



Grindrod Elementary School  
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**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Welcome to 2018!**

It is amazing how the time flies. We have completed our first term of school and look ahead to the continuation of our learning journey. Below you will read about some of the highlighted events coming in January and beyond! As always we want to express our thanks to you for the support you have provided us this year. There will be many more opportunities for parents and grandparents to be involved in their child's learning. We look forward to seeing you at Grindrod Elementary!

### **Student, Parent, Teacher Conferences**

Now that term 1 reports have been sent home for your review, we would like to welcome you in for a conference. At Grindrod Elementary, we will do an early dismissal starting at 11:30am on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This will provide extra time for scheduled parent/student/teacher conferences that will take place on that day. If you are unable to attend a conference on that day, your child's teacher will provide other opportunities to discuss your child's learning with you on an alternate date.

These conferences will provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's report card and their child's areas of strength and needs and review and finalize a learning goal(s) for their child's continued academic and behavioural growth. There was a suggested goal(s) included on the written report you received at the end of term 1. At the conference in January, the goal(s) will be discussed and modified if required.



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### **Dressing for the Weather**

We continue to encourage our students to dress for cold weather. Boots, gloves, toques and a warm jacket are essential. Snow pants will be appropriate as our students play outside each day at recess and lunch.



### **The Gut Project**

In collaboration with Mary Anne Domarchuk of Interior Health and local artist Cathy Stubbington, Grindrod School applied for and received an Artstarts Grant of nearly \$10,000. The project involves an integrated, hands on learning project about the human digestive system. Students will participate in age appropriate lesson about the mechanical, chemical and cellular processes involved in human digestion. Part of the study will involve learning about the food groups, a balanced diet and how to eat healthily. This interactive study will integrate collaborative art and performance components, science, math and language arts. Several artists and health professionals, as well as our own staff, will work with all of our students as we enhance our understanding of this important aspect of human health and wellness. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting learning initiative!

### **Garden Project Update**

We are very pleased to report that our garden shed has been completed. The construction of the project was done by J.L. Jackson/SASS Explore A Trade construction program students with help from some of our kids. The 16'x8' shed is a great size for the storage of all our garden tools and supplies. It will contain our automatic water system and a power outlet that will support activities at our garden site.

We are thankful to Kim Anker, our PAC President, who applied for and received a \$5000 Peavey Mart Agricultural Grant and to the J.L. Jackson/SASS students and their teacher leaders Greg Seed and Steve Macinnis. These two gentlemen spent eight hours on their first day of Winter Break at Grindrod School completing the garden shed on our behalf. What an outstanding extra effort!



The Completed Garden Shed

### Winter Recreation Begins in January

In December information and permission forms were sent home regarding our Winter Recreation Program. The program involves all students in our school although each age group has its own winter activity. Below you will find a brief summary of the events and corresponding dates. Please make sure your child has appropriate food and clothing for their activity. Parents are most welcome to attend.

**K-Grade 1-2 Skating Jan. 19, 26 & Feb. 2**

**Grade 3-5 XC Ski Jan. 12, 17, 26  
Loppett on Feb. 2**

**Grade 6-7 Downhill Jan. 12, 26 and Feb. 2  
Snowshoe on Jan.17**

Grade 6-7s who choose not to downhill ski have the opportunity to skate or cross country ski.

Thanks to the generous support of our PAC and the success of their Poinsettia fundraiser, for the first time ever, we are able to offer our cross country ski and skating programs at no cost and

pay for the transportation fees for our downhill skiers. The school will pay for the bussing costs as well to ensure our Winter Recreation Program is accessible to all.

### PAC News and Information

The PAC is organizing an ongoing Askews grocery cards fundraiser for the school. These cards can be purchased in the office by cash or cheque made out to Grindrod Elementary School. Please speak to Mrs. Tessel, our secretary. The cards come in \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations. The school receives 8% for every dollar sold!

The PAC Christmas Hamper fundraiser was a huge success raising over \$600 in support of extra-curricular activities for our students. The money earned helps our PAC support our swimming lessons and gymnastics programs as well as other school events.

Our PAC food committee is hosting its monthly Hot Soup day on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please send a **loonie, a bowl and a spoon** if you would like your child to participate.



**Next PAC Meeting-Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2:10**

### Popcorn Sales in January

Mrs. Smith's grade 5/6/7 class will be doing a popcorn sale fundraiser on Thursdays in January. The proceeds of this sale will be used to offset the costs of their year-end camping fieldtrip to Revelstoke in June. The cost is 50 cents per bag. Please bring change.



### Parent Information Session-Ready, Set, Learn

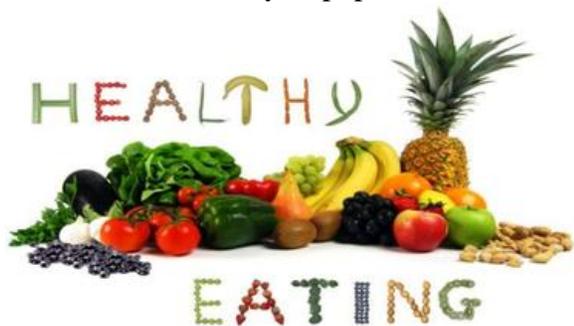
On Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 in our Breakfast Program room. Our District Early Learning Coordinator, Jennifer Findlay will present valuable school readiness information to parents/caregivers of children aged 3 and 4. This is a very valuable opportunity for parents to gain some

insight into how they can best prepare their child for school.

So that materials can be prepared for you, please pre-register your child(ren) by phoning Mrs. Tessel at the school at 250-838-7579.

### **Healthy Eating Encouraged**

This message is so important that we are carrying it forward from our December newsletter. In an effort to ensure our students are properly nourished for their day's learning we ask that each family make a special effort to send healthy lunches to school each day. We are noticing that students are bringing sugar rich foods or highly processed foods at times. Our expectations are that students will not bring chocolate bars, candy or pop to school.



A healthy, balanced lunch complete with real fruits, vegetables and protein help students to maintain their focus and energy throughout the day. Proper rest and a healthy diet are essential ingredients to a successful school experience. Grindrod School does host a breakfast and lunch program each day. Mrs. Timoffee, who runs our breakfast program, and the rest of our CEA staff make sure no child goes hungry. Many students receive food each day. Our community has been very generous in support of this program and we recently received a substantial donation from Santa's Workshop in Enderby! We hope to maintain this program through the entire school year and we welcome any and all community support.

### **Friday Friends and Kids Club**

Each Friday from 9:30-11:30am Grindrod hosts our pre-school Friday Friends Program. This is a free drop in program. Everyone with a pre-school child is welcome.

Also, each Tuesday beginning on January 23<sup>rd</sup> Grindrod opens its doors to Kids Club. The program is for school aged children and happens after school. Contact Michelle Watts at 250-838-0751 if you would like to join this club. Both programs take place in our Breakfast Program room.

Visitors to the school are asked to check in at the office before proceeding to the destination.

### **Clubs Thrive at Grindrod**

We have many student initiated clubs at Grindrod School. These include a Chess and Checkers Club, a Cartooning Club, a Dance Troop and a basketball team. Students often lead these clubs and they are initiated based on student interest. This is one way we aim to engage our students at Grindrod School.

If your grade 5-7 child wants to play on a basketball team this year, they will be receiving an information and permission sheet soon. Drivers will be needed to transport students to games at other schools. We will inform players and parents once games have been arranged.



### **Drug Awareness Seminar**

With the very serious health risks associated with drug use, our school has invited Mr. Mike Moyer to speak to our Grade 4-7 students about the issues related to this very important topic on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Moyer is presenter of the Regional District Safe Communities Program and speaks to many schools about a variety of health issues. It is our intention to have Mr. Moyer speak on a number of age appropriate and relevant health topics this term such as internet safety and anti-bullying.