

# Pinewood Elementary School Newsletter

Encouraging Open Communication between School and Home

December 2017

Judi Poole, Principal



## Happy Holidays

'Tis the season around the corner! I cannot believe how the first two months of school have flown by! As a retrospective, when thinking back to the Remembrance Day Assembly, I would like to applaud our student leaders for their confidence and presence and of course strong public speaking skills. Kudos to you!

I would like to share with you two changes that have occurred recently with our staff. We welcome to Pinewood, David Flegel, our new teacher /librarian. David is a passionate educator, who has a history of being a leader and early adopter of cutting edge pedagogies. What this means is that David's skills will be helping Pinewood to continue to explore and navigate the new B.C. curriculum as he helps teachers and students research and build upon literacy skills in the school. Welcome to Pinewood, David.

Our second piece of news is the announcement of Mrs. Colleen Maletta's retirement. With over twenty years of teaching experience, Mrs. Maletta has certainly helped to inspire many students who have had her as a teacher. Having taught at both Pinewood Elementary and other schools in the Southeast Kootenay School District, Mrs. Maletta has left a legacy of reading, writing and a joy of learning to many students along the way. We certainly wish Mrs. Maletta the very best in her next adventures, wherever they may take her!

Last but not least, I would like to extend to all Pinewood Elementary school members, a safe and relaxing time with family and friends during the holidays. Enjoy what this time may be to you, be it eating with family and friends, taking advantage of the beautiful outdoors or simply staying at home and reading books and completing puzzles and board games. Whatever this time means to you, I wish you peace and wellness and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Yours in Education,

*Judi Poole*  
Principal

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Mass Christmas Choir -December 6 at 7:00 pm (Alliance Church)
- ◆ Pro-D - December 4 (Students Not in Session)
- ◆ December 8 - Hat Day
- ◆ Canned Food Drive for House Team Points (Dec 11-15)
- ◆ Hot Lunch - December 14
- ◆ Winter Dance - December 15 (1:15 pm)
- ◆ Student Progress Reports December 15
- ◆ Pinewood Christmas Concert - December 19 (1:15) in Gym
- ◆ Red & Green Day & Swim in pm December 21

### 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.

There are exciting events going on at Pinewood in December. These events

include a Fun Day on December 1; Hat Day on December 8 and the Canned Food Drive for house team points (December 11-15) for the Salvation Army. We will also be hosting a Pinewood Christmas concert in the gymnasium on the afternoon of December 19.

On the last day before the Winter Break we have Red & Green Day and a swim.

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



Pinewood Hoodies & T-Shirts will be in before the Winter Break.



## 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, & Mrs. Conroy. Thank you to Ms. Shields for being our referee and to Mrs. Oestreich and our volunteer scorekeepers. Pinewood's Girls' & Boys' teams played strong games and developed good skills and sportsmanship.

## 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 tags. 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 Respect

- Expect Respect
- R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
- Respect Yourself. Respect Others
- Respect Our Planet



## 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 17

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Pinewood Library



## Aboriginal Education Update

Mrs. R. James, Aboriginal Support Worker

Metis Week Celebrations included Metis Flag Raising at Mount Baker Secondary School on November 14 and the Metis Kitchen Party on November 16 at Parkland Middle School.

Our Grade 4 students have experienced the Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump Edu-Kit in their class on November 15.

We are starting a Therapeutic Paws Reading Program at Pinewood on November 20. Ace, the Therapy Dog, will be reading with students. We are excited to welcome Ace and his trainer, Margie Leopold, to our school.

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

**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 2017 Mrs. Poole

### Competencies in Action

We continue to examine and focus on the core competencies of Critical and Creative thinkers this year.

- What does it look like to be a critical thinker?
- What habits of mind do creative and critical thinkers possess?

In order for our students to start thinking this way, they need to have such a framework surrounding them in forms of questions so that they can start responding to them, hence building upon these thinking skills.

Recently, our Grade 3 class celebrated and shared with another class, a biodiversity project, which entailed describing habitats and adaptations of organisms. The students who were the guest audience posed questions such as, "How would you improve your project, if you were to do it again?" Such questions are the beginning of creating a scientist's mindset. Asking another peer how s/he would change and modify the next iteration of a product is laying the groundwork of creating the critical and creative habit of mind.

Kudos to these students and teachers who are creating the new narrative of what are the Critical and Creative core competencies.

### Student Progress Update

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 and 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.



**Mass Christmas Choir**  
Student choirs from each elementary school in Cranbrook perform at the Mass Christmas Choir at the Alliance Church on Wednesday, December 6 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!

**Kindergarten  
Registration for  
2018/2019  
opens  
February 1,  
2018**



**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 21.



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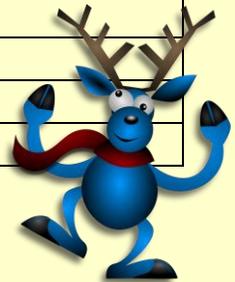
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Home of the Cougars

### Alternate 2017/2018 Calendar

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) 2017-2018 Calendar	
Non-instructional Days (Pro-D)	December 4, February 23, April 16, May 4, June 1
Alternate Calendar Days schools not in session	November 24, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 18, June 15
Statutory Holidays	February 12, March 30, April 2, May 21
Winter Break	December 22-January 5
Spring Break	March 19-29



### Other Important Dates for Pinewood

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| November 24           | Non Instructional Friday               |
| December 4            | Pro-D (students not in session)        |
| December 6            | Mass Christmas Choir (Alliance Church) |
| December 8            | Hat Day                                |
| December 11-15        | Food Drive for Salvation Army          |
| December 14           | Pizza Hot Lunch                        |
| December 15           | Student Progress Reports home          |
| December 15           | School Dance in the afternoon          |
| December 19           | Christmas Concert - Pinewood Gym       |
| December 21           | Red & Green Day                        |
| December 21           | Swim in afternoon (Gr 1-6)             |
| December 22           | Non-Instructional Friday               |
| December 22-January 7 | Winter Break                           |
| January 8             | Return to School                       |
| January 12            | PJ Day                                 |

Remember Morning Supervision does not start until 8:16.



### Insertions

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



### Monthly Affirmation...

I am respectful. I treat others and myself as we deserve to be treated. I show courtesy to everyone. I learn from the wisdom of my elders.