

# Little Mountain Elementary School Newsletter



**November 2, 2016** Gabe D'Archangelo, Principal | Tel 604.792.0681 | gabe\_darchangelo@sd33.bc.ca | <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca>

Dear Parents / Guardians;

As some of you may know, my wife Sandra and I have 3 children, Antonio 25, working as a Kiniesiologist , Alexa 22, attending the University of Victoria, and Elena 16, in Grade 11, at Sardis Senior Secondary. Like all parents my wife and I feel blessed to have our children part of our family and like many parents we have, from time to time wished that our children were born with an operating manual so that we could “fix” whatever wasn’t/isn’t working right from time to time. Like all children in a family, each of our children has their own unique qualities, which, at times is a blessing and at other times is a source of frustration. One distinct difference in our children is in their ability to read and when they actually began “reading” when they were young. My son developed his reading skills slowly. He loved being read too when he was little and then once in school developed his skills accordingly. He went from reading books with one or two words on a page, to reading “Franklin” books to the “Magic Treehouse” series to increasingly more demanding books as the years went by. Alexa, surprised us because she seemed to have “picked up” reading without much help from her parents....”middle child” perhaps. She went from being read to, to reading Dr. Seuss books on her own by Kindergarten, to reading “Little House in the Big Woods” for sharing in the Spring of Grade 1. Then along came Elena. Elena always loved books, but refused to read them herself. Every night, when asked to read with either Sandra or I, we would hear “...I don’t want to read tonight because it is too hard and it makes me tired.”

As an educator and as a parent of two other children who always loved to read (I am sure Alexa was born with a book in her hands), these words the first time were a bit surprising to say the least. Taking this statement to heart Sandra and I decided to take a different tactic with Elena. Like all parents, we realize that having the skill of Reading is vital to the future success of our children. But, this skill doesn’t magically happen overnight. It takes practice, practice, more practice and patience. We took every opportunity to encourage her to read as she went about her day, whether it was sharing the night reading with us (we would read a paragraph and she would read a sentence) or it was having her write out the grocery list each week where she was able to add in a treat each week of her choosing (something that dad liked as well was always a good thing). An added incentive this time of year was the Christmas Wish List. It is amazing how important it is to know how to read when you need to make choices for the all-important SANTA LETTER. As parents we sometimes assume that a skill will come naturally to our children because it is easy for us as adults or our other children acquired the skill quickly. As reading “coaches”, we parents must share the many tools we have acquired over a lifetime of reading to encourage our fledgling readers. We need to continuously help them build their own repertoire of skills for understanding what they have read. The North Vancouver School District developed the following list of strategies to keep in mind and discuss when reading with your children:

#### WHEN I READ:

- I think about what I already know.
- I predict what will happen next.
- I figure out words I do not know.
- I think about my reading and I fix my mistakes.
- I make a picture in my head.
- I connect what I know with what I am reading.
- I figure out the important ideas.
- I get the information from words and pictures.
- I identify parts of the story.
- I summarize my reading.
- I figure out the messages.
- I reflect and I respond.



Keep this list handy and feel free to address 1 or 2 with your children when they read. It is amazing the discussions that ensue when you spend some quality time building and reinforcing the skill of reading with your children.

Until next month...  
Gabe

## *November Dates to Remember:*

### **Thursday, November 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly**

Each year, schools across our country participate in assemblies to commemorate the lives that have been lost in past wars. Our children are our future and the assembly is an opportunity for them to learn of mistakes that have been made in the past and hopefully lead our world into one of peace and understanding between individuals, races, religions and nations. Our assembly, with many of our students actively participating, will begin at 10:30 a.m. and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.



### **Thursday, November 10 - Volunteer Orientation Session # 2**

Parent volunteers are welcomed and cherished by the staff at our school. Having another person(s) to work with children on specific activities is an invaluable resource that many of our staff took advantage of last year. For those parents who are interested in volunteering in our school (classroom, library, field trips, etc.) this year, and did not attend the session on October 25<sup>th</sup>, please join us in the Library, on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 12: 45 pm for a Parent Volunteer Orientation. At this session we will be discussing roles, responsibilities and expectations for school volunteers. Please note that anyone who is planning on volunteering at our school this year **MUST** attend an orientation session. Please contact the school office to let us know you will be in attendance.

### **Friday, November 11 – Remembrance Day**

All schools in Canada will be closed on November 11 in recognition of Remembrance Day. I hope that some of you are able to participate in the services in our community.



### **Friday, November 18 – Chilliwack Chiefs Family Night for LME – 7: 00 pm**

All LME families will be receiving hockey tickets to the Chilliwack Chiefs hockey game on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets have been graciously donated to our school by Otter Co-op. If given the opportunity, please take a moment to thank them as this is a huge expense.

### **Sunday, November 20 - PAC Craft Market - 10:00am - 5:00 pm**

The LME PAC is hosting our annual Fall Market on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please come by the school to see the numerous vendors and businesses on site. Admission is by donation. If you require any vendor information please email: [lindseyday182@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyday182@gmail.com)

### **Monday, November 21 – PAC Meeting**

This month's PAC meeting is being held in our Library, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please take this opportunity to meet the people who are spending countless hours providing things for your children ranging from Hot Lunches to equipment and other resources in the classroom. Remember, all parents are automatic members of the PAC and if you have some extra time to share with our school we would appreciate your ideas, your expertise and assistance.

### **Tuesday, November 22 - Photo Retake Day**

Student individual photo retakes will take place today for those families who have requested a retake. In addition, students that were absent on Photo Day will also have their photos taken on this day.

### **Friday, November 25 - Professional Development Day**

All public schools in Chilliwack will be closed to students on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Friday, December 2 – “Deck the Halls”**

“Deck the Halls” is an afternoon where our students spend some time making decorations to adorn our school for the Christmas season. Some classes will have their classes 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 this afternoon and see what our classes are doing.



## Other Items of Interest

### Remembrance Day Poppies

The Royal Canadian Legion has dropped off enough poppies for all of our students. We are hoping for a small donation for the poppies to support the Legion, but every student will be receiving a poppy regardless of whether a donation is made. We will be distributing the poppies just prior to the Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Donations for poppies given out at school can be dropped off at the office all of next week.

### From Strike to Spike

Townsend Park last week was the venue for both the boys and girls soccer teams as they participated in their respective season ending tournament. Not only were our teams very successful on the scoreboard, but they also showed enthusiasm, determination, skill and great sportsmanship in each of their games at their respective tournaments. A huge thank you to our students for representing our school in such a positive manner and Mrs. Janzen and Mr. Chater for volunteering to commit their time to providing our students with an excellent learning experience. Look for our volleyball teams to excel in the next three months.



### Registration of Kindergarten and Preschool Students for 2017 – 2018



As was mentioned in the last newsletter, we are in the enviable position of being busy with Kindergarten registrations for the forth-coming school year. In the last two weeks we have registered numerous students for Kindergarten next year, meaning that we will have to start a Wait List in the near future. Please pass this information on to new parents in the area because it is critical that they come into register as soon as possible to ensure their child has a spot in our school for next year.

Registration for Wind and Tide Preschool for next year has also started this week. Registration is for all NEW 3 year-olds or NEW students. Current 3 year-old children in the program are automatically moved to the 4 year-old class. Please register at [windandtide.com](http://windandtide.com) (link is accessible through the Little Mountain Elementary School website) Don't miss out on having your child experience the best pre-school program in our community.

### 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](http://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.