

November 29, 2024

Dear Dogwood Families,

December is upon us and, as you know, it is a busy month in schools. I wanted to highlight some Dogwood happenings:

1. We are in the middle of a toy and clothing drive to support the Cloverdale Christmas Hamper Program. They are looking for new unwrapped toys for the hampers, as well as, gently used clothing for their free store. Please drop off your donations in the big boxes by the office.
2. We are starting a Food Drive for the Surrey Food Bank. Our goal is 2000 items! If the students reach that goal Ms. Strilive and I will give the students an extra recess. 😊 Please have your child bring the food (or a donation) to their classroom. The food bank's top 8 most needed items are:
 - Canned protein (fish & meat)
 - Canned fruit
 - Canned vegetables
 - Meals in a Tin (e.g. Pork n' Beans or stew)
 - Whole grain rice
 - Pasta and pasta sauce
 - Healthy canned soups
 - Baby formula (large cans)
3. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be the week of Dec 2-6th. This is a great opportunity for your children to get a high-quality book at a great price. Scholastic also provides the school with some books for hosting the fair. The book fair will open 12-12:30 and 2:30-3:00 Monday through Friday. Students will have an opportunity to browse the books during their library period.
4. Thanks to our generous PAC, the whole school will have Hip Hop lessons the week of December 9-13th! All classes will be performing their dances on Friday, December 13th and parents are welcome to attend those performances. They will be in the gym. Divisions 9-18 will perform at 12:45 and Divisions 1-8 will perform at 1:30.
5. The last week of school before the break will be a spirit week!

Dec. 16	Red and Green Day
Dec. 17	Grinch Day
Dec. 18	Ugly Sweater Day
Dec. 19	Claus/ Reindeer Day
Dec. 20	PJ Day

Students are encouraged to dress up and get into the fun.

6. On December 18th, at 6pm, we invite all families to the Dogwood Gym for a Winter Sing-a-long. Join Ms. Calhoun and sing some traditional winter songs... Frosty the Snowman anyone? This will be a short and sweet event. 😊
7. A few reminders:
- The welcome bell rings at **8:32am** and the bell to be in class rings at 8:37am. I know that it can be difficult to get up and out of the house (especially on dark, dreary mornings) but it is very important to bring your children to school on time. During the first 15 minutes of school students reconnect to their peers, find out what the plan of the day is, and settle their minds and bodies.
 - Please remember to call or email the school if your child is going to be away. dogwood@surreyschools.ca or 604-581-8111. Thank you.
 - To reduce plastic waste, if possible, pack a non-disposable fork or spoon with your child's lunch.
 - Dogwood has a "no hats in school" policy—hats can be worn to school, at recess and lunch, and after school, but during the day hats need to be in the coatroom. (Exceptions are made for spirit days! 😊) Thanks for helping remind our students of this policy.
 - First Term Reports will be coming home on December 19th.

I hope to see you sometime during this magical month. As always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or celebrations.

Sincerely,

Diana Ellis (& Corina Strilive)
Principal (& Vice Principal)
Dogwood Elementary