



ARTHUR HATTON ELEMENTARY

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February 2017



Administrators' Message

Happy February everyone! It is approximately the middle of our second term, and with that comes an interim reporting period. Teachers may choose to send home a paper interim, call and talk on the phone, or meet with parents face-to-face. It is also an opportune time for parents to set up meetings with teachers if they have something they'd like to discuss. On February 8th and 9th, we will be having early dismissal days to facilitate these parent-teacher meetings. Students will be sent home 2 hours early (dismissal at 12:30 instead of 2:30), and teachers will be available for meetings during these times. It matters not who contacts whom, the important thing is if there is something that needs to be discussed, it gets done! Good parent - teacher communication is always in the best interests of our students!

Student Conflict and Bullying

When a child is having a problem with his/her peers, it can be difficult for parents to know what is really happening - is it bullying, or is it something else? Each type of behaviour must be handled differently, to keep students safe and help them learn to get along with others.

Peer Conflict: Conflict among peers is a natural part of growing up. Children will have times when they disagree and can't solve their own problems. They may even become so frustrated that they say mean things, or act out physically by hitting, kicking or trying to hurt. If it's peer conflict, you will likely notice that these children:

- usually choose to play or hang out together
- have equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.)
- are equally upset
- are both interested in the outcome
- will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down)

Mean Behaviour: Children may try out behaviours to assert themselves - sometimes saying or doing mean things - such as making fun of others, using a hurtful name, taking something without permission, leaving a child out, or "budging" in line. If it's "mean" behaviour, usually:

- it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance
- it may be aimed at any child nearby
- the child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they've caused

Bullying Behaviour: Bullying is serious behaviour that has 3 key features - all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

- power imbalance - one child clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to size, age, social status and so on
- intention to harm - the purpose of the bullying behaviour is to harm or hurt other(s) - it's

intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental

- repeated over time - bullying behaviour continues over time, and gets worse with repetition. There is real or implied threat that the behaviour will not stop, and will in fact become even more serious.

Keeping these distinctions in mind helps us as parent - school partners to deal with behaviours as they happen, and solve problems in a manner that works for everyone!

MindUP

Is your child coming home talking about "*Upstairs Brain*" and "*Downstairs Brain*?" Are they telling you stories about the *Wise Old Owl*, the *Watchdog*, and the *Hippopotamus*? Are they "wowing" you with their "sciency" words, like *Prefrontal Cortex*, *Amygdala* and *Hippocampus*? We sure hope so!

In our school we are doing a program called MindUP. This is an evidence - based curriculum for students, designed to support social and emotional awareness, enhance well being, and promote academic success. Your child has been receiving, and will continue to receive, MindUp training in their classrooms, so you can expect them to come home with some interesting conversation and perhaps some ideas that they'd like to share with you at home - from how to cool down when they are frustrated, to how they can be more mindful in everyday life.

We hope you enjoy talking to your child about what they are learning about in MindUP! Should you have any questions about the program, or want to learn more, please feel free to contact Mrs. Scott, Social/Emotional Resource Teacher, at the school.

February Friendship Week

In addition to the regular Pink-Shirt/Anti-Bullying Day that happens on February 22nd, Arthur Hatton staff is planning an entire week devoted to the

theme of Friendship. All during the week of February 20th to 23rd, there will be activities going on at our school promoting friendship, getting along, problem solving, and dealing with peer conflict. A full agenda of activities for this month will come out once all the details have been finalized.



Salmon Update

We have 2 tanks in our school that our home to some very tiny beings. Ms. Zander's and Ms. Pratt's classes have been caring for our hatched salmon alevin since we got back from our Christmas break. They are all in the stage of "zipping up", which means they no longer live in the gravel on the bottom of the tank but instead have now started swimming and eating. No longer alevin, we can call them fry (or small fry if you like). The fry will be taken care of in the school tank until later in the Spring when they will be transported to Pine Park and released into Tranquille Creek.

Family Dinner Wrap Up

On January 26th, Arthur Hatton hosted a very well attended First Nations Family Dinner event. With well over 100 in attendance, everyone enjoyed some drumming and dancing from the students, and then a delicious meal with a variety of choices. We have many thank-yous to extend for help in making this event so successful. So thank you to:

Parents – Marg Dirksen, Lisa Tom, Kayla Graves, Sabrina Spinks, Joyce Morpaw, Angela Moss, Kelly Pacquette and all the parents that helped with clean up. Our community - Lo-boy Market, The Horse Barn, The Little Bear Gift Shop, Fun Factor, The Kamloops Blazers, Shuswap Native Tribal Council and Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society, Charmaine and Gabe John, Anita and Blair, Tamara and Lavina Paul, Dawn Lord, Rebecca Edgar, Leska Mak, and Jade Billy. Also thanks to staff members and students who contributed their time and efforts to help out! Wonderful things happen when well all work together!

Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a reading motivation program which encourages students to read fiction books from a variety of genres, and helps to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading. A list of twelve books is chosen for students in Grades 3/4, Grade 5 and Grade 6/7. Students read the books, discuss them, quiz each other on the contents and compete in teams to correctly answer the questions based on the books. Students at Arthur Hatton Elementary have been meeting at lunch hours in the library to talk about their books and to start preparing for the competition which takes place in April. As many as 25 elementary schools participate in Zone and District Battle Competitions each spring. Good luck to all our Battle readers and keep up the good work!

2017 Kindergarten Registration

Please take note that Kindergarten Registration dates are scheduled earlier this year, and will take place from February 14th -20th, 2017. Upon registration, parents will need to show a birth certificate and CareCard, as well as proof of address.

Parents of students who will start Kindergarten in September 2017 are encouraged to attend a District Information night on February 9th at 6:30 at the Henry Grube Education Centre.

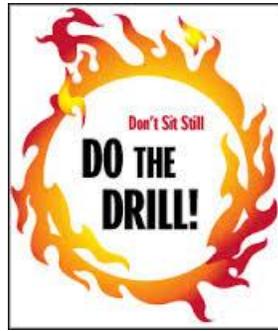
To register new Ks for the fall, please attend your neighborhood school between 9 am and noon, or between 1pm and 3pm from the 14th to 20th of February.



Lockdown Drill

Over the course of a school year, we are expected to review many safety measures that allow all of us to be prepared in case of various emergencies that we hope never to have to face: Be prepared for the worst, hope for the best!

We are currently planning for our second lockdown practice on



March 1st. It is important to us that we do our best to prepare our students to deal with any situation that should arise, and it is helpful as well for there to be home conversations around these drills as well. Please rest assured that we are not trying to increase anxiety in children, but rather to allow them to have a sense of control, no matter the circumstance they find themselves in.

Please help us to help your children to understand the importance of these practices, but also the fact that there is no need to be anxious when they are happening. Thanks for your help!

Upcoming Events

February 8th and 9th - Early Dismissal (12:30) and Parent-Teacher Meetings

February 13th - BC Family Day (no school)

February 24th - Non-instructional Day (no school)

March 17th - Last day of school before Spring Break

April 3rd - School begins after Spring Break

PAC News

A reminder of a couple of upcoming dates and events to watch for:

Feb 8th - PAC Meeting 6pm

Feb 14th - Wendy's Hot Lunch Day

Mar 9th - Family Dinner and Dance

Mar 16th - Hot Dog Day

Please watch for an upcoming registration form for the family dinner/dance. The next PAC meeting is Wednesday Feb 8th. Please come join us for a cup of coffee and share your views and opinions. We hope to see you all there!!

Thank you
Arthur Hatton PAC



Board Notes

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - Adoption of the Mid-Term Inaugural Meeting minutes of December 12, 2016
 - Rural Education Engagement Response
 - BCSSA Thompson-Okanagan Chapter Forum
 - Aboriginal Enrolment Comparison
 - 2017 Committee Appointments
 - Chair's Report
2. The Board received an engaging presentation from District Library Coordinator Andrea Wallin on the Digital Literacy Innovation Project.
3. The Board was pleased to present the OWL Award for Excellence in Public Education to this year's recipient, Mr. Chris Rose. The award was established by School District No. 73 to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has distinguished themselves by providing outstanding service to public education in the Kamloops/Thompson School District.
4. The Board enjoyed a presentation from District Literacy Coordinator Fiona Clare on upcoming events sponsored by Literacy in Kamloops (LinK), Interior Savings, and other partner groups. Family Literacy Week runs from January 21-28, 2017 which includes a variety of free Unplug and Play Week Activities.
5. The Board received a presentation from District Early Years Coordinator, Marianne Vande Pol, and Manager Sue Lissel from Make Children First, on the 2016 Early Development Instrument (EDI) results.
6. The Board received a report from Director Smillie on the 2016 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) results.
7. The Board approved two Out-of-Province Field Trip Requests from Brock Middle School and Norkam Senior Secondary School for students in their Core French Program and IB French Program to travel to Papineauville, Quebec in April 2017.
8. The Board defeated the Motion to develop a three-year school calendar beginning in 2017-2018 that incorporates a two-week Spring Break. After a lengthy debate, the Board approved a Motion to ask administration to develop a calendar which reflects a one-week Spring Break.
9. Secretary-Treasurer Stretch provided the Board with a report that provided summary Capital Spending Information by school district.
10. The Board approved Capital Bylaw Projects No. 116953 and No. 127208.
11. The Board approved a 5:30 PM start time for all future In-Camera Meetings.

The next Regular Public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, February 6, 2017 at NorKam Senior Secondary School, 730 – 12th Street, Kamloops, BC.