



## ARTHUR HATTON ELEMENTARY

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<http://ahatton.sd73.bc.ca>

December 2016



### Administrators' Message

It's hard to believe that December has arrived so quickly! I'm pretty sure that when I went to bed last night it was still September! This is a short month, with lots of things happening at school, and students and staff alike will be ready to have a restful Christmas break. School finishes this year on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, and resumes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January (which is a Tuesday). While we all enjoy some down time over the holiday, the staff at Arthur Hatton Elementary School would like to wish all of our school families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all the children back in January with renewed energy and enthusiasm!

### Christmas Concert

The sounds of Christmas are starting to be heard in the hallways and classrooms! This year we are presenting two afternoon performances of our Christmas Concert. The performances will both take place in the afternoon, beginning at 1:15. Due to numbers and Fire Regulations, we must limit the bodies in the gym, and have come up with this plan to split our audience fairly and evenly. On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, parents with last names beginning with the letters A-M are invited to the performance, and on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, we will host parents with last names beginning with the letters N-Z. We realize that this system is not perfect, but ask that you please honor it, as we have to follow number limits set for us by the Fire Commissioner for the safety of all involved. We hope to see everyone either Wednesday or Thursday!

### Cold Weather Clothing

A reminder to parents about helping to make sure their children are properly dressed for outside weather. Winter has just begun, and there is still a lot of cold to come! Students need to be prepared to be outside during parts of the day, and it helps to have boots, warm coats, gloves and hats. We recognize that sometimes providing this clothing can be difficult for some of our families, but would like to point out that if your kids are attending an SD73 school and your family is struggling to provide clothing for your children there is an organization in Kamloops that can help.



Found4kids collects clothing left in SD73 lost and found bins and washes and organizes them, then makes them available for FREE to families that can use a helping hand. The program is available through a referral system from any SD73 school. So, if you need some help with winter clothing for your children, please see Mrs. Piggan or Mrs. Bradstock in the office for a referral slip. In any case, please send your children to school dressed in the most appropriate clothing you have for the weather. Thank you for your help with this matter!

### Lost and Found

There are a great many items in our lost and found, which are currently being displayed on tables in front of the gym. If you are in the school, and know there are items missing from your child's wardrobe, please stop by and check out the tables. All items will be packed up at the end of the term and sent to Found4Kids. Please have a look through them before school ends for the Christmas break.

### Library Report

There will not be any book sign outs during the last week of school before Christmas break. We are looking for all library books to be returned, at the very latest, by Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. If your child has books out from early in the fall, please make an extra effort to find and return these books so others may borrow them.

### Head Lice

Over the winter months, head lice outbreaks tend to occur as children wear (and share!) hats and scarves. Please make it a part of your routine to check your children's heads weekly for signs of lice (adult lice, nits attached to the hair follicles, and red areas behind the ears and on the back of the neck from scratching). If you do notice any live lice or nits, begin treatment immediately. There are a variety of treatments available for purchase at the local pharmacy. Reminders to students about NOT sharing hats, toques, scarves, etc., will help prevent the spread. Thanks for your support in this matter!

### Drug and Alcohol Parent Info Night

Brock Middle School is hosting a parent night and have extended an invitation for all Arthur Hatton Elementary parents to attend. The topic is Drug and Alcohol Awareness. Constable Sofie Winkels will be presenting information gathered from the Youth Advisory Council, as well as about trends in Kamloops regarding drugs and alcohol. She will discuss warning signs and effects of drug use. Angela Lawrence and Luvanda Dagenais, the School District Drug and Alcohol Counselors, will be present to talk about their services, community resources and protective factors. The meeting will go from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

### Grocery Receipts

Please save your receipts when you shop at the Independent Grocery store, and bring them into the school to our drop bins by the office and in the Primary hallway.

We are very lucky that for every \$5000 in receipt amounts that we are able to collect, the store will donate \$20 in grocery cards to the school. This helps us to run school-wide and classroom programs that help with such things as providing food for our students. The more you can help, the more we can do! Thank-you!

## **Report Cards: Advice for Parents**

A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride: it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for you to communicate with your children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social-emotional growth.

### **Focus on the Positive**

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on the positive aspects of the report. This is not always an easy task. For some, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or citizenship grade, or praising an academic accomplishment or a perfect attendance record. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

### **Ask the Right Questions**

Be careful not to overreact to low grades, or grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Instead, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned:

- Was the work too difficult?
- Could the pace of the class be too fast or too slow?
- Does your child complete all class work or home work and ask questions when issues arise?

The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home all materials necessary to complete them. Does your child have a specific nightly study time (Sunday through Thursday) when they can not be disturbed? If not, this would be a great time to establish one! If so, is it long enough? Does your child have a specific place to study where resources (including someone to answer questions) are available and distractions are minimized? Is your child completing all homework or studying on a nightly basis, or are the assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

### **The next step**

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met. Type the 'official plan' and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder or planner, and forward another to the teacher. Involving your child gives them ownership and importance in this process, and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child. As parents and teachers, we want the best for children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of A's and B's brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job they can. Encourage them to succeed, and measure their progress in realistic terms, letting them know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure their growth, and the most advanced child can measure their progress. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success.

*Adapted from Pearson Education (2000)*

## **Have Your Say on Report Cards**

On Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, the School District will be holding a parent meeting regarding reporting to parents. The Ministry of Education wants parents to share how they want to learn about their children's progress from K- Grade 9. All parents who would like to have input into this important decision are invited to attend. This will take place at the Henry Grube Education Centre from 5pm to 8pm. Please mark this important event on your calendars!

### **Safe Arrival**

Please remember that all student absences and late arrivals must to be reported by 8:30 am by calling 1-844-350-2647 or by visiting [ktsd.schoolconnects.com](http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com). Please do not call the school directly. All absences or late arrivals that have not been reported before 8:30 am will initiate the School District's safe arrival system to call home and cell phone numbers up to 5 times until a parent is reached and a response is given.



"Working together  
for quality  
public education."

School District No. 73  
(Kamloops/Thompson)  
Student Absence Reporting

To report your child's absence  
please call this toll free number  
before 8:30am

**1-844-350-2647**  
or visit [ktsd.schoolconnects.com](http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com)



Safe ARRIVAL

## **News from the PAC**

As of now, the PAC has successfully completed our Gary's Meat, Delicious Chocolate Bars, and Craft Fair fundraisers and we are happy to pass along that, with your support, we have raised almost \$1300.

It was a pleasure to see so many Arthur Hatton families at the craft fair and we want to send a special thanks to those that spent part of their day volunteering at our concession. Without you, events like this could not happen. We can't forget to mention Mrs. Bradstock for devoting her day to be at the school and helping with the fair, Mrs. Gilbert for her assistance with table registrations and phone calls, and Mrs. Piggin for her guidance and help with approvals. Thanks again it was a wonderful event.

A reminder to everyone that the Panago pizza lunch will be happening on Thursday December 8th.

PAC will be running a raffle basket draw at both of the Christmas Concert performances. Please make sure to stop at our table on your way in, show your support, and buy a ticket to win the basket!

The next PAC meeting will be held in the new year on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the school. Hope to see you there!

Thanks so much!!

Angela Moss  
PAC Chairperson

## Upcoming Events

- December 5<sup>th</sup> - Non Instructional Day for students - Professional Development Day for staff
- December 8<sup>th</sup> - PAC Panago Pizza Lunch
- December 14<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Concert:  
Afternoon performance at 1:15 pm: **Parents with last name beginning with letters A-M**
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert:  
Afternoon performance at 1:15 pm: **Parents with last names beginning with letters N-Z**
- December 16<sup>th</sup> –
  - First Term Report Cards Home
  - Spirit Day: Christmas Hats/Red and Green Day
  - Last day of classes for 2016
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> – School resumes after Christmas Break

**Wishing everyone an enjoyable holiday break. Looking forward to seeing each of you in 2016!**



## BOARD NOTES

### *From the Board Meeting of: November 21, 2016*

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
  1. Finance and Planning Committee Report;
  2. Policy Committee Report;
  3. Notice of Motion – Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct;
  4. Notice of Motion – Policy 612.1 Student Dress Code.
2. The Board enjoyed ‘Presentations of Learning in Elementary Math Classrooms’ by District Numeracy Coordinator Amanda Russett, Teacher Lisa Carr, and two grade 3 students from David Thompson Elementary School.
3. The Board received an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination presentation from Graham Specht, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Kamloops Immigrant Services. The Board signed an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Declaration to show support for programs and initiatives promoting diversity and inclusivity in our communities.
4. The Board approved the District’s 2016-2017 Interim School Learning Plan process and the school staff development focus areas for all schools.
5. The Board received and reviewed a report on the 2016-2017 graduation ceremony schedule.
6. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the 2015-2016 CommunityLINK Funding and Information Report;
7. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the Enrolment Comparison Report for their information.
8. The Board received an update from Secretary-Treasurer Stretch on Ministry of Education Rural Education Strategies.

*The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday December 12, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.*