high).

Teachers will communicate student learning to parents at least four times during the school year. This may take the form of:

- Written reports
- Conferences
- Portfolios
- Online portfolios
- Letters or emails
- Documented phone calls



The purpose of these ongoing communications of student learning will be to describe what each student is expected to know, understand and be able to do in various areas of the BC curriculum.

At the end of the academic year (June), a summary report will also be sent home for each student.

What does this all mean for Pinewood Parents & Guardians?

It is important for parents and guardians to understand that reporting going forward will be different. Report cards, as you have known them, will no longer exist. This new assessment style is in line with the redesigned curriculum.

Parents are an important part of change and processes and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Happy
Holidays!



Mass Christmas Choir
Student choirs from each elementary school in Cranbrook perform at the Mass Christmas Choir at the Alliance Church on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm. This evening has become a family tradition over the years and is due to the dedication and hard work of our music and band teachers in School District #5. Thank you to Pinewood's Music Teacher, Mrs. Ackerman!

Student Progress Update

Progress Reports will go home before Christmas. Different teachers may send them on different days.



Did you know???

Emergent School Closures - Due to Bad Weather (Policy 3.28)

The Board of School Trustees expects that schools will remain open on all prescribed school days and during the approved school hours. The Board realizes that extreme and unusual circumstances may determine that the schools have to be closed. The decision to close schools shall be made only by the Superintendent of Schools or designate.





Self Esteem Boosters

There are two devices you can use to make praise more effective to boost a child's self-esteem:

- (1) praise in front of other people
- (2) using unexpected praise

These tactics can make your children feel very proud. They will appreciate you for your thoughtfulness and they will keep up the good work.

Winter Safety



The 4 P's of frostbite

- 1. Pink in the affected areas—this is the first sign of frostbite
- 2. Pain in the affected areas
- 3. Patches that are white and waxy—this is the skin drying
- 4. Pricklies - areas will feel numb



Check the Lost & Found. All items left will be taken to the Salvation Army on December 22.



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Home of the Cougars

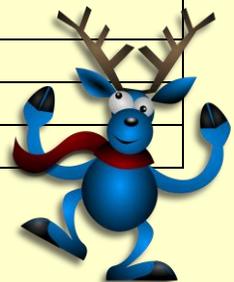


Insertions

- ◆ December & January Calendar
- ◆ December/January Milk
- ◆ PAC Hot Lunch Order
- ◆ Recipe
- ◆ Writing Samples

Alternate 2016/2017 Calendar

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) 2016-2017 Calendar	
Non-instructional Days (Pro-D)	December 5, February 24, April 10, May 5, June 9
Alternate Calendar Days schools not in session	November 25, February 10, April 28, May 19, June 2
Statutory Holidays	February 13, April 14 & 17, May 22
Winter Break	December 23-January 6
Spring Break	March 20-31



Other Important Dates for Pinewood

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|-----------------------|--|
| November 25 | Non Instructional Friday |
| December 5 | Pro-D (students not in session) |
| December 7 | Mass Christmas Choir (Alliance Church) |
| December 9 | Primary classes to Ft. Steele |
| December 12-16 | Food Drive for Salvation Army |
| December 15 | Pizza Hot Lunch |
| December 16 | Red & Green Day |
| December 16 | Swim in afternoon (Gr 1-6) |
| December 19 | Christmas Concert - Key City Theatre |
| December 22 | Dance in afternoon |
| December 23-January 8 | Winter Break |
| January 9 | Return to School |
| January 9 | Kindergarten registration begins |
| January 13 | PJ Day |

Remember Morning Supervision does not start until 8:16.



Monthly Affirmation...

I have courage. I am willing to try new things. I admit my mistakes and learn from them. I listen to my heart. I have courage to do the right thing.

