



Grindrod Elementary School
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April 3rd, 2018

Welcome back to school and to the nice warm spring weather. Ok, we are still waiting for spring but we are very glad to be back teaching and learning with all of our amazing students. Read below for some of the highlights planned for April.

Welcome New Staff and Students

We would like to extend a very special welcome to Lochlan (k) and Jocelyn (grade 5), who have joined our school community today. We also want to welcome Ms. Maggie van Essen who will join us in her role as CEA. Mrs. Sheila Young will also extend her time at Grindrod from one day a week to five days a week. Please join our staff in making sure all of our new school members feel very welcome at Grindrod Elementary.

Our Gut Project will Wrap Up in April

Our students have been immersed in an amazing unit of study on the digestive system since February. This school wide study was made possible through a large Artstarts Grant we applied for and received last spring/summer. We have been supported by numerous community experts who have offered their skills and knowledge to enhance this project. To celebrate the conclusion of this unit and to demonstrate the knowledge our students have gained, we will host two presentations for our school community. The first will be on Friday, April 20th beginning at 12:30 and the second will be on Wednesday, April 25th beginning at 10:25. We welcome you to join us at either presentation and enjoy the multi-dimensional interactive show.

Cross-country running

Cross-country running will start this Wednesday. Please send appropriate footwear with your child. All classes will participate in the training.

Consent forms will be sent home with the students who will participate in the Cross-Country Run at MV Beattie on April 26th.

www.gri@sd83.bc.ca

See our new website for the latest information, school news and photographs from our school.

PAC Update

Fun fair planning is well underway and we would like families to watch for notices coming home in regards to class basket donations, adult volunteer schedules and cake walk/bake sale donations. If anyone has an item for the silent auction, it can be left at the school office (remember to include the business name and value). Any time before May 7th will be great.

PAC has set up a partnership with Mabel's Labels in which we will receive 20% of sales through our campaign. Please visit www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Grindrod Elementary PAC to design and order your own personal label package. (Info package will be sent home as well).

Next Soup day is Tuesday, April 10th with choices being chicken noodle or cream of cauliflower cheddar, served with a bun. Please send \$1 with a bowl and spoon for students that would like to participate.

Our next PAC meeting is also April 10th starting at 1:30 to discuss Fun Fair. All parents are welcome to attend!

Division 1, grade 5/6/7, will be hosting another popcorn day Thursday, April 26 at lunch for 50¢ per bag.

Two Cultural Events this Month

On Monday, April 23rd our students will travel by bus to MV Beattie to attend a cultural performance by Speed Control. The bus will depart at 12:20 and return by the end of our school day.

On Wednesday, April 25th we will host the Axis Theatre Company at Grindrod School. These events are always extremely entertaining and educational, and we invite younger members and parents of our school community to attend.

These events are funded through our Student Activity Fee which parents pay at the beginning of each year. If by chance you have not paid this fee to date, please send a cheque to our school this week or contact Mr. Abbott. Your support allows us to offer high quality cultural performances to our students exposing them to the entertainment arts of music, dance and drama! The activity fee is \$20 per child to a maximum of \$50 per family. School supply fee is \$30 per student.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

We would like to request that our families support our school's effort to reduce our waste. Families can help by purchasing lunch items that are not over packaged: by sending reusable containers with lunch foods and by eliminating juice boxes in favour of reusable water bottles.

Our PAC will be hosting a Healthy Food seminar for parents. Information will be sent out soon and everyone is invited to attend.

Please, please work with your child to find ways to eliminate snack and lunch foods that are over processed and packaged.

Non-Instructional Day

Friday, April 27th is a non-instructional day. Students do not attend, but staff will be working on our school improvement plan during that day. This is a time for us to reflect on our school's successes while seeking ways to become more effective in our practice.

Currently our school's three goals are:

1. To improve the numeracy skills of all students.
2. To improve the writing skills of all students.
3. To increase student engagement through locally focused outdoor education.

Ministry of Education Satisfaction Surveys

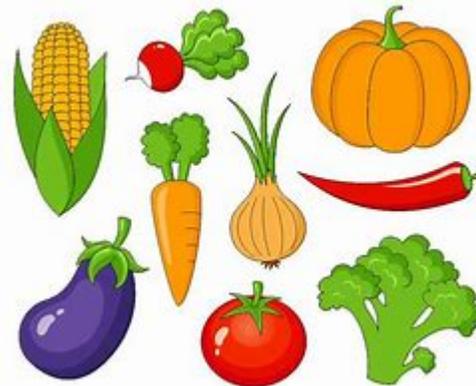
In April, we will ask parents of our grade 3,4,6 and 7 students to provide feedback to us via the annual Ministry of Education Satisfaction Survey. Students in these grades will also be asked for their feedback.

Typically, grade 4 and 7 students and families do this survey but we have expanded this process to gain more insight. Any parent from our other grades who would like to complete the survey is asked to contact Mrs. Tessel or Mr. Abbott. Codes to the anonymous survey will be provided.

The feedback we gain from these surveys help to inform our school improvement planning process. Thank you in advance for your input.

Out to the Farm

As you will know, Grindrod has developed a large school garden. Although the site is not yet complete, it was designed to facilitate various outdoor learning activities.



Recently, our staff co-planned a series of events with Greencroft Farms. During our three to four farm visit series, students will learn about greenhouse gardening, seed starting, preparing the soil for growing, crop selection, crop maintenance and harvesting and finally, in the fall, seed gathering and saving. We are very pleased to be able to learn from our local experts at Greencroft Farms. It is our hope that our students might have the opportunity to start their own mini-gardens at home to practice and reinforce their learning. The crops are sure to be tasty too!