

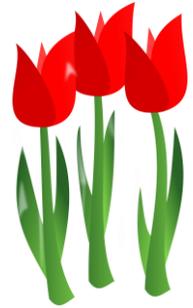
Little Mountain Elementary School Newsletter



April 3, 2017 Gabe D'Archangelo, Principal | Tel 604.792.0681 | gabe_darchangelo@sd33.bc.ca | <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca>

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The last few weeks I have had a chance to meet with a number of District staff/colleagues on a number of topics, one of which has been how we are doing as a school to meet the needs of our students and discuss the progress that is being made regarding the goals and outcomes listed in our School Plan. For myself, as the administrator of our school, they have been interesting conversations because I was in many ways, asked to defend/explain some of the initiatives that we have/will be undertaking at our school this year and in future years. Topics of conversation ranged from assessments being used, to present initiatives being undertaken to reach those students who are not meeting expectations in the classroom. Since these conversations, I have taken the opportunity to reflect on one of the questions asked of me – where did I think we were as a school (with regards to meeting the needs of all of our students)?



The easy answer to this question would be that we are continuously moving forward. Little Mountain has a wonderful caring staff that as a group believes in the success for all students. I feel that as a group we are unwilling to accept the difficult challenges that confront some students as excuses for poor learning or a lack of achievement. Classroom teachers continually explore creative options to meet the needs of the students in their classroom – from platooning (moving groups of students between classrooms according to assessment levels), to having individual students participate in intensive intervention programs at different times of the day, to utilizing unique academic programs outside of the school itself because of district initiatives. In addition to moving students and taking advantage of district programs and initiatives, we are accessing the expertise of our non-enrolling staff (Learning Support Teachers, ELL/ESD Teachers, Speech and Language Itinerants, School Counselor, Child Youth Care Worker) in putting into effect Individual Education Plans for those students struggling academically, behaviourly and socially.

Long term, our staff is continuously reflecting on our practice and work together to develop plans for student success. We examine the practices we use in with regards to literacy and numeracy and look for ways to make improvements. We are cognizant of the statement, “If you do what you have always done, you will get what you have always gotten”. We are well aware of the data that indicates that almost 40% of our students, K- 6 are at risk and we need to make adjustments to ensure these student’s needs are met as well as the needs of the 60% of the students who are not at risk. We realize that this is a difficult undertaking but, without reflecting on what we do, how we do it and why we do it, we cannot meet the mandate we have before us that states **Success For All Students Beyond Graduation.**

Until next month.....

Gabe D’Archangelo



Report Cards

This week, everyone will have an opportunity to review their child’s report card that will arrive home. I had the pleasure last week to read and review all of our students’ report cards and without a doubt I can honestly say that I am very proud of all of our students and how hard they have worked this past term. Positive, caring constructive comments were the norm in every classroom and your children need to be commended for a job well done.

Your child’s report card is a snapshot of their journey through school. Areas of success need to be celebrated, and areas that require attention need to be discussed and a plan of action should be formulated to overcome the obstacle(s). The plan will only work if there is a role to play for the student, the parent(s) and of course the school. No plan will be successful if any of these three parties have been excluded.

When reviewing the report card please keep in mind that the goal, for each student, is to do their very best at all times. Many times, as parents we tend to look at a report card and see how many “A’s” our children have accumulated or in how many areas they are “Exceeding Expectations”. In actuality, we should be looking to see if there has been progress from the previous term, if the child is Meeting Expectations, at this time in the school year and if the teacher has commented on the child’s effort which should be **positive and consistent in ALL areas at ALL times**.

Please also review the teacher’s comments and the “ways to support learning at home and at school”. The comments and suggestions in these two sections are designed to give you further insight into your child’s progress and ideas on how to help them continue to succeed in the next term.

Finally, the performance levels in your child’s report card should never be a surprise to the parents. The report card was designed to be a formalization of a conversation that takes place between the home and the school throughout the year. Parent-teacher interviews, telephone calls, notes in a student’s planner are all important avenues to ensure that parents are continuously updated of their child’s progress. The report card is a “measuring stick” that exhibits a child’s success as they progress through their school year.

As we enter the third term, it is important that students are reminded that these next three months are as important as the past seven months. Arriving at school on time, ready and willing to learn is critical for continued success. Just as important as being at school on a regular basis, it is critical that each child, regardless of age gets sufficient sleep at night. Term 3 is a time of assessments for all of our children, regardless of grade level, and therefore being well rested is crucial for success. In your child’s journey through school, we all have a significant role to play and it is important that we all continue to work together to ensure that your child, our student has every opportunity to not only succeed, but excel!

Kindergarten Registration

Please remember we are now accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have a child who turns 5 on or before December 31, 2017, please register as soon as possible. Our classes are filling up and in order to ensure you have a space at our school, you need to register your child as soon as possible. Please bring your child’s birth certificate and proof of address with you when you come into register your child in order to fully complete the registration form. Please pass this information along to your friends and neighbors. We are looking forward to working together with you as your child begins their exciting academic journey in our school.



Classroom Fieldtrips

As the weather begins to change, many of our staff are looking to plan field-trips for their students. The philosophy associated with field trips is the belief that learning for our students must be active, varied and relevant to their particular interests. We, the staff, feel it is necessary to provide our students with a variety of school experiences, some of which occur or develop through the interrelations of the school and community as a whole. Off-school grounds excursions will not only be informative for our students in regards to learning concepts/themes in the prescribed curriculum for their respective grade level, but, they will also provide the students with an environment and setting to practice and develop their awareness and understanding of each other and the world around them.

It is imperative to state that **field trips for students are a privilege and not a right**. The conditions for attending any field trip are equal for all students. Students will only be able to attend if they are a **Student in Good Standing**.

A student in good standing is:

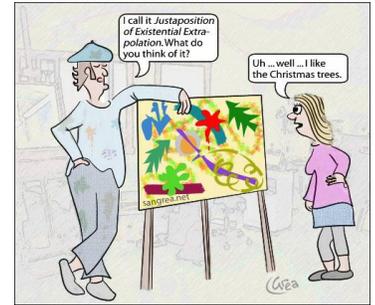
- a student that has demonstrated that he/she can be trusted to be a **responsible** individual both in the classroom and in an unstructured environment.
- a student who has completed required assignments and is **up-to-date** on all assigned tasks.
- a student who has demonstrated that he/she is working positively and **respectfully** with classmates and adults in our school.
- a student in good standing is a student who is **trustworthy**.

If your child is in danger of missing out on the privilege of a field trip, you as the respective parent/guardian(s) will be notified of this possible occurrence, by either the classroom teacher or the office. In that communication it will be shared what needs to transpire for the child to be a Student in Good Standing

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please feel free to contact Mr. D’Archangelo at the school.

LME Art Gallery

Last month, LME hosted a Fine Arts afternoon whereby our students had an opportunity to showcase different aspects of the Fine Arts. As part of this showcase of talent, our Art Club displayed the work they had completed under the direction of Mrs. Dirven, Mrs. Hartman and Mrs. Simon. The student work is still on display on our school stage which will now become the LME Art Gallery. Our Art Gallery will be open to all parents on Wednesday afternoons, from 2:15 – 3:00 pm. Please check our website and the lobby message board for which projects are being displayed for the public to see each week. Please note that students are not allowed to be in our Art Gallery unsupervised and must be accompanied by an Adult.



Dates to Remember.....

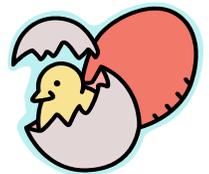
Week of April 3 – 7.....BOX PROJECT Challenge



During this week of school 9 classrooms will be involved in a project, in the school gym, where students will use 21st century skills to create innovative uses for a cardboard box. They will use creativity and collaboration to brainstorm, plan, and build a box creation on their own or with a partner. Students will learn to use the critique process to give and receive feedback in order to revise their end product. Finally, students will exhibit their creations to an audience of their choosing. Throughout the project students will use the common core speaking, listening and writing standards to clearly communicate their ideas to their group and a real world audience.

Thursday, April 13....Egg Drop Challenge

We are bringing back the LME Egg Drop Challenge this year. Interested students are encouraged to create a “contraption” that will protect an egg from breaking that will be dropped from the School Gym Roof. This project is a HOME Project and all students participating are to bring their projects to school on the morning of April 12th.



The criteria for the project are as follows:

1. The egg to be protected MUST be a raw egg.
2. If a parachute is being used, no form of padding is to be used to protect the egg in the container (the egg nest). Creative suspension systems, special egg supports, or rests may be used.
3. If no parachute is being used, design a protection device that uses as little packaging as possible, (eg. Egg surrounded by balloons, egg padded by some sponges). Be creative. Package must be smaller than a small shoe box.
4. Name of student, grade and classroom teacher must be attached to the project.
5. Projects must be brought to the school on Wednesday, April 12th to allow for organizing and drop preparation.
6. Students will attach an entry form to their respective projects and will place their project on the tables by the office.
7. Egg Projects will be dropped on the morning of **Thursday, April 13th**. (Eggs will be supplied by the school)

Drop Times will be as follows:

- Kindergarten.....10: 30 am
- Gr. 1 – 3.....11: 00 am
- Gr. 4 – 6.....11: 30 am

Thursday, April 13.....MAD Science Assembly...1: 15 pm

MAD Science Vancouver will be hosting an assembly for our school on Thursday April 13th. The assembly is designed to spark the imagination of our students and to kick off the 6 session after-school program that will be starting in May at our school.

Friday, April 14 and Monday April 17....School Closed

All schools will be closed on Friday April 14th (Good Friday) and Monday April 17th (Easter Monday) to all students. Schools will reopen as usual on Tuesday, April 18th.

Monday, April 24 – “Earth Day / Walk – to – School”

In recognition of “Earth Day” which falls on Saturday April 22nd, this year, we are asking our students to use an alternate mode of transportation to and from school on Monday, April 24th. Students, parents and staff are asked to walk, ride their bike, roller blade, etc., to school instead of getting a ride or driving to school. Students who live a considerable distance from the school are asked to come up with a plan where they walk “part-way” to school (eg. from the IGA) Each classroom teacher will record the number of students who have used an alternate mode of transportation to and from school on the 24th. The class which has recorded the highest number of students participating in this endeavour will receive a class prize. We are hoping for 100% participation on this day which means a relatively empty parking lot.....after all, we are classified as a non-bussing school.



In addition to encouraging an alternate mode of transportation to and from school on the 24th, we are also asking our students to bring a “Garbage-Free” lunch to school. The class that has the least amount of garbage on this day from lunches and snacks (taking the garbage home does not count) will also receive a prize for their class. Help us teach our students, that respecting our environment is a responsibility for all, both young and old.

Monday, April 24 – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Please take the time to come to this meeting to share your ideas as together we move our school forward.

Wednesday, April 26 – Friday April 28....Lacrosse at LME

This year we are taking the opportunity to utilize the expertise of Mr. Nick Kojima and Spirit Lacrosse to bring a one session lacrosse experience to all of our students in our school. During these 3 days,, each class will receive at least one session with Mr. Kojima during their PE block. Please ensure that your child is dressed for movement and comfort on these three days.

Friday, April 28....Fine Arts Presentation at FG Leary

All of our Intermediate Students will be joining 3 other schools at FG Leary Elementary School, to see an Art Starts musical performance entitled INFINITUS. Students will be transported to and from FG Leary Elementary by School District #33 busses.

Intentions for the next School Year.....

It is that time of year where plans are being made for the next school year. An integral part of this process is confirming our student numbers for next year. At this time, all indications show that we will have an increase in our numbers for September but we may not have an increase in staffing. Therefore, we will be formulating a wait list for all classes for September for any and all new students wanting to come to our school. In order to be able to accept new registrations at any grade level it is imperative that we know your plans for September. **Please complete the questionnaire at the bottom of this newsletter and return it to your child’s teacher prior to Tuesday, April 11th.** This information is critical in deciding staffing for next year as well as the development of class and grade configurations. Please note that if the form **IS NOT** returned then we will assume that you will not be returning in September and we may give your child’s spot away to a new student registration if applicable. Thank you in advance for your quick response to this request.



INTENTIONS FOR 2017 – 2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Student Name: _____ Present Grade: _____

Please check one of the following:

Will Be Attending LME

Will Not be Attending LME

Other information:
