



ARTHUR HATTON ELEMENTARY

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October 2016



Administrators' Message

Parent-teacher communication plays a big role in helping your child to have a successful academic career. Since parents and teachers each know different aspects of a child's personality, they must work together to solve problems or celebrate gains. Unfortunately, because teachers spend their time in the classroom with students, it may not always be easy to get in touch with your child's teacher. Knowing some of the **Dos** and **Don'ts** of parent-teacher communication can help you make that connection.

Keeping Parent-Teacher Communication Lines Open

- **Don't:** Wait until there's a problem to get in touch with your child's teacher.
- **Do:** Make an effort to introduce yourself in person, in writing, or over the phone, as a way to begin a good parent-teacher relationship.
- **Don't:** Feel as though you're being a nuisance. Whether you have concerns, questions or just simply want to say "Great job," it's perfectly all right to get in touch with your child's teacher. That's what good parent-teacher communication is all about.
- **Do:** Advocate for your child. If there is something that you feel you need more information about, or that doesn't seem to be going well, talk it over with the teacher.
- **Don't:** Call your child's teacher during the school day and expect to be put right through to her.
- **Do:** Let your child's teacher know what is a good way to get in touch with you and at what times. Teachers are busy teaching during the school day and often use breaks to use the bathroom, grab a quick lunch and/or prepare lesson plans. Thus, you may have to wait until after school hours to speak on the phone. However, if you let the teacher know that you can be reached via note or email or that early in the morning is a fine time to call, you have a better chance of speaking soon.
- **Don't:** Assume that phone calls and notes are the only way to speak with a teacher.
- **Do:** Use email as a quick and easy way to get in touch with a teacher. Email can provide a great parent-teacher communication platform in which issues or questions can be addressed without playing phone tag or setting up a meeting.
- **Don't:** Call your child's teacher at home.

- **Do:** Call shortly before school starts or after it ends. If you can't call at these times because you're working, initiate a contact through email.
- **Don't:** Hesitate to request a meeting.
- **Do:** Let your child's teacher know if you need a few face-to-face minutes with her. Just be sure to let her know why, whether you'd like other staff to be there and about how long you expect the meeting to take. That way she can set aside enough time for you.

Early Dismissal and Parent/Teacher Meetings

On Wednesday and Thursday, October 19th and 20th, students will be dismissed 2 hours earlier than usual. Instead of 2:30, school will end at 12:30 on those days. This gives us the opportunity to host parent/teacher interviews from 1:00 pm onward. These interviews are our interim reports to parents, and provide a very good chance for teachers to let parents know how the school year has started for their children, and what parents can do to support their learning. Each interview will last 15 minutes. For those parents who are in the school to drop their children off, there will be a sign up sheet outside every classroom for you to choose an interview time. If you are not regularly in the school teachers will attempt to contact you, or you can either call or email teachers to set up these appointments. We strongly suggest you make every effort to meet with your children's teachers on one of these days! The best learning happens when we work as partners!

Contacting School Staff

All school staff can be contacted via their school email addresses. These are generally the person's first initial followed by their last name @sd73.bc.ca

For instance to contact Mrs. Bradstock by email you would send it to lbradstock@sd73.bc.ca.

Masabo Performance

On Tuesday, October 4th, Arthur Hatton hosted a cultural performance by Masabo, a West-African group that featured music, dance and storytelling from the Cote d'Ivoire.

The students were introduced to some interesting musical instruments, and participated in some stories and dances as well. What a great opportunity to learn about traditions and art from other cultures!

School Supplies

A reminder that school fees are now due. School fees cover the cost of your child's school supplies, agendas (if required by teacher) and Art Start performances.

- Primary Grades - Kindergarten to Grade 3: \$51.00 (includes agendas)
- Mrs. Hickey & Mrs. Mulligan - \$44.00 (No agenda)
- Intermediate Grades - 4-7: \$66.00 (includes agendas)

If your child is using the supplies provided by the school, please send payment for those supplies as soon as you are able. Anything not paid for is a cost to the school and prevents us from buying other items that are needed. If you have chosen to purchase your own supplies please note that a fee to cover art supplies, agendas and Art Start performances is still due. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact Mrs. Gilbert at the office.

School Pictures

On Wednesday, October 26th the school photographer will be here to take pictures of all of our students. Parents will be given the opportunity to purchase packages of pictures to commemorate their child's school year. Please watch for more information to follow as the date gets closer. If your child misses school on the 26th, there will be retakes on November 16th.

Terry Fox Run

On September 29th, another successful school Terry Fox Run was held at Arthur Hatton. Students donated toonies for a chance to win a Terry Fox t-shirt, and learned about Terry's Marathon of Hope.

Sitarah Buksh was the lucky winner of the Terry Fox Run t-shirt. Entries to this draw were given to students who donated toonies in our fundraising effort. Total monies raised at Arthur Hatton were \$141.00. Thanks to everyone who donated and to those who participated!

Come Read With Me

Come Read With Me is a parent workshop designed to teach parents or caregivers with Grade 1 students how to support their children with reading at home. The workshop is fun, informative and interactive, and is a valuable aid to parents who are very important reading partners for their children.

At Arthur Hatton, Come Read With Me will be presented in the library on November 10th, and will run from 8:30 until approximately 9:45. We would LOVE to see all of our Grade 1 parents at this extremely worthwhile workshop! Please look for the sign-up sheet that will come home with all Grade 1 students.

Boys and Girls Club Survey

If you have access to the internet, please consider using this link to access a survey by the Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops. They are a big part of helping provide services to children at Arthur Hatton, and the information provided by completing the survey helps them to know what services are needed. Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MYRWC6M>

PAC meeting

We are fortunate to have a new PAC Executive signed on and ready to roll this year. Again, a big thank you to our past PAC executive who worked so hard to support our students over the last few years.

As always, there will be a monthly PAC meeting to which all parents are invited. If you are interested in coming out to see what the PAC is all about, and possibly being put to work on various projects, please feel welcome to attend the next meeting which will be held in the library at Arthur Hatton on **Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00pm**. We'd love to see you there!

Upcoming Events

October 10th - Thanksgiving Monday- no school

October 14th - 2nd Fire Drill Practice

Oct. 19th & 20th - Early Dismissal (12:30)

- Parent Teacher Interviews

October 21st - District Non Instructional Day

- No school for students

From the Board Meeting of: October 3, 2016

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal McKenna and Vice Principal Kobayashi of Vavenby Elementary: "Why Salmon Make a Good Inquiry-Based Learning Project."
2. The Board received information regarding Ministry funding grant opportunities in the areas of Computational Thinking and Coding Support, Skills Training and Access Grants, and Skills Training Support Agreements.
3. The Board received a report on the District's School Immunization Program.
4. The Board received information regarding a new District Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) District Coordinator position.
5. The Board received a report on the Youth Homelessness Count surveys to be administered in our District.
6. The Board received information regarding the District's preliminary 1701 Enrolment Report.
7. The Board approved the Rotary Club of Kamloops' request to continue with the Family Dinner Program at NorKam Senior Secondary School for the 2016-2017 school year.
8. The Board recognized the School District's receipt of the United Way Quantum Leap Award in recognition of the District doubling its fundraising contributions in 2016.
9. The Board adopted the following revised policies:
 - Policy 200.1 Board Meetings
 - Policy 203.1 Trustee Remuneration
 - Policy 506.5 Graduated Adults: Course Fees
 - Policy 912.1 Principals and Vice-Principals: Mobility
 - Policy 912.2 Principals and Vice-Principals: Process for Appointment
 - Policy 1136.1 Travel: Expenses and Insurance

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.