



EVANS ELEMENTARY

Mission Statement: As a school community, Evans Elementary will develop students who are *Respectful, Responsible and Ready to learn.*

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December 5, 2007

Dear Parents:

The month of December signifies many things – the successful end of the first term of school for the majority of our students; the beginning of a brand new term and a time to refocus for a few; but most significantly of all, it is the beginning of the Christmas season.

Music was in the air on Friday as we “Decked the Halls” with our school now having a decidedly festive air. Our children are in the midst of intense practicing in preparation for our Christmas concert. They are also working feverishly to wrap up projects in the classroom as they eagerly anticipate the Christmas break and the festivities associated with this time of year.

This time of year is also a time to reflect on the past 12 months. We have all individually had our trials and tribulations as well as our joys and successes this past year. Looking at the world around us, I can safely say that we are extremely fortunate for where we live and raise our children. This is a community that genuinely cares for each other and is always ready to step forward and support those that are having challenges in their lives. This year, our children will once again be involved in supporting a canned food drive at the school (may explain why you will suddenly misplace items that you are sure you had put in the cupboard a few days earlier). This year, with the support of our PAC, the food items collected will be going directly to those families in our school community that are experiencing challenges at this time of year. We will also simultaneously have a “Winter Coat Drive” to help those in need during the winter months. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity towards both these worthwhile projects.



Finally, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to you, the parents for your support and enthusiastic response over the past twelve months. I am enjoying my new position at Evans immensely and I hope that I have been open, approachable, understanding and fair when issues have arisen and been dealt with. I am looking forward to the remainder of the school year as together we make our school an exciting, risk-free, proactive learning environment for your children, our students. But, for right now, as the Christmas season unfolds, my wish is that everyone simply takes the time to enjoy the season and all that it brings.

Gabe

December Dates to Remember:

Friday December 7 – Vedder Middle School Visit

In the morning, our grade 6 students will be visiting Vedder Middle School to watch a drama production put on by the middle school students. In the afternoon, the Vedder Middle School Grade 9 Band will be putting on a performance for all of our students. Parents are also welcome to attend and get into the Christmas Spirit.

Monday, December 10 – Christmas Lunch

On Monday our entire student population and staff will be treated to a Christmas lunch put on by our Parents Advisory Council. To ensure that all of our students have an opportunity to sit and enjoy this treat, they will be served in two seatings. If you are able to volunteer 1-2 hours on Monday, please contact either Kelly (604-795-7299) or Miriam (604-824-8912). Your help is urgently needed and will be appreciated.



Tuesday December 11 - Intermediate Awards Assembly – 8:30 a.m.

First term Report Cards were issued last Thursday and I am pleased to see the progress that all of our students have made academically and socially. This recognition assembly is an opportunity for our school to recognize the academic achievements of our intermediate students. Students will be recognized for A Honors, B Honors and G Effort in all curricular areas. Please feel free to join us in celebrating our students' successes.

Wednesday December 12 – Wednesday December 19 – Canned Food Drive

At this time of year there are many families in our own Evans Community who find themselves in dire straits. Our food drive this year is an attempt to help those families that are in need and would greatly benefit from some assistance during this time period. Students are encouraged to bring a minimum of one item to donate to the food drive and help meet our goal of 700 items. A special thank you must go to our PAC Executive who have volunteered to divide the items into Christmas hampers on December 20th and deliver them to families in our community.

Wednesday December 12 – Wednesday December 19 – Coats For Kids

If you have any winter coats, snow pants / suits (children or adult sizes) that are in good condition, and are no longer needed in your household, please consider bringing them to the our school during this time period. We will be collecting these coat donations and we will ensure that they are given to the families/organizations who would benefit from these donations. Coats can be dropped off at the office over this one week period.

Monday December 17 – Little Caesar's One-Day Fund-raiser

On Monday, December 17th, the Little Caesar's outlet in Sardis is donating 10% of all their sales that day to our school. Please think about having pizza for dinner and helping our school at the same time.



Thursday December 20 – Christmas Concert – 12: 30 p.m. and 7: 00 p.m.

Our students and teachers are presently preparing for our Christmas Extravaganza. The format we chose this year is a "variety concert" with each participating class showcasing a talent they are particularly proud of. Please join us for an afternoon and an evening of singing, acting, colorful costumes and more. We will be presenting the concert twice for parents and relatives – at 12:30 p.m. and 7: 00 p.m. on December 20th. We hope that one or both of these times work for you.

Other Items of Interest:

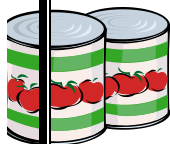
Lost and Found

Has your son or daughter come home missing a shoe, a pair of pants, sweatshirt, jacket, a glove or two? Have you wondered where these articles of clothing may have gone? If you have, please come by the office next week and browse through our lost and found items. I am overwhelmed with the number of items that we have collected over the last few weeks and I am sure you will appreciate getting these lost items back. Items of clothing that are left behind after next week will be taken to the Salvation Army.

Mother Nature

Living where we do, inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high winds can strike during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions and general condition of buildings. While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to tune into radio station **STAR FM 98.3**, The Weather Network (cable channel 82) or website www.sd33.bc.ca to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the school district. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call the school, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an



absence will not affect a perfect attendance record. In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.

School Planning Council

Our School Planning Council is charged with the responsibility of looking at school performance results and developing an annual growth plan for Evans Elementary School. This year the elected parent representatives, on the council are Mr. Rob Ayer (Cailey and Josh's dad), Mrs. Tracy Gray (Eric's mom) and Mrs. Miriam McCracken (Connor and Sean's mom). I am looking forward to working with this group of dedicated individuals as we put together a plan for success for all of our students. Our first meeting will be held in early January.

Exceeding Expectations

The following students were recognized in November for making a difference in our school. Each student received 2 tickets to a Chilliwack Bruins hockey game, courtesy of Scotiabank. Andrew Ambers, Zachary Baldwin, Farah Boudreau, Brenda Brickwood, Cassandra Coles, Lindsay English, Rhys Jones, Lauren Kean, Madeline Kean, Amber Loessin, Kyle Maskall, Sara Nam, Emileigh Pearson, Madisson Phelan, Dhillon Sahota, Ashley Schiewe, Hafsa Shaukat, Caleb Steegstra, Grace Wetmore, Johnny Zhao. Thank you to Scotiabank and the Chilliwack Bruins for supporting our students this year.

We Are Proud of Your Accomplishments

Every year, elementary schools are notified of how their former students are doing at the Middle School in Grade 7. We are proud of how well our former students are progressing and we wish to extend our congratulations to these students who have achieved 'A' and 'B' Honours in their first term at Vedder Middle School:

'A' Honours: Kelsey Graham, Haley Lightle, Louis Retief, Callum Roy, Mariam Shaukat, Justin Siah, Abeni Steegstra, Rebecca Sturm, Courtney Wass.

'B' Honours: Cristie Butler, Michael Huber, Kory Langlois, Nancy Werner.

Well done everyone!!!!

Christmas Break

Friday December 21st is the last day of school for our students prior to the Christmas Break. School will be back in session on Monday, January 7th, 2008. We wish everyone the happiest of Christmases and a New Year filled with wonder, learning and prosperity.

Please see notice on last page

Please fill in the information on the last page and have it returned to school as soon as possible. We want to put your wishes for this information first so we can serve you better.

