

DIAMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy Groundhog Day! We were very fortunate to have an extremely mild winter; however, we had an abrupt shift of arctic air on the weekend! The results of the groundhogs seeing their shadows were mixed, with two predicting an early Spring and the other two predicting a longer winter! Let's hope that the groundhogs who did not see their shadows were more accurate and would indicate an early spring!

Please check the February calendar attached to this newsletter for upcoming school field trips, special events and other important dates to remember.

Student Re-registration for 2019-20

Current student re-registration packages for the 2019-20 school year will be sent out this week. Applications for new students, including siblings of current students, will also be available online soon.

Hot Lunch Day

Pita Pit is the special lunch for the month, and it will be held on Friday, February 22nd. An order form is attached to the newsletter.

B.C. Family Day Holiday

The school will be closed on Monday, February 18th for the B.C. Family Day holiday.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Tuesday, February 5th is Chinese New Year, the year of the pig! In celebration of this occasion all students from Kindergarten to Grade Six are welcome to wear red, yellow or gold clothing on this day; otherwise, they can wear the regular dress code.

100th Day Celebration – Kindergarten, Grades One & Two

On Tuesday, February 12th, the students in Kindergarten, Grades One and Two will celebrate the 100th day that they have been in school. There will be many fun-filled activities based around one hundred and a notice with further details will be sent home next week.

Valentine's Day

On Thursday, February 14th, the students will be participating in Valentine's activities. They may choose to include red or pink in their clothing on this day or they may opt instead to wear their usual school uniform clothing. The students will be participating in special friendship activities to celebrate this occasion, and they are welcome to bring in a snack to share with the class. ***Please note that all students will require a regular lunch on this day!***

If your child intends to give out any Valentine cards, we ask that in keeping with the school's philosophy of not leaving anyone out, the students give to everyone in the class. For your convenience we have included a class list. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

'Media Wars' Workshop – Grade Six

In conjunction with their Social Studies unit, the Grade Six students will be participating in a workshop called 'Media Wars' conducted by the Langley Centennial Museum on Tuesday, February 19th. The form for this workshop is included.

The Great Escape Excursion – Grades Four & Five

The Grades Four and Five classes will be enjoying a fun excursion to The Great Escape in Langley on Thursday, February 21st. A permission form, along with additional information, will be forwarded next week.

Science World Field Trips – Kindergarten & Grade One / Grades Two and Three

On Wednesday, February 27th the Kindergarten and Grade One classes will be participating in exciting workshops at Science World in order to enhance their Science curriculum. The Grades Two and Three students will be visiting Science World the following day on Thursday, February 28th. Details and a permission form will be sent home later in the month.

Professional Day

There will be no classes for students on Monday, February 25th, as there is a professional day scheduled.

Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day – Kindergarten to Grade Six

The annual pink shirt anti-bullying day is scheduled this year on Wednesday, February 27th. Thousands of people in seven continents in over 75 countries have participated in *Anti-Bullying Awareness Day* by wearing pink to school or work. To show our support, students and staff at Diamond School are encouraged to wear pink on this day in place of their usual dress code. More information about Pink Shirt Day can be found at <http://pinkshirtday.ca/about>.

The 2019 focus is on cyberbullying. The dawn of social media brought with it a whole new way to interact, communicate, and even bully. But in this digital world where filtered photos and crafted messages can be posted in an instant, it often takes more time and effort to say something mean than it does to say something nice. Kindness requires no manipulation, no focusing on the negatives, and no filtering of yourself. It's simply, truly nice. For social media users, we want them to **THINK** before the post. We want them to ask themselves if it is: **True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and KIND.**

Bullying is a sad reality for too many children and adults in British Columbia. It happens in more than just schools; it happens in workplaces, homes, and over the internet. Creating Pink Shirt Day is a way of raising public awareness and taking a stand against bullying. *Wear something pink on this day and take a stand against bullying!*

Early Morning Drop Off

Kindergarten to Grade Two Parents: If you are dropping off your child before 8:30 am, please walk them into the school and ensure the teacher is in the classroom. If the teacher is out of the room preparing for the day (i.e. using the photocopier, gathering materials), stay with your child until the teacher returns in order to ensure their safety. Please feel free to come in and speak with the teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation!

Cold Weather Reminders

Since the weather has been a lot colder, it is important for students to come to school with a coat, as well as a school sweater for wearing inside the classes. Gloves or mittens are also advisable to send along if they plan to go outside at recess or lunch. *Please note that students must have boots if it has snowed and they want to play in the field.*

As cold and flu season is upon us, it would be greatly appreciated if parents would *send a box of tissues* (Kleenex) to your child's homeroom teacher to add to the classroom supply. Thank you to those parents who have already done so!

Parking Lot Traffic Flow

We are still noticing a lot of cars who forget to pull ahead sufficiently when dropping off and picking up students, which then results in traffic backing up on Highway #10. We ask that you be considerate and follow the rules of the parking lot in order to make it safer for everyone!

Please do not hesitate to come in any time to discuss ideas, concerns or questions since parent feedback is very important to us.

Diamond School Staff