

December 1, 2016 Gabe D'Archangelo, Principal | Tel 604.792.0681 | gabe_darchangelo@sd33.bc.ca | http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca

Dear Parents:

The month of December signifies many things – the successful end of the first term of school for the majority of our students; the start of new term and a time to refocus for a few; but most significantly of all, it is the beginning of the Christmas season.

Our school is beginning to have a festive air to it. Decorated trees and bulletin boards are starting to appear, our student body, Pre-school through Grade 6 are practicing in preparation for our Christmas concerts. All classes are working feverishly to wrap up projects in the classroom as they eagerly anticipate the Christmas break and the festivities associated with this time of year.



This time of year is also a time to reflect on the past 12 months. We have all individually had our trials and tribulations as well as our joys and successes this past year. Looking at the world around us, I can safely say that we are extremely fortunate for where we live and raise our children. Our school community has shown throughout the year that it genuinely cares for each other and is always ready to step forward and support those that are having challenges in their lives. This year, our children will once again be involved in supporting a canned food drive at the school (this may explain why you will suddenly misplace items that you are sure you had put in the cupboard a few days earlier). The food items collected will be going to those families in our community that are experiencing challenges at this time of year. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity towards this worthwhile project.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have worked with our students reminding them to look beyond their own needs. We have reminded them, to be respectful of others and to make a difference in the classroom, the school and in their community. We have asked them to be inclusive, to be patient, to be understanding, and to be respectful of our differences and accepting of things even though they may not fit into the parameters of their own beliefs and teachings. Together, every day, we are working with our future generation and it is imperative that if we are going to be successful it is because we have instilled in them that it is important to put the welfare of others before their own needs. They must truly fulfill the quote by Howard Zin:

"...we don't have to engage in good heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world."

As we enter our final two weeks of this school year, please note the following items, dates and events taking place in our school.

December Dates to Remember



Friday, December 2 – “Deck the Halls”

“Deck the Halls” is an event where our students spend some time making decorations to adorn our school for the Christmas season. Some teachers will have their students working with “Buddy Classes” and others will have their students working in groups with other peer students. Please feel free to visit our school on Friday afternoon, to see what the students are doing and/or lend a helping hand.

Monday, December 5th – Last Day for Session #1 of Valley Shidokan Karate

Our first session comes to an end on December 5th. The instructors have seen great progress in all of the participants and are excited to work with both new and returning participants. If you are interested in having your child participate in the next session beginning Monday, January 9th, please complete the attached form at the end of this newsletter.

Monday, December 5th - Friday, December 9th – Report Cards Home

First term report cards will be sent home with students during this week. Please take this opportunity to discuss and celebrate with your child their successes in the first term.

Monday, December 5th – Wednesday, December 14th – Canned Food Drive



At this time of year there are many families in our own Little Mountain Community who find themselves in dire straits. Our food drive this year is an attempt to help those families that are in need and would greatly benefit from some assistance during the holidays. Students are encouraged to bring a minimum of one item to donate to the food drive and help meet our goal of 1500 items (100 items per class). Please feel free to track each class's donation total found on the bulletin board near the office throughout this time period.

Tuesday, December 6th – Thursday December 15th – Raffle Basket Tickets on Sale

Please take the opportunity to come by the office the next two weeks to see the amazing Raffle Baskets that are on display. Tickets for these baskets are fifty cents each or three tickets for a dollar and can be purchased at the office. The draw for the baskets will take place at the end of the evening concert on December 15th. Thank you to Ms. Legros and Ms. Lundeberg-Virk for taking on this added responsibility for our school during this hectic time of year.

Tuesday, December 6th – “Afternoon Adventures” Family Celebration

The “afternoon Adventures” Volunteers will be putting on a Christmas Celebration for the students that have attended their program this year. They will also be inviting the families of these students to participate in this fabulous event.

Thursday, December 8th – Early Dismissal for Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

All students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 8th, to allow our teaching staff to host Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews. Please look for pertinent information to arrive home with your child's teacher outlining the process for the first term interviews. Please take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to review successes and plan for the second term. Please ensure that your child is participating in the interview as well as without their input, goals that are set are never attained. As difficult as it may be, please do not bring siblings to this interview as it takes the focus away from the child the interview is about.

Friday, December 9th – LME Voices at Cottonwood Mall - 10: 00 am - 10: 30 am

If you are in the vicinity of Cottonwood Mall on Friday, December 9th, please stop in to see our “LME Voices” perform for the public shopping in the mall.

Friday, December 9th – PAC Christmas Lunch

On Friday, December 9th, our entire student population, invited guests and staff will be treated to our traditional Christmas lunch put on by our Parents Advisory Council. To ensure that all of our students have an opportunity to sit and enjoy this treat, they will be served in two sittings. Since this is a “Special Day” we are asking our students to “Dress for Dinner” where they are wearing their best clothes on Friday. If you are able to volunteer 1-2 hours on this day, please contact either Kim or Rebecca at the school (604-792-0681). Your help is urgently needed and will be appreciated.



Monday, December 12th - Last Day for Street Kings Dance before Christmas

The last day of our Dance Program prior to the Christmas Break is on the 12th. The program will resume Monday, January 11th. Please also look for more information regarding a second group, for younger students to start up in late January, 2017.

Wednesday, December 14 and Thursday December 15 - 6: 30 pm - LME Christmas Concert



Our students and teachers, in Pre-school through Grade 6, are presently preparing for this year's Christmas Concert. The format chosen this year is a “variety concert” with each participating class showcasing a talent they are particularly proud of. Please join us for either concert (Doors will open at 6:00 pm for each respective concert). Please note due to the limited space available in our gym, each class will only be performing on one of the two evenings. Information on which night your child's class is performing will be arriving next week. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted at the door prior to each concert.

Friday, December 16th – Intermediate Students on a field-trip

On the last day of school before Christmas, our intermediate students will be on a field-trip to the Landing Leisure Centre. Please look for a permission slip from your child's teacher next week.

Other Items of Interest

Staffing Update

We have had several staffing changes the past three weeks at our school and will have 2 more significant changes in the new year.

- First, we would like to welcome Ms. Shelley Adam to our school staff. Ms. Adam will be job-sharing with Mrs. Huitema, teaching Grade 4 on Thursdays.
- At the start of November, due to an unforeseen situation arising at another school, Mr. Chater, our Vice-Principal was appointed Acting Principal at Tyson Elementary School for the remainder of this calendar year. In his absence, the School District and I, were pleased to announce that Mrs. Janzen would once again be appointed Acting Vice-Principal at LME. Mr. Chater's teaching responsibilities were assigned to Ms. Jenny Hobbs, who completed her Teaching Practicum at our school last Spring.
- Wind and Tide Pre-School will also be undergoing significant staffing changes beginning in January. Mrs. Linda Nguyen and Mrs. Dana LaBlanc will each be on a Personal Leave of Absence for the remainder of this school year. They will be replaced by Ms. Eron Enns and Ms. Savannah Bourget, respectively. We wish both Teacher Linda and Teacher Dana the very best and look forward to their return in the near future.

When in the building, please take the opportunity to welcome our new staff to our school.



Inclement Weather Guidelines

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months.

In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions and general condition of buildings. While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the School District website www.sd33.bc.ca or tune into radio stations STAR FM (98.3 FM), THE DRIVE (89.5FM), to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses.

Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call the school, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.

Lost and Found

Has your son or daughter come home missing a shoe, a pair of pants, sweatshirt, jacket, a glove or two? Have you wondered where these articles of clothing may have gone? If you have, please come by the school next week and browse through our lost and found items. I am overwhelmed with the number of items that we have collected over the last few weeks and I am sure you will appreciate getting these lost items back. Items of clothing that are still in the Lost and Found in the last week will be taken to the Salvation Army.



Christmas Break

Friday, December 16th is the last day of school for our students prior to the Christmas Break. School will be back in session on Tuesday, January 3rd. We wish everyone the happiest of Christmases and a New Year filled with wonder, learning and prosperity.

After-school Opportunities

The following afterschool groups.....Street Kings Hip Hop Dance (Mondays), Afternoon Adventures (Tuesdays), Soccer Academy (Thursdays)..... will continue in January without changes. Interested students in Grades 1 through 6 who would like to register for our Afterschool Karate Program and Grade 1 and 2 students who would like to register for Hip Hop Dance are to complete the registration form(s) attached and return it to the office.