



Woodland Park Elementary December 2015 Newsletter

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Important Dates	
Thur. Dec. 17	Christmas Assembly (students only)
Fri. Dec 18	Last Day of School
CHRISTMAS BREAK DEC 21 – JAN 1, 2016	
Mon. Jan 4	Back to School
Tue. Jan 5	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Fri. Jan 8	Pajama Day



Reminders to Parents/Caregivers:

- ☼ Please be sure to turn off your car engines when you are dropping off lunches for your children. We do have a number of people sensitive to fumes.
- ☼ Students must be picked up no later than 2:45 PM when the school bell goes, as there is no supervision after school. Our office staff and teachers cannot be responsible for keeping their eyes on the students. If you are unable to pick your child up at this time, please ensure arrangements are made with a daycare provider, neighbour, etc.
- ☼ If you are making any payments for school activities such as hot lunch, field trips, etc., please ensure that you have the exact amount as we are unable to make change.



THANK YOU!

PLEASE NOTE:

The Board of Education has approved the 2nd non-instructional day to support the new Provincial curriculum implementation. The date is **Monday, April 18** – there will be no school that day for students.

Useful Resources for Parents

We all need some objective advice/support when faced with challenging situations. Here is a great online resource from FRIENDS for Life Parent Program. Enjoy!

<http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=bc03741349a33cede9c871d5f&id=882204ed5c&e=363be14a8a>



THANK YOU to PAC for a lovely job of decorating and making sure everyone had cookies/candy canes at the *Deck the Hall* event!

(Translations of this article can be found on the Woodland Park website:
<https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/woodlandpark/Pages/default.aspx>)

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Important Information for Parents

What is the Foundation Skills Assessment?

All students in Grades 4 and 7 in B.C. take part in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), an annual assessment of reading comprehension, writing and numeracy (math skills). The assessments are based on the provincial curriculum and are developed by classroom teachers. The main purpose of the assessment is to help the Ministry of Education, school districts and schools track how well students are learning core academic skills. The information is used by the ministry, the district and by schools in planning for improvement.

The FSA provides a snapshot of how well students have learned important basic skills at a particular point in time. The information is best used together with teacher assessments and other school information.

When do we see FSA results?

For the current school year, the FSA will be administered in January and February. By the end of the school year, district and school-level results will be made available to schools and the public. **Individual student results, along with the answer booklets, will be sent home with students by the end of March. This will give parents the opportunity to see the assessment items and how their child responded.** Again, this is only a snapshot and does not provide a complete picture of your child's ability. That information is best obtained from your child's teacher.

Does the FSA count toward students' marks?

No. The results show a student's skills at a particular point in time. They are not related to marks in a specific subject or grade level but show progress in the development of foundations skills across grades and curriculum areas. For example, students read in science and social studies as well as in language arts and they work with numbers in activities or subjects besides math.

Who writes the FSA?

All Grade 4 and 7 students are expected to write the FSA. The only exceptions are: a) students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing or numeracy; b) students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations (e.g., readers, scribes); or c) ESL students who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses. Principals determine which students, if any, are excused. If it is recommended that your child be excused from one or more components, you will be contacted prior to the beginning of the assessment. If you wish further clarification, please consult your school principal. Students are encouraged to do their best as this helps the province and school district make informed decisions about how best to provide resources to schools in order to support learners.

Where can I get more information?

Information will be provided by the district and your school. You can also find information on the Ministry of Education's web site at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>.

An Excerpt from John Solano, Counsellor in Surrey

Hi Parents!

One of the many things we discussed last Tuesday was the question, "How do I know whether I am in a state of "Integrity" or not when it comes to some of the things I do for my family and other people?" This is a great question because so often in life we can find ourselves feeling exhausted, frustrated and even resentful because it seems we can give so much of ourselves to others, our spouse, and our children, but not get appreciation back. In fact sometimes we get the opposite... disrespect, rejection, indifference and this can feel very disheartening!

So let's first cut to the chase, and then go from there!... In the group, participants will often hear me use the phrase, "Where there's smoke, there's fire!", or "Let's Look at the Scoreboard!" What I mean by this, is that as parents and leaders we always want to be aware and accountable for the RESULTS or our perceptions and behaviour! This is not about beating ourselves up! ***This is about giving ourselves the gift of Integrity and Empowerment!*** I suggest you write this down, print this off, and commit this to your memory as a foundational understanding!... knowing this will change for the better the relationship you have with being accountable and responsible. Too many people, especially children and teens, see accountability and responsibility in a negative light, as if it were a burden, when in ***actuality accountability and responsibility exist to EASE our burden!*** It will be up to you, as parent/leaders, to guide your family to this understanding, and through exercising accountability and responsibility, the muscle that we call 'Integrity of Character' will grow!!!

If you perceive you are giving to people but then feeling irritated, angry, exhausted, resignation, etc., you may be 'out of integrity'! Whenever we are out of integrity with the truth of who we really are, we experience symptoms like this... and in contemporary society we call it disease... DIS-EASE... When we are DIS-located from what we know to be true and loving, things do not happen with EASE, but rather the opposite... DIS-EASE... things get hard! As a parent you may find yourself doing lots of pushing, pulling, wrestling, arguing, debating, rewarding, punishing, strategizing, and the list goes on!... bottom line is that you end up doing a heck of a lot of work with little or no positive results.

So, step #1, as a parent/leader is to see the smoke, see the scoreboard, then step #2 is to be CURIOUS which ignites a 'willingness' to explore how you may have created these results (Remember! This is not about blame or fault!).

At this point, just by following these two steps you may start to get some insight!... you may start to see where you are out of integrity! This being said, you would likely just be at the beginning of becoming more aware, and the more you practice this, the more sophisticated things become... in other words, it's not always easy to see where and how we have lost integrity, and this is why it is important to come to the parent leadership group!

The way I have explained this to parents in the group is like this. 'Imagine you are wearing clothes that have stains and rips all over them, but you also happen to be in a dark room... If you are in a dark room you will not see the stains and rips, and in fact you will think that you look just fine! But what would happen if the lights were turned on? What would happen if you stood in front of a bright light? It would REVEAL to you the stains and rips! It would wake you up out of the illusion of being 'fine'! It would make you aware of what everybody else has already been seeing!

Now that you are standing in front of a bright light and can see your stains and rips, what are you going to do? There's actually quite a bit we can do, but the real dilemma and reality here is that as parents who also

happen to be human, we WILL always be out of integrity to some degree, most of the time... in other words, we may often catch ourselves feeling resentful, angry, exhausted, and confused, BUT, we can now be accountable and responsible, while at the same time showing compassion and forgiveness to ourselves, which then allows us to give this to our family members!

So yes, 'where there's smoke, there's fire!', AND, at the same time there is, and always will be, a bucket of water near by... a bucket of accountability, responsibility, humility, forgiveness, compassion, and mercy that will never run dry... This is what the SPIRIT of the season brings to you, not just in December, but all the days of your life. Is this not the promise you have for your children- when the seas of life get stormy, you will be the calm port, that when things get dark, you will be the unceasing light, that when things get cold, you will be the warm fire, that when things get confusing, you will bring a clear vision, that when your child beats themselves up, you will be the hand of compassion and forgiveness that removes the whip and provides a healing touch!



Surrey Schools

Staff Safety Talk—Walking Safely during Winter Weather Conditions—Ice, Snow, Sleet, Hail

TOPIC:

Walking Safely during Winter Weather Conditions

Falls account for a significant number of unintentional injuries.

Parking lots, sidewalks, pavement, outside stairs and other walking surfaces become very hazardous during winter weather conditions. Ice and snow creates a very slippery surface to walk on.

One of the most hazardous times is when you climb out of your vehicle. Following are safe work procedures / tips to help you reach your walking destination safely.

- Before climbing out of your vehicle, test the walking surface first to see if it is slippery.
- Use your vehicle to help you keep your balance and stability as you get onto your feet from your vehicle.
- Do not carry items that will unbalance you as you walk to your destination.
- Take short steps, and shuffle. As you walk keep your feet on the ground.
- Go slowly and keep your hands away from your body to help with balance.
- Wear proper footwear with good traction. No high heels or smooth leather soled footwear.
- Follow the designated walkways—do not take short cuts.



Health & Safety Department



Walking safely in slippery conditions



**Walking
Safely Like a
Penguin in a
Winter
Workplace
Wonderland**

Walking to and from parking lots or between buildings at work during the winter requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling. Slips and falls are some of the most frequent types of injuries that occur during the winter months.

No matter how well the snow and ice is removed from parking lots and sidewalks, pedestrians will still encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter. It is important for everyone to be constantly aware of these dangers and to learn to walk safely on ice and slippery surfaces.

It is recommended to keep these important safety tips in mind:

WALKING ON ICY SURFACES

- During bad weather, avoid boots or shoes with smooth soles and heels, such as plastic and leather soles. Instead, wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice; boots made of non-slip rubber or neoprene with grooved soles are best.

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

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Merry Christmas!

Have fun with your families! Ms. Harmon

Andrew

Ariana Abram

John Kim

BMC Adie

A. Kim

MS. Chen

Wahak.

Andrew

Mrs. Mindrums

Barbara Wills

Enjoy! Peterson

Quinn

Richardson

Heidi

Theresa

Happy Holidays
Ming

A. Kim

Mrs. Chisell

Robyn

Ernett

Lara Campbell

Robyn Tsugi

Ann Peterson

Bodan

Wendy Rinn

Yang

Kathleen

Mme Jahany

Book Cat

W. Kim

Dorothy Christensen
Mike Vandenberg!!
Happy Holidays

Ladd

E. Model

Christina

from Woodland Park Staff