



École Woodward Hill Elementary

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Newsletter 4 November 26, 2021

Ey'Swayel Woodward Hill families

As we move deeper into November, it's always fun to reflect on the learning at Woodward Hill Elementary. Students are immersed in literacy and numeracy. They are challenged with STEM activities. They deepen their thinking through conversation and debate on local and/or global topics. Many



students have also shown social responsibility by volunteering to help out as lunch monitors and library monitors. And many have joined different clubs, including the choir, chess club, rainbow club and the Reading Link Challenge. It's been great to see the involvement. School is also a place where students learn "to be" with each other. Each day, we observe our Eagles making good decisions in their daily interactions with others. However, there are times when conflict arises and students have difficulty addressing it appropriately. When this happens, staff are here to help. Our school is a place of learning from all angles –

academic, social, emotional, and physical.

THANK YOU

A big note of gratitude for the yummy treats and coffee sent to staff from our PAC on November 16. Angela Skillen coordinated and delivered to our school. Her effort to include gluten free treats was really appreciated!



Pumpkin Patch – thank you!

Our pumpkin patch was a great success! Another big note of thanks to our PAC for sponsoring and Cindy Dalglish for organizing the pumpkin patch. We had many volunteers come out on the morning of October 29 to create this memorable experience for our students.

Student Leadership - Upcoming spirit days

Our Leadership Team with support from Mme. Poirier and Mrs. Howden have decided on the following Spirit Days. Mark your calendars for some fun school spirit!

Nov. 19th- Jersey Day

Dec. 13th- Santa Hat Day

Dec. 14th- Elf Day

Dec. 15th- Red and Green Day

Dec. 16th- Ugly Holiday Sweater Day

Dec. 17th- Pyjama Day

Jan. 21st- Decades Day (Break out your retro attire!)

Feb. 23rd- Pink Shirt Day

March 9th- Green Day

April 22nd- Earth Day Spirit Day

May 4th- Star Wars Day

June 3rd- Rainbow Day

Surrey Elementary School Athletic Association (SESAA)

SESAA is alive and well at Woodward Hill Elementary thanks to staff who volunteer their time coaching students. Currently, students in grades 6 – 7 have the opportunity to play volleyball on the school's team. Thank you to our coaches Mrs. Mandehar, Mrs. Kim, Mr. Ursulak, Mrs. McLaughlin, and Mrs. Pannu. Basketball is the next SESAA sport beginning in January 2022.

Entrepreneur Fair

Students in Division 3 and 4 (Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Vivanco) are preparing to host an entrepreneur fair at Woodward Hill on December 8. An entrepreneur fair is an opportunity for students to think like an entrepreneur from design concept, market research, finance, creation, marketing and selling. There is so much valuable learning involved in the process – and a lot of fun too!

Congratulations to our SFU student teachers!

We congratulate Ms. Deol and Mr. Miller on their successful completion of their practicum. We wish them great success as they begin teaching careers!

Lower parking lot

We have noticed that some parents are dropping-off and picking-up their children in the lower parking lot. This creates a lot of problems for staff arriving to work or leaving work. Please do not use the lower lot to pick-up and/or drop-off your child. You can use the upper parking lot drop-off/pick-up zone or you can park on a neighbouring street and walk your child to school.

Christmas Concert

Mr. Johnson is working on a Christmas production with our primary students. This year's show is, Melton the warm-hearted snowman. The production will be recorded on Tuesday December 7 and a Vimeo will be sent to families shortly afterward. ***Please let us know by calling the school if you DO NOT want your child to be included in the Vimeo that will be sent to all Woodward Hill families.***

Choir Christmas

The Woodward Hill choir led by Mr. Johnson will be singing outside of the Charwell Renaissance Retirement Home on December 16. Afterwards, the choir will be singing at The Fort in Fort Langley. We offer our thanks to our parent volunteers and Mr. Johnson for bringing this opportunity to our choir.

Grade 7 Band

Mr. Tsang is working hard with our Grade 7 band and will be producing a compilation of Christmas songs to send out to families via Vimeo. *If you DO NOT want your child to be included in the Vimeo, please let us know by calling the office.*

Classroom funds and fieldtrips

Teachers are very appreciative of the support PAC provides through classroom discretionary and fieldtrip funds. Teachers earmark this money to support curricular goals studied in the classroom. Before money is spent (discretionary or fieldtrip), teachers complete a site-based Request Form that outlines the rationale for how and why funds will be utilized to complement classroom learning. Request Forms are read and approved by the principal or vice principal.



As always, if you have specific questions about how funds are used or why you are being asked for money to support an activity, please speak to your child's teacher. Additionally, no child is left out of an activity due to financial reasons. Speak to your child's teacher or the principal/vice principal if a request for funds causes financial hardship for your family.

Social Emotional Learning

Ms. Bunker is our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lead teacher. As our lead teacher, she is working closely with district level and site-based personnel to help build capacity for SEL in schools and to make a positive difference in the lives of staff, students, and our school communities. Mrs. Bunker is provided with one release day every two weeks to support this work.

Supporting reading instruction

Classroom teachers and LST are working together in Grade Bands – K/1, 2/3, 4/5 and 6/7 – to share ideas and resources to support reading instruction. Grade Bands officially meet 5 times over the course of the school year. These meetings are held over lunch and provide valuable time for professional dialogue and learning. Our overall goal is to increase student proficiency in reading.

Sibling exchange

On Wednesday November 24 we practiced a sibling exchange. The purpose of a sibling exchange is to efficiently reunite children with their families in the event of an emergency. Overall, our first sibling exchange was very successful.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day ceremony was a beautiful and solemn occasion to commemorate the family members (past and present) who have served or are serving in the armed forces. A Vimeo of the service was forwarded to all families.

Upgrading our audio/video

We are hoping to upgrade our audio/video system in the gym in collaboration with our PAC. An upgraded system will provide seamless audio and video capabilities, Bluetooth connectivity and wireless microphone technology – a much needed improvement!

Assemblies – slow return to normal

Beginning early in the new year, we are planning to transition to in-person assemblies. With the vaccine roll-out for children aged 5 – 11 beginning now, January/February is a good time to start regular assemblies. In-person assemblies are an important part of school life by helping connect students and staff to broad learning themes.

Atmospheric Rivers

In the event of extreme rain and wind we will keep students inside; otherwise we will continue to follow our criteria for outside days; please send your children to school dressed for the weather

- Above 5 degrees and raining – outside
- 5 degrees or below and raining – inside
- Raining *and* so windy umbrellas will turn inside out – inside
- Snow days – outside
- Cold and dry days – outside

Communicating Student Learning

Assessment of your child’s learning is an ongoing process that focuses on growth and improvement over time. Teachers work hard to communicate your child’s progress, their strengths and stretches, and the “next steps” in their learning. If your child’s teacher is using the Communicating Learning Template, you will receive a paper copy of your child’s first formal report card on Friday, December 10. If your child’s teacher is using FreshGrade, you can expect an additional Student Progress form to be sent home the week of December 11 which will highlight certain artifacts in your child’s ongoing digital portfolio.

Nature and symmetry by Division 11



To study and apply the concept of symmetry, Ms. Dubroskaya students created a symmetrical butterfly and decorated it with items form the natural world. Note the way teams of students uded symmetry in their designs. Some students used berries to add colour to their designs.



Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 10 Report Cards home
- Dec. 13 – 17 Spirit Days – see information above
- Dec. 17 Last day of classes before Winter Break
- Jan. 3 School reopens