**December 2, 2013**

**Principal’s Message**

This has been a really busy Fall at North Ridge with lots of new and exciting things happening around the school. The Volleyball Playdays wrapped up our volleyball season for the year and we will soon start in with Basketball. As well, we have a very active Student Council who hosted the Halloween Assembly and is going to be doing a winter coat drive for less fortunate children. We also have a new group for our school, the **We Act** Committee who kicked off their commitment to making a difference locally and globally by attending the “We Day” event at Rogers Arena in October. This group recently held a food drive for the Surrey Food Bank, Movember mustache day and has many activities planned for Term 2, so stay tuned. Our Virtue for this month is **Generosity** and what a great group of generous students we have! Thank you parents for supporting them.

Report Cards And Early Dismissal

With Term One coming to a close, teachers and students are well immersed in the expectations of the appropriate grade level curriculum and it is hoped that all parents have now had an opportunity to meet and talk with your child’s teacher. This is so important to the success of your child in school and really helps us work together to strengthen and improve the learning of the students.

**Wednesday December 11** is an early dismissal (1:25p.m.) that has been set aside for parents to make appointments to come in and meet with teachers. Please call the school to make an appointment. If you are not available on the 11th, please contact the classroom teacher and/or learner support teacher (LST) to arrange another convenient time to discuss your child. This can be done either by coming to the school or by telephoning the teacher and having the discussion by phone.

Calling all 3 and 4 year olds…..‘PALS’ is starting this Friday morning.

Be sure to check out the attached Notice and then come in and register at the office for exciting times and lots of things to take home – free. The sessions are once a month and held at our school. If you know of a neighbor or

friend who may has a 3 or 4 year old, please let them know too as we still have some spots available.



**Colder Weather**

At North Ridge we believe in the value of fresh air and exercise, particularly during the winter months where children spend a lot of time indoors. Except in extreme weather conditions, students go outside for recess and lunch (even in the rain). Please be sure to send your children to school dressed for the weather (boots, hats, gloves, jackets) so that they will be properly clothed for recess and lunch. We are finding that often students who are driven to school are not properly dressed (especially footwear) because they assume that riding in the car, they will not be going outside.

**Holiday Festivities**

**Friday Dec 6**, we will begin to celebrate the Christmas season with a school wide ‘Deck the Halls’ where festive music will be played throughout the school while students decorate our hallways and classrooms between recess and lunch. Students are asked to dress in red, white and green to get in the spirit of the season while sipping hot chocolate that is being sold by the student council. All proceeds of this sale will be forwarded to the *Philippine Hurricane Relief* fund. Thank you for your support.



**Monday December 16** is Pyjama Day to coincide with the Hot Lunch Pancake Day. Students will get comfy and enjoy a ‘lazy’ day where they can stay in their Pyjamas all day.



**Wednesday December 18 @ 1:00**

Join our Christmas Sing-a-long as students sing holiday songs with their buddy classes in the gym. Each class has taken on a traditional song and will be leading the audience in that song while words are displayed for all to sing.

Preschool has closed

Unfortunately, our Preschool at North Ridge has closed recently as they did not have enough children to support the business. If you are interested in a preschool or daycare in the area, please check regularly on the Parent Board in the foyer. From time to time business owners put their advertising on this board.

DECEMBER

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6**  **Term One Reports**  **“PALS” begins for 3 & 4 year olds**  **DECK THE HALLS** | 7 |
| 8 | **9**  **BOOK FAIR**  **8:10 – 8:30**  **2:30 – 3:30**  **POPCORN SALE** | **10**  **BOOK FAIR**  **8:10 – 8:30**  **2:30 – 3:30** | **11**  **BOOK FAIR**  **Early Dismissal at (1:25)** | **12**  **BOOK FAIR**  **8:10 – 8:30**  **2:30 – 3:30** | **13** | 14 |
| 15 | **16**  **Pyjama Day**  **HOT LUNCH** | **17** | **18**  **Christmas**  **Sing-a-long**  **(1:00 p.m.)** | **19** | **20**  **Last day before winter break** | 21 |
| 22 | 23  **S** | 24  C | 25  H | 26  O | 27  O | 28  L |
| 29 | 30  C | 31  L | 1  O | 2  S | 3  E | 4  D |



SCHOOL RESUMES Monday January 6, 2014



**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – Dec 9-12**

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to North Ridge, starting on Monday December 9 until Thursday December 12. What better time to buy some of those Christmas presents for eager young readers while helping the school’s library at the same time. This year, Ms. Elfstrom has booked the fair to coincide with parent-teacher conferences so that you have some extra time for shopping and browsing with your children to get their wish lists. She would also appreciate some extra help from parents. If you are able to help out, please indicate what time or times would be best for you so we can put together a schedule.



----------------------------------Please detach here and return ----------------------------------------

**BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEER**

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your Child’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Division Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the days and **circle** the times you are available to help:

\_\_\_\_Monday Dec 9 8:10 – 8:30 or 2:30 – 3:30

\_\_\_\_Tuesday Dec. 10th 8:10 – 8:30 or 2:30 – 3:30

****\_\_\_\_Wednesday Dec 12th 8:10 – 8:30 or 1:15 – 2:15

(this day is early dismissal so hours will be different)

\_\_\_\_Thursday Dec. 13th 8:10 – 8:30 or 2:30 – 3:30

Thank you, Parents. Your help is always appreciated.



PALS

(Parents as Literacy Supporters) Preschool Buddies Program

At **North Ridge Elementary School**

**2013/2014**

Attention all 3-4 year olds.....

North Ridge will be hosting 6 PALS sessions this year. PALS is a program for parents and their 3 and 4 year old children. It is designed to build the connection between home and school and to get ready for kindergarten. Each session focuses on early literacy and numeracy skills through games, activities and songs. Families will take home a goodie bag as well as ideas and strategies to support their children with literacy development. This is a parent participation program so all parents are required to stay throughout the sessions. Sessions will be held one Friday per month from **8:35 a.m.-10:50 a.m.**

The following is a list of the dates of the PALS program:

**Session 1:** Friday December 7

**Session 2:** Friday January 18

**Session 3:** Friday February 15

**Session 4:** Friday March 8

**Session 5:** Friday April 19

**Session 6:** Friday May 10

**Each session includes:**

* Fun activities for parents/caregivers to do with their preschooler
* Snack time
* Time for parents to learn new ways to help their children learn
* Stories and songs
* A take home bag full of things to do and use at home such as a tool kit with scissors, pencils, glue, a book and materials related to the session activities (play-doh, magnetic letters, etc.)

PALS is a great way for young children to become more comfortable and confident at school and to get ready for kindergarten. And PALS is completely **FREE!**

**If you are interested in being a part of this program, please pre-register by calling the school office at 604-599-3900. You will be required to give your child’s name and age plus a phone number where you can be reached. Space is limited, so please register soon.**

|  |
| --- |
| **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**      **Regular Kindergarten**  Registration for regular Kindergarten begins at North Ridge on **January 20, 2014.**  Children who turn ***five years old before January 1, 2015*** (born in **2009)** are eligible to begin school in September 2014.  Upon registration at the school, **the following documents must be provided:**   * Proof of birth date for the student (birth certificate or passport); * Proof of guardianship (parents / guardians as shown on birth certificate or other appropriate legal documentation); * Proof of citizenship for both the parents and the students (birth certificate, citizenship card, passport, landed immigrant document, permanent resident card); * Proof of residency (purchase or rental agreement, property tax document, Hydro or gas bill).   Documents which are helpful, **but not required include** Health-related documents (immunization records, medical condition information)  **If you have neighbour in our area who may not know about pre-registration for Kindergarten, please pass this information on to them or have them contact the school. Thank you** |