



ARTHUR HATTON ELEMENTARY

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that we've nearly completed two months of school already! Thanks to all of you who took the time over the past couple of days to come to the school and meet with your child's teacher. I believe these connections between your home and the classroom are fundamental towards setting a positive and productive tone for your child's learning. This year, my wife and I have the most incredible harvest from the apple tree in our yard. It didn't come about by accident, but by a persistent process of pruning, fertilizing, and watering. Consistent communication with your child's teacher is like fertilizing an apple tree. It will yield a harvest of trust, establishing guidelines and boundaries, as well as plans and strategies, which will ultimately benefit your child as a learner!

Thought Exchange

During the last school year, School District #73 conducted a "Thought Exchange" survey by which parents and staff could share their thoughts on how they felt their schools were doing. At our PAC meeting last week, I shared the results for Arthur Hatton with the parents who attended. We had an interesting discussion of the ideas that were presented there. Thank you to each of you who took part in the survey. I would encourage you to have a look for yourself. I have included here a short letter from our superintendent of schools, Karl deBruijn:

Participation in the District's first attempt to use ThoughtExchange was very good with 3,468 stakeholders contributing 8,548 "thoughts" about our areas of strength as well as ways in which we can improve.

Your feedback was reviewed to determine trends and themes in individual schools and at the District level. Issues such as class size, support for students with special needs and the ability to offer a wide range of programs at the secondary school level were identified as being very important to our stakeholders. This helped the Board of Education set guiding principles used in the development of the 2015-2016 operating budget. Additionally, school principals will be working with their Parent Advisory Councils and staff to arrange a review process of highlights within individual schools.

Over the next year, we will be asking you to participate again in the ThoughtExchange process as we embark on the development of a new, long-term strategic plan. We value your "thoughts" and sincerely hope you will participate.

Visit <http://sd73.thoughtexchange.info/> to learn more about themes and trends that emerged from the initial process.

Thank you so much for contributing to the success of our schools and our District.

Sincerely,

*Karl deBruijn
Superintendent
Kamloops/Thompson School District No. 73*

When you click on the link included in Mr. deBruijn's letter, you will be able to follow the prompts to take you to the results for Arthur Hatton. There, you can view responses to the three guiding questions that were presented, those being:

- What are some concerns you have about our school this year?
- What are some things you appreciate about our school this year?
- What are some things you would like to say about our school this year?

Please let me know if you have any questions about these results. I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss it with you.

Building Community and School Spirit

Students and staff had a terrific time together last Thursday afternoon as we took part in our first multi-aged group activity of the year. Students were divided into 14 groups, with each group comprised of children from Kindergarten to Grade Six. The older students were leaders in the groups, which rotated through several stations, learning about fun playground games, such as Hop-Scotch, Four Square, Jacks, Capture the Fish, etc. Each station was led by one of the teachers. There will be several activities like this throughout the course of the year, planned by our Social Responsibility team. These activities are designed to build school community, to teach specific skills or ideas, and to be a lot of FUN! Speaking of school spirit, I just want to remind everyone that every Friday is Spirit Day at Arthur Hatton Elementary. Students are encouraged to wear our school colours on Fridays (red and black). The class that has the highest percentage of red and black get to host our Cougar mascot, Arthur, for the week. Sometime we even add a little twist to the spirit days. For instance, on Friday, we are having a "Toque Day", where students can wear their favourite toques in school for the day.



Dogs on School Grounds

Just a friendly reminder to keep your dog off school property. We have students who are either allergic or afraid of dogs. Thank you for your consideration.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 28 – “Come Read With Me” workshop for Grade One parents in school library at 8:30 am

Tuesday, November 3 – Steve Harmer
“Motivational Magic” performance in the gym at 1:15 pm

Wednesday, November 11 – Remembrance Day – school not in session

Friday, November 13 – photo retakes in library at 8:30

Monday, December 7 – Non Instructional Day