



Cinnabar Valley Elementary

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January, 2010

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back. We hope everyone had a great Winter Break.

SALVATION ARMY /LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who donated dried and tinned goods to the Salvation Army/Loaves and Fishes food hamper.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registrations for September 2010 are now being taken at our school. If you have or know of a child who was born in 2005 and will be five years of age before January 1, 2011, he/she will be eligible for Kindergarten in the Fall. Birth Certificates must be presented at time of registration. Please be sure to include your child's Care Card Number on the registration form. To obtain assured space in your catchment-area school, you must register by June 15, 2009.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

We have had many parents ask us about whether full-day Kindergarten will be offered at our school next fall. The Ministry of Education has announced that full-day Kindergarten will be offered in about one-half of the schools in B.C. starting in September 2010, with full-day Kindergarten to be offered in all schools in subsequent years. It has not yet been determined which schools in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District will be offering full-day Kindergarten.

- If your child is registered in our school for September 2010 and our school is selected to offer full-day Kindergarten, your child will automatically be enrolled in the full-day program for September 2010.
- If your child is registered in our school for September 2010 and our school is not selected to offer full-day Kindergarten in September 2010, your child will be enrolled in a half-day program.

Please note that there may be very few, if any, opportunities for schools with full-day Kindergarten to accept students from outside of their school catchment areas. For more information on out-of-catchment applications, please see the school district registration information at www.sd68.bc.ca.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

January 27 is Family Literacy Day. This event was developed by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation to encourage families to read and learn together on a daily basis. Here are some ideas that your family might like to try.

Family Literacy Activities:

Literacy is more than books. There are several ways to keep your literacy skills sharp – all it takes is practicing for 15 minutes every day. Reading, writing, playing a game, following a recipe, or even singing a song all help prepare children for challenges ahead and sharpen skills for adults. Here are some activity ideas to practice your literacy skills:

The Count: Have your child count out the change required to make a purchase. Reinforce the importance of math in everyday life.

Daffy Dictionary: Choose a word from the dictionary and write it on a piece of paper with one correct definition, then make up two more definitions that are incorrect but 'sound' like they might be accurate. See who can guess the correct definition. Teams can play this game, with members coming up with the daffy definitions together and also guessing the other team's correct definition.

Family Game Night: Set up a family board game night where a different game is played each week. Have each member of the family involved in reading instructions and game cards and keeping score.

Hi Ho the Merry-o: Engage in sing-along sessions with your children.

Karaoke Night: Rent a Karaoke machine and invite the neighbours over for a party. Not only is this activity fun, but it also encourages reading, singing and family involvement.

Map out your trip: Have your kids create the map for your next road trip so that they can navigate by reading signs and billboards. Create a trip journal.

Sharpen your mind: Do crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches on your lunch break.

Sous Chef: Following recipes is a great way to improve both reading and math skills. Ask your children to read the instructions out loud and help measure the ingredients when making a treat for the family.

Surf the Internet together to find great websites that support your hobbies and interests.

Write your own adventure: Write a short story as a family with alternative endings written by each family member.

“You’ve Got Mail”: With adult supervision, have children go online and find a suitable electronic postcard to customize and send to a loved one.

For more fun activities to practice your literacy skills, visit http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy/tipsandactivities

In order to celebrate Family Literacy Day at Cinnabar Valley School, all students will share a special reading time with their buddy class. Our main focus is encouraging the idea that reading can be a social activity that spans all ages and warms the heart during this dark winter season. We are encouraging students to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed toy to emphasize the comfort that comes from reading.

SCHOOL SKATE

On January 13th, Grades 1 to 7 will be going skating at the Nanaimo Ice Centre. Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring this event.

Please Note: Helmets are mandatory so if your child has one please send it along with them.

Students will not be allowed to use the vending machines.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES FOR GETTING FIT

10,000 steps a day.

It is recommended that everyone walk or run at least 10,000 steps a day. What a great way to use your math skills while keeping fit!

Buy a simple pedometer and have each



member of the family wear it for a day and then compare notes on how many steps you walked. Talk about how you could gradually increase that number. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

When possible take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator.

Walk instead of driving, especially for short distances.

Don't park too close to your destination.

When you go to the mall or the grocery store, park far away from the store.

Take the family on a walk.

Make a habit of taking a family walk in the neighborhood, in or around a park or to a destination (the mail box, school, a friend's house). Or incorporate one of these types of transport into your neighborhood tour: roller skates, rollerblades, bicycles or skateboards. (Be sure to wear helmets and the necessary padding.)

Take a walk or run on a local school track.

Count your laps!

Go on a treasure hunt in your neighborhood.

Compile a list of "simple treasures" to hunt for on your walk: a leaf with beautiful colors, a shiny penny, a can to be recycled. Or make a list of things to notice as you walk: Find a house with a red door. Look for a specific kind of car parked in a driveway. What else might you hunt for? Have everyone in your family contribute "treasures" to hunt for on your list.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

Occasionally, schools are temporarily closed on short notice for emergency reasons. A heavy snowfall is the most frequent reason for emergency school closure, but individual schools can also be closed because of a power outage or furnace breakdown.

Parents should be aware that all schools, or individual schools, could be closed due to an emergency at any time.

Please listen for school closure announcements on the local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) Also, please check the school district website (sd68.bc.ca) for updates.

BOARD SEEKS FACILITIES FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK

The Board of Education is seeking feedback on a draft facilities framework which outlines the guidelines the Board would follow when creating its capital plan. The capital plan outlines the district's priorities for new construction and renovation of schools.

The draft framework can be viewed on the district's website at www.sd68.bc.ca. To provide feedback on the framework:

- Mail a letter to the Board of Education, School District 68, 395 Wakesiah Ave., Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 3K6 or fax to (250) 741-5309.
- Submit an online feedback form, available on the district website www.sd68.bc.ca.
- Drop in to discuss the framework with trustees in an informal, open-house format.
 - Saturday, January 16 – McGirr Elementary drop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 12 noon
 - Saturday, January 16 – Chase River Elementary drop in anytime between 2 and 4 p.m.

Please note that all feedback is due by January 20.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 27	Pajama Day – Family Literacy Day
February 22	District Pro-D Day
February 23	Implementation Day

March 4	Spring Concert 1:30 and 6:30 p.m.
March 5	Last day of classes before Spring vacation
March 15	School reopens
April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 26	Implementation Day
May 24	Victoria Day
June 28	Last day of classes
June 29	Implementation Day
June 30	Administrative Day

NEWSLETTERS & NOTICES

In order to reduce the amount of paperwork being sent home, we are in the process of creating a database so that our newsletters and notices can be sent to parents and guardians via email. We realize this may not always be possible or preferred by some families. We are more than happy to send your child home with a paper copy. If you would like to receive the newsletters and notices by email please fill out your information below and return to the office. Thank you for the email addresses that have already been received and entered into our database.

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent email Address: _____



School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
Today's Learner – Tomorrow's Future

Student Registration for September 2010
Starts Monday, January 4, 2010

Important Information for All New Registrations

If this is the first time you have registered your child in a Nanaimo-Ladysmith school, you must bring the following document with you:

- Your child's birth certificate
- Proof of your address. This can be a credit card statement, utility bill, mortgage statement, municipal tax bill, or rental agreement with your name and address, or a notary-authorized letter.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Children who will be five years of age before January 1, 2011, may enter school in September 2010. You may defer your child's enrolment until September 2011.

You are encouraged to register your child at your neighbourhood (catchment) school as soon as you can. Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of address. To obtain an assured space in your catchment-area school, you must register by June 15, 2010.

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- If your child's school is selected to offer full-day Kindergarten, your child will automatically be enrolled in the full-day program for September 2010.
- If your child's school is not selected to offer full-day Kindergarten in September 2010, your child will be enrolled in a half-day program.

Please note that there will be very few, if any, opportunities for schools with full-day Kindergarten to accept students from outside of their school catchment areas. (*see out-of-catchment information below*)

GRADES 1 TO 12 STUDENTS NEW TO DISTRICT 68 SCHOOLS

Do you live in School District 68 but your child has not previously attended a school in the district? Please register your child at your neighbourhood (catchment) school as soon as possible. To obtain an assured space in your catchment-area school, you must register by June 15, 2010.

NEW KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS

In-district and out-of-district French Immersion registration will begin Monday, March 1 until Friday, March 5, 2010 and continue Monday, March 15 until Friday, March 19, 2010 at the French Immersion school of your choice. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to students who have a sibling already registered in the school for September 2010 classes. Where space permits, new out-of-district applications for Early French Immersion will be accepted after consideration of all in-district applications received by June 15, 2010.

NEW OUT-OF-CATCHMENT APPLICATIONS

The application process will start Monday, January 4, 2010 and continue until Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Please

complete an application form at the school you wish to attend. Opportunities for out-of-catchment placements will be limited. Priority will be given to those who have a sibling already registered at the requested school. All other requests will be honoured in the order in which they are received.

STUDENTS WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT – CONTINUING AND NEW

All students who reside outside of School District 68 but currently attend a school in the district must confirm their registration for next year by submitting a form to the current school of attendance by Wednesday, March 31, 2010. New applications for out-of-district students will be accepted at the school you wish to attend until March 31, 2010.

NEW ELEMENTARY LEARN-AT-HOME STUDENTS

New registration for in-district and out-of-district elementary Learn-at-Home students will begin Monday, March 1 until Friday, March 5, 2010 and continue Monday, March 15 until Friday, March 19, 2010 at Departure Bay Elementary. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to those who have a sibling already registered in the program for September 2010. Where space permits, new out-of-district applications for Learn-at-Home K-7, will be considered after all in-district applications received by June 15, 2010 are accommodated.

NEW REGISTRATION FOR ACADEMIES

New registration for the soccer, hockey, performing arts, and jazz academies will begin Monday, March 1 until Friday, March 5, 2010 and continue Monday, March 15 until Friday, March 19, 2010 at the following schools:

- Dover Bay Secondary – Grades 8 - 12 Performing Arts Academy (*Applicants will be notified of audition dates*)
- Wellington Secondary – Grades 11 and 12 Jazz Academy
- Woodlands Secondary - Grades 8 - 12 Soccer and Hockey Academies (*Subject to fee approval process*)

Where space permits, new out-of-district applications for the academies will be considered after all in-district applications received by June 15, 2010 are accommodated.

For more information, visit the school district website:
<http://www.sd68.bc.ca>