

May 2, 2016 Gabe D'Archangelo, Principal | Tel 604.792.0681 | gabe_darchangelo@sd33.bc.ca | <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca>

Dear Parents:

As another year quickly comes to a close, our staff is now simultaneously keeping their minds on what is happening in the present and thinking about what the future might look like. Within the next few weeks, our staff we will be sitting down together to plan for next year. This includes blocking in special events like Concerts, Curriculum Showcases, Hiking Days and other school-wide events, as well as organizing classes for the fall.

When teachers make recommendations for student placement, they consider many factors and work collaboratively to ensure future success for every student. By the time your child is settled into next year's classroom, you can be assured that consideration has been made of your child's skills and abilities, personality, and friendships, as well as skills of groups of children within each classroom. A balance of boys and girls is considered, as well as the strengths and specialties of the receiving teacher. Creating that balanced classroom is our challenge. Sometimes parents have suggestions for where their child might be most successful. What has been interesting for me after 26 years of being a teacher and an administrator, is that in 99% of cases, parents and teachers are on the same wavelength, and we have already placed the child in the classroom requested by the parents.

From time to time, however, parent requests simply cannot be met and that can be disappointing. Parents' reactions play an enormous role in the relationship between a child and his or her teacher. Your encouraging words make all the difference as your child makes the transition to a new grade and teacher.

Schools are fluid organisms, and it must be stressed that these early organizations are tentative. Fluctuations in student numbers influences classroom design and we often reconfigure our plans several times between now and the end of the first week in September. For this reason, we are discreet about our organizations until they are set in stone after the first week of school in the fall. Please don't ask who your child's teacher will be next year because at this point, we can't tell.

Until next month.....

Gabe.



Staffing Changes for the new year!!!

We greatly appreciated the timely response that most families adhered to last month to our request for family plans next year with regards to a child's attendance at Little Mountain Elementary School. The responses we received have helped to tentatively formulate our staffing plans for the next school year. Our school presently is in a transition phase where our student numbers are not 100% stable and we have been projected to be at 340

students in September...down 15 students from this year’s projections. That decrease in students, has meant that we will be losing a classroom division/teacher again this coming school year. Once it has been officially decided who the classroom teacher is that will be transferring from our school we will be re-assigning Grade levels to the remaining staff. As the principal of our school, I am hoping that this will be the last year in the downward trend in student numbers our school has experienced the last 6 years. Little Mountain Elementary School is a great place to learn, experience and play and we are hoping that this information begins to get out into the community.

Chilliwack FC, Valley Shidokan Karate, Street Kings Dance Academy and now...

“Afternoon Adventures”

We are extremely fortunate and pleased to announce another Community Partnership for our school and our students, beginning in September, 2016. **Afternoon Adventures** is a free after school program designed to provide a safe, structured and fun environment where relationships can be built and students can explore a myriad of different learning activities such as woodworking, cooking, sports, drama, science, arts and much more. **Afternoon Adventures** has a proven track record within the Chilliwack School District. Starting in 2011, as an initiative of City Life Church, the first program was launched at Bernard Elementary. Today, 5 years later, this program boasts an exciting weekly program where students can’t wait to connect with their leaders to see what new adventure they will embark on.



Earlier this year I had the privilege of being a guest, at one of the sessions at Bernard Elementary. The vision and value of the program was quickly evident and it became evident to me that this program would be a great fit for many of the students at Little Mountain Elementary. With that in mind and after several meetings, ***we are very excited to announce that starting September 2016 Afternoon Adventures at Little Mountain Elementary School will officially begin for students in Grades 2 - 4.***

Plans are well under way to ensure that everything will be in place for a successful startup in September. First Ave Church will be providing the team to run the program under the direction of Richard Neizen and Jannette Loosdrecht, the Afternoon Adventures Community Facilitator. Please look for additional information and registration forms to come home as we get closer to the startup date. If you have any questions regarding this new afterschool program please contact me at the school office. I am looking forward to an exciting partnership that will add to the already wonderful things that are going on at our school.

News from the Gym

Our basketball season has come to an end and we are now in the midst of Touch Rugby, Cross-Country/Running Club and Track and Field. Touch Rugby players have been training the last two weeks and are excited to play their first game on Thursday, May 5th at East Chilliwack Elementary.



Mrs. Janzen along with a few other teacher and parent helpers will be starting up Running Club again this week with the first session on on Tuesday, May 3rd. They are preparing for the Final Cross Country race, taking place at Cultus Lake Elementary on Wednesday May

11th for students in Grades 1- 6. They are welcoming ALL students in Grades 1 through 6, to come out and participate regardless of level. Running club will also continue on, every Tuesday afterschool, after the Cultus Lake event, in preparation for Track and Field. Mrs. Janzen and her team of dedicated volunteers are all looking forward to a great running season for our students!!

YMCA

Summer is a time for kids to play, run, get outside and have fun with friends. For more than 100 years, the YMCA has provided camp adventures that help kids learn about themselves, grow in self-confidence and gain new skills in a caring environment. From overnight camps with activities in archery, climbing, sailing and canoeing, to day camps full of outings, arts, crafts, sports and games – we have something for everyone. We hope you'll join us!

The nearest YMCA Day Camp location (to Little Mountain Elementary) is the Northside YMCA Day Camp.

To learn more or for registration, please visit gv.ymca.ca/camps.

PAC News

The PAC Executive and the LME Staff would like to thank all parents and families for their support with our fundraisers this year. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make our Spring Market, last weekend, a success - it was a fun, family event and we look forward to an even bigger and better one next year! Thank you to all the volunteers and to everyone who came out to shop and support our local vendors. The support we received at this event and throughout the year, from our community has been phenomenal and it is because of this support that the PAC has been and will be able to support the following numerous initiatives and activities at the school:

- School Library
- Classroom Libraries
- Classroom field trips
- “Deck the Halls” event
- “Christmas Turkey Lunch”
- “Super Reader” Home Reading Program
- Technical equipment / new Fine Arts equipment
- Run 4 Water Event
- Sports Days



Last Friday was our last 'popcorn day' for the year - we will switch to ice cream sales starting this Friday at recess.

Thursday, May 19th the PAC will be hosting a family movie night. Families are invited to bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us in the gym - admission by donation, popcorn and water for sale with proceeds going to support Run4Water. More details on this event to follow in the next week!

Please join us at the next PAC meeting, Monday May 16th @ 6:30 in the library. This meeting is our annual AGM where we will be electing a PAC Executive for the next school year, as well as looking at short-term and long term direction setting. Please take the time to come to this meeting to share your ideas of the year that has passed and discuss plans for the next school year. As a parent of this school, you are automatically a member of the PAC and your input and ideas are valued and appreciated. If you are interested in putting your name forward to be on the executive, please let Mrs. Legros know so we can have our ballots ready.



We are also now accepting donations of gently used, elementary appropriate, children's books for our year end **Summer Book Swap**. All students will then have the opportunity to pick out some new summer reading material in the last week of school.

Please leave your book donations in the parent room across from the office.

Student Supplies.....

PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE SUPPLIES ELSEWHERE IN THE SUMMER!!!!

As a parent, the shopping trip and the drama that was associated with buying school supplies for two daughters and a son was an event that I tried to avoid at all costs and left for my wife to deal with because she had the patience in the family. For the next school year, once again, we will be handling school supplies in the same manner we did for this school year.



In September, all students, in Kindergarten through Grade 6, will be given their supplies by their classroom teacher once they are set up in their classroom. Parents will be notified of the cost and if any teacher specific items still need to be purchased.

PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE SUPPLIES ELSEWHERE DURING THE SUMMER!!!!

We have decided to go this route again for the following reasons:

- 1) All students will have their supplies at the same time and staff can begin instruction ensuring that all students are prepared for success
- 2) There is a uniformity of supplies ensuring quality at all times
- 3) Students will **not** have to replace consumables at all during the year. The cost will cover all of those items as they are consumed saving parents money. The only items that need to be replaced are those items that are not consumables, such as a ruler, if they go missing

Please feel free to call the school if you have any concerns or questions regarding this format for September.



Beach Wear

As the weather begins to warm up, our children begin wearing less clothing to school. Please keep in mind that our school, like all other schools in our district does have a dress code that we expect all of our students to follow.

A “rule of thumb” that we are using with our students is, **“If it doesn’t tuck you are out of luck.”** Please ensure that your child is wearing clothing that is suitable for their PLACE OF WORK. Spaghetti straps and halter-tops, shorts classified as “short-shorts” are not the best choice of clothing for school. (Please be aware that this rule is directed more towards our intermediate students than our primary students.)

Students who, **in our opinion** are not appropriately dressed will be asked to call home for suitable clothing. In addition, please be aware that the wearing of makeup by students at Little Mountain Elementary School is prohibited. We firmly believe that our students are still young children and should be treated as such. Too often

our children are eager to dress and look “grown-up” when in actuality they have yet to become teenagers. The use of makeup is something that we feel is better suited for students in Middle and High School. Students wearing makeup will be quietly asked to wash it off by their classroom teacher.

Thank you in advance for your help in monitoring your child’s appearance for school ensuring that they are **dressed for success at all times.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Thursday, May 5 – Fine Arts performance @ Strathcona Elementary – 10: 00 am

All of our classes, with the exception of Divisions 1, 3, 14, 15 will be attending a performance of “Oliver Twist” at Strathcona Elementary School.

Friday May 6 – District Professional Development Day

All schools in our district will be closed to students on this day to allow staff to attend workshops that will enhance their work with students.

Tuesday May 10 – Class and Team Photos Day

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for their class photos on Tuesday. Class photos are free of charge to all students and Team Photos will be on sale for \$5.00 each at the office beginning in late May.



Wednesday May 11 – Cross Country Meet at Cultus Lake

The start of the Track and Field season begins with the annual Cross-Country Meet at Cultus Lake Elementary School. This is open to all students in Grades 1 through 6. Permission slips will be sent home this week with interested students. Please contact Mrs. Janzen as soon as possible if you have any questions regarding this event.

Wednesday May 11 – 6:00 pm – Grade 6 Parent Meeting at CMS

For those parents with students transitioning to Middle School next year, there is a meeting being held at Chilliwack Middle. We strongly encourage all parents to attend.

Friday May 13 – 12: 45 pm – Run 4 Water Culminating School event



Throughout the month of May, our students will be involved in a variety of activities for Run-4-Water. On Friday, May 13th, our largest event at the school level will be our school Run-4-Water event, beginning at 12: 45 pm in the gym. Parents are encouraged and invited to attend the assembly and then participate in the school run/walk or cheer our students on as they complete the course. If you are interested in helping at this event, please contact Mrs. Wirrell at the school.

Please also ask your children about the “**Principal of the Day**” draw that is going to be happening this month. For every 50 cents that is donated towards Run-4-Water, a child gets his/her name entered into the draw for “Principal of the Day”

Monday May 16 – PAC meeting – 6: 30 p.m.

The agenda will include the election of a PAC Executive for the next school year, reflections on this school year, short-term direction setting and long term direction setting. Please take the time to come to this meeting to share your ideas regarding the past year and help us move our school forward. Child-care will be provided.



Wednesday, May 18 - Intermediate Fine Arts Concert – 6:00 pm

Join us in the gym for an evening of drama, music and dance featuring our intermediate-grade students.

Please note: It is expected that all intermediate students will attend the evening concert. If students will not be participating because of a prior commitment, please contact the classroom teacher to let her know.

Thursday, May 19th – PAC Movie Night

PAC will be hosting a family movie night fundraiser. Families are invited to bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us in the gym - admission by donation, popcorn and water for sale with proceeds going to support Run4Water. More details on this event to follow in the next week!



Friday May 20 – District Professional Development Day

All schools in our district will be closed on this day to allow staff to attend workshops that will enhance their work with students.

Monday May 23 – Victoria Day – School Closed

All schools will be closed on this day.

Wednesday May 25 – Gym Blast – Grade 6 event at CMS

A critical part of the transition process for our Grade 6 students is to provide them with an opportunity to become familiar with their new school as soon and as often as possible. On May 25th, our Grade 6 students will have an opportunity to take part in a fun event at CMS with all other Grade 6 students that are entering that school in September.



Thursday May 26 – Volunteer Tea – 3:00 pm

Volunteers are an integral part of our school and the success of our students. We will be acknowledging the time and dedication that the numerous volunteers at our school have donated to our students this *past* year.

Please continue to check our website: <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca> for updates the next few weeks. We are entering an extremely busy time of the school year and the website is the best way to keep everyone updated of events in our school.