

**January 19, 2017** Gabe D'Archangelo, Principal | Tel 604.792.0681 | gabe\_darchangelo@sd33.bc.ca | <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca>

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I certainly hope everyone had a terrific holiday and that you are all back into the regular routine of school and work – I know that it went by incredibly fast for me... seems to happen more and more as I get older!! A new year brings changes and here at Little Mountain we have had some adjustments within our staff. In our preschool, we would like to welcome Ms. Enns and Ms. Bourget as they take over the teaching and guidance of our youngest students in our school. Mrs. Janzen continues in her role as Acting Vice-Principal in Mr. Chater's absence and with this continuation, Mrs. Janzen and I welcomed Mr. Koenig to our school to fulfill Mr. Chater's teaching responsibilities in the gymnasium and in Mrs. Janzen's Grade 6 classroom. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new staff members when you are in the building.

The school year represents a kind of "Roller Coaster Ride" in many ways. Months like September, December and June are "peak" months – students are excited and eager and the days fly by. Months like October and May also have their special charm as the seasons begin to change causing renewed energy. The other months of the year are "valley" months, where the school day is fairly routine and students are able to focus easily on their studies and energy for learning is high and students make their greatest progress. From the school's perspective routine is a GOOD thing – a time to really solidify the necessary skills and begin new areas of learning without a constant disruption. As you will notice from the next few newsletters, the pace of events at Little Mountain will be more sedate. Please help us by ensuring your child stays in the regular routine of getting enough rest on school nights and the weekend, getting to school on time each day, and being ready for school each day with all of their supplies/belongings necessary so that they have every opportunity to be successful academically and socially in the forthcoming months.

Until next month ...

Gabe D'Archangelo

## **Dates to Remember...**

### **Monday, January 23 - School-Based Professional Development Day**

Our school will be closed to students to allow our staff to work together on our school goals of Literacy and Numeracy.

### **Thursday, January 26 – Kindergarten Screening**

All of our students in Kindergarten will have their Vision, Hearing and Dental Health assessments completed at the school. Assessments are carried out on an individual basis by Health Professionals and results will be communicated to parents directly.



### **Monday January 30 and Tuesday January 31 – LME Students skating**

We have been fortunate enough to be able to book three, 75-minute ice sessions at the Prospera Arena at the end of the month. Each class, Kindergarten through Grade 6, has been assigned to one of the three sessions available to our school. The cost to the students will be \$2.00 to cover the transportation cost. If students are renting skates then they will also need to bring \$4.00 on their skating day. Please look for more pertinent information to arrive home at the end of this week.

### **Wednesday, February 1 - Fine Arts Presentation for Primary Students**



All of our students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 will be attending the Art Starts Presentation of “Peter Pan” at FG Leary on February 1<sup>st</sup>. As this is a School District supported and funded presentation, there will not be a permission slip arriving home as all students are expected to be in attendance as it is part of their Fine Arts Curriculum.

### **Monday, February 6 - Super Reader Assembly - 8: 30 am**

Our first Super Reader Assembly recognizing 100 Nights of Reading takes place on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure that your child’s Home Reading tracking information is up-to-date and has been returned to the classroom teacher by the end of January.



### **Friday February 10 - “Parents’ Night Out”**

Our PAC is endeavoring to raise enough funds to purchase and install two drinking fountains in our school that will also allow the filling of personal water bottles. Several schools in our district have these stations installed in their sites and report that they are not only well-used by their respective student populations but are also more hygienic for students individually. The cost for purchase and installation of both stations is approximately \$5000.00. To help raise the money for this project the PAC is hosting a “Parents’ Night Out” on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for this event will be on sale at the office beginning Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please consider purchasing tickets and helping our PAC and our school complete this much-needed project.

### **Monday, February 13 - Family Day**

All schools in the province will be closed on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for Family Day.

### **Wednesday February 15 –Ready Set Learn Open House - 10:00 am**

We are hosting a Ready Set Learn open house at our school on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am, for three and four year-old children in our school community. This event is a great opportunity to have these children connect with their future neighborhood school. It also allows parents the opportunity to receive extremely valuable information, in a relaxed setting, about early development and school readiness skills. For parents, there will be handouts and an information kit to take home. For young children, there will be craft activities, snacks, storybooks, workbooks, and stickers. This event will also be an opportunity for parents to meet Mrs. Benstead, the Regional Director from Wind & Tide Preschool, which is an integral part of our school. This is an important preschool activity that you won’t want your child to miss!



### **Other Items of Interest...**

#### **LME Community Spirit is Alive and Well**

December was an extremely busy time for our school. It began with our “Deck – the – Halls” afternoon and ended with another phenomenal Christmas Concert. In between our students and staff were: treated to a fabulous Christmas lunch put on by a dedicated group of parents led by Mrs. Legros; bought tickets for the amazing raffle baskets organized by Mrs. Lundgren-Virk and were involved in the “Non-Perishable Food” drive that collected 1112 food items which were distributed to needy families in our school community. The response from our school community was again overwhelming and we are very grateful to the numerous parents who volunteered their time to make the Christmas Season at Little Mountain Elementary a memorable one for all. Our gratitude is also extended to the individuals who would like to remain anonymous for their monetary contribution again this year. Their kindness and generosity ensured that once again, numerous children in our school had a memorable Christmas.

## Flu season is Upon Us

From time to time, schools experience higher than normal rates of absenteeism due to illness. To help control the spread of seasonal illnesses amongst our student population, we ask that you encourage your child to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly with warm water and soap. They are encouraged to do this at school and having this reinforced at home would be beneficial.



In addition, if your child is experiencing symptoms of Influenza please keep them at home until they are feeling better. Having them come to school when they are ill means that they are not physically and mentally able to work in the classroom. In addition, having your child at school when they are sick, will make others susceptible to the same illness and may cause further consequences to other children who may have compromised immune systems already.



## Kindergarten Registration

Please remember we are continuing to accept Kindergarten registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. Presently we have 34 students registered and we are urging all parents who have a child that turns 5 on or before December 31, 2017, to please register as soon as possible in order to ensure there is a space available at LME. In order to process a registration, please bring in the child's Birth Certificate and Proof of Address to be copied for their file. These items must accompany a completed registration form. Please pass this information along to friends, neighbors, etc.

## Preschool Registration

Please note that although it is only January, our pre-school classes are either presently full or nearing capacity for both age groups. If you were contemplating registering your child in either the 3 year old or 4 year old class, please do so as soon as possible in order to either secure a spot or to be placed near the top of the wait list which has been started for one of the classes for the forth-coming school year. Although a class may be presently full, a lot can occur between now and September and many children who have been put on the wait list in previous years have been able to attend Wind and Tide Pre-school because either new classes are created or registered families change their minds because their circumstances may have changed. For further information, please contact the Wind and Tide office @ 1-877-541-5459.

## News From the Gym

Our volleyball teams are presently in the middle of their season. The boys games are on Tuesdays and the girls play on Wednesdays. Please feel free to come out and cheer our students on. A huge thank you to Ms. Vochvest and Mrs. Clouston for volunteering their time to coach our girls' team and to Mrs. Janzen for coaching the boys' team. Please look for more information regarding tournament play to arrive in the next two weeks.



For those students in grades 4, 5, and 6, who are interested in playing basketball, the gym will be open on Tuesday mornings at 7:25 a.m., beginning next Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The students that show up will have an opportunity to play games, in a 4 vs. 4 format. This is a great opportunity for the students to begin refining their skills prior to the Basketball season beginning in earnest in mid - February.

### Foundation Skills Assessment – Why?

Over the next 5 weeks, all students in Grades 4 and 7 in our province will be writing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). The FSA is a series of assessments in Reading Writing and Numeracy. The assessments do not measure a student’s ability to memorize specific facts, but rather, it measures skills that students have gained over their previous years of learning. Parents of students in these grades may be receiving/may have received information from the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation (BCTF) / Chilliwack Teacher’s Association (CTA) outlining their concerns with these assessments and asking parents to have their children excused from writing these assessments. It is important for you the parents to know that I feel this series of assessments plays an important role in setting direction for our school. It provides staff with valuable information regarding how our students in Grade 4 are doing in Literacy and Numeracy at this time of year. It allows us to compare the student’s individual FSA results with how they are doing in their daily work and how the results compare to the student’s grades at the end of each term. If there is a significant discrepancy between any of these areas, it allows us to question why the discrepancy has occurred and then plan for interventions that need to take place. As a staff, we are concerned when organizations such as the Fraser Institute uses the data, in my opinion, inappropriately to “rank” the schools in the province, but I cannot help how others use this information. I can only re-assure you that the completion of these assessments by all eligible Grade 4 students in our school is important for our school’s academic direction and I will not be excusing any students from completing these assessments unless I feel it is pertinent to do so. It is important for me to know that the data that is gathered over the next 5 weeks is as authentic and meaningful as possible.

### Parent Email Contact

In an effort to ensure that we reach all families with important information from the school we are asking that each family provides their email address to the school if they have one. The email address will be used for school newsletters, calendar updates and communication of timely information that would be pertinent to the school community as a whole. Email addresses will be kept confidential. Please complete the accompanying form at the end of this newsletter and submit to the office or the classroom teacher. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request.



Student Name(s): _____
Parent Name: _____
Email Address: _____