



# Alex Aitken News

Phone: 250-748-8724

Principal – Mrs. Updesh Cheema

## Principal's Message

*November sure went by fast! We had all sorts of weather – rain, wind, snow, and sunshine. The students have been busy with various things this month:*

*-The Grade 5 students have been learning about tobacco and all the affects it can have on the body.*

*-Divisions 5 & 2 have been working with Dustin Dollman and learning drumming patterns.*

*-Our Remembrance Day Ceremony was beautiful and all the students displayed true "Honour" for those that fought for our freedom.*

## Assemblies – Monday Mornings

*Each Monday morning at 9:00 am we hold a school assembly, and we would love to have you attend. We believe that regular school assemblies are important for building community and your support is greatly appreciated.*

## School Goals for Student Achievement 2011-2012

Each year the school works on strategies with students to improve student achievement. We use a variety of strategies that are research based to help students learn better and smarter. This year's goal is:

1. To promote the skills and understanding of numeracy

During the PLC Early Dismissal Days, staff work on the above goal, as well as the on-going goals to increase student achievement in our school.

## Sign In & Out

***Thank you for remembering our Sign In & Sign Out Procedures! As a reminder, please read the following...***

For safety reasons, it is very important that students, parents, visitors, volunteers, all sign in at the office. In case of an emergency, we need to know who is in the school. If your child is late arriving to school, please walk him/her into the school and to the office to sign in and if you need to take your child out before the end of school, please sign him/her out at the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter. **The sign in/out sheets are always laid out on the desks by the office.**

## Christmas Performance

This years Winter Performance- "*The North Pole Exposure*" is going to be entertaining with lots of great songs, a few laughs to put us into the holiday spirit. The students, staff and parent volunteers are very busy preparing and learning all the different parts and songs.

Performances will be on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. There will also be a dress rehearsal on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. McIntosh and Ms. Koons estimate that the performance will be 60 minutes long. Seating is on a first come first served basis. There will not be any tickets for these performances.

On Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, a letter was sent home with each student outlining their classroom's participation in the upcoming Christmas Performance, as well as the clothing they are asked to wear and/or items supplied by the PAC. If you did not receive your child's letter or cannot find the clothing items requested, please contact the school.



## Schedule

### Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

- ★ full dress rehearsal (time TBA)
- ★ BEST time for parents to bring non-school aged children to watch the concert
- ★ all students in the school have the opportunity to watch this performance

### Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> (one performances)

- ★ performance at 1:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (one performance)

- ★ Performance at 1:00 pm

### Gingerbread Houses

All students will be making gingerbread houses on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Each child is asked to bring approximately 1/2 cup of ***one kind*** of small candy to decorate their houses, which will be added to the class's collection and will be shared by all. If your child would like something special for his or her own house, please send that separately.



### Thank you to...

- To all the students who are remembering school and class expectations so well. Well Done!
- The Hot Lunch parents for helping with Murphy's Pizzeria this month
- To all the parents for supporting your child at home

### Food Bank Collection

Since November 21<sup>st</sup>, Alex Aitken School has been collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Bank and storing it all in Mrs. Cheema's office. This challenge continues until December 16<sup>th</sup> when we hope to have her office so full that she can't work in there! Please help if you can.

### Pennies for Presents

Every year, the Cowichan News Leader conducts a "Pennies for Presents" fundraiser. In past years, Alex Aitken has participated and raised hundreds of dollars which has gone towards helping families in the Cowichan Valley during the holidays.

This year, we would like to once again ask for your help in raising money for this worthy program. Simply send pennies or other spare change you may have to the school and we will sort and roll it, then drop it off at the Cowichan News Leader on the last day of school.



Thank you for your help!

### Ski Pass Program

Every year the Canadian Ski Council offers a "Snow pass" program to students in grades four and five. This program gives students in these grades up to 3 FREE lift ticket coupons at 34 participating ski areas in Western Canada.

To register your child, simply go to [www.snowpass.ca](http://www.snowpass.ca) and follow the instructions. You will need proof of age, a photo for the ski pass and \$22 administration fee. Passes are good from December 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the ski season.

### Parking

**Parents must not drive into the parking lot area to drop off or pick up students. Please park outside the fenced area, but NOT IN THE BUS LOADING ZONE OR NEAR THE CROSSWALK OR ON STREET CORNERS.** Thank you for helping us ensure the safety of your children.

### PAC CORNER

- ❖ PAC mtg Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm School Library – all are welcome to attend. Remember we have child minding while you are in the meeting.
- ❖ Thank you to Charlene Wipplinger for heading up the Purdy's Chocolates Fundraiser again this year. Orders should be delivered early next week. If your child does not bring home your order(s) please contact Charlene Wipplinger.
- ❖ E.J. Hughes Calendar, last day to send orders is December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ❖ Hold onto the bottles for the next Bottle Drive in the New Year!