



Grindrod Elementary School  
263 Carlin Street, (Box 249), Grindrod, B.C. V0E 1Y0  
Telephone: (250) 838-7579 Fax: (250) 804 7787



**May 2019**

### **Cross Country Running Update**

May is off to a fast start with our amazing runners. After running in our school race on April 26<sup>th</sup>, forty-seven runners raced at the Zone Cross Country event at MV Beattie. Our runners were highly successful, with 10 runners finishing in the top three.

This week, our team will travel to the District Race at Little Mountain Sports Complex in Salmon Arm. Every school in District 83 will participate! The bus will depart from our school at 12:00 and should return by 3:30. Good luck runners!

We encourage parents to attend, cheer on and help supervise our runners. If you wish to take your child home after their run, please check in with our coaches Mrs. Kemitzis and Mrs. Smith to sign them out before leaving the running site. A big thank you to these two teachers for volunteering to lead our runners into competition!

### **Parent Tea on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm**

We hope you will join us as we give thanks to you, our parents, for all the amazing ways you support our school throughout the year. We will serve coffee, tea and snacks and have a music program as our entertainment. We are eager to show you our appreciation!

### **PAC Meeting and News**

Our next PAC meeting is Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> in the library, beginning at 2:10. We hope you will join us.

### **Hanging Baskets**

Our hanging baskets will arrive on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> and we ask that parents pick up their orders that day after 2:00. The orders will be tagged with your name and will be in the gym. Thanks to those who have supported this PAC Fundraiser.



### **Indigenous Education Day**

Although we embed Indigenous education learning and teaching in our work each week, we are very fortunate to be one of the schools chosen to participate in an Indigenous Education theme day at our school on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. During this all day event, our students will attend experiential learning centers run by district Indigenous Education staff and high school students. Our students will be organized in multi-aged groupings, with our older students leading their team. We are very pleased to have this opportunity.

### **Pro D Day; an Invitation to Tell Us What You Think**

During our next Professional Development day on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be working on developing our school goals for 2019-2020.

Currently, we have two important long term goals:

1. To improve the reading skills of all students at Grindrod Elementary.
2. To improve the writing skills of all students at Grindrod Elementary

For effective growth to occur in the student learning and teaching practices to be developed, we know that these goals must continue to be our focus. However, we would like to ask our students for their input on a variety of topics around health and wellness, social skill development, home/school connections and student engagement. We will present school data and outline school practices in key areas. Your input will be important in helping us shape our teaching and learning in the coming year and beyond.

The parent portion of our day will be from **10:00-11:30am**. Babysitting will be provided by an adult supervisor, so please feel welcome to bring your children.

### **School Track and Field**

After cross-country running ends, our grade 4-7 students will be training for track and field. The main events are distance running, sprints, high jump, ball throw and long jump. On Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> our grade 4-7 students will participate in a school track meet. Our top two finishers in each age/gender group will be invited to participate in the District Track Meet at Little Mountain Park on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tent City Fundraising Event**

Back by popular demand, we will once again host a Tent City Fundraising event. Tent City is a unique Grindrod Elementary Fundraiser that invites grade 5, 6 and 7 students to bring their tents, sleeping bags and related gear to school for a sleepover. It's our FUN way to help others with great need. Doors open on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm and pick up is between 8:00 and 9:00am Saturday morning.

This year our fundraised dollars will go toward an organization called "Little Footprints, Big Steps." The mission of this life changing organization is encapsulated by the following statement from their website.

"Children belong with family, not in institutions. We restore vulnerable Haitian children and youth to health, family and community. We empower individuals and families toward a self-sufficient future through education, agriculture, small business programs, local programs and partnerships."

At a recent conference, Mr. Abbott had the opportunity to meet the founder and leader of this organization. Her name is Morgan Wienberg and her story is compelling. At the age of 18, just weeks after the tsunami that devastated Haiti in 2009, she left her home in Whitehorse, Yukon to begin a life of volunteerism and child advocacy in the poorest parts of Haiti. Over the past ten years, Ms. Weinberg has dedicated her life to helping the most vulnerable children in Haiti.

After sharing her story and organization with our grade 5/6/7 students, it was decided by the group that they would support "Little Footprints, Big Steps." You can learn more about this

organization at <https://www.littlefootprintsbigsteps.com/>.

Tent City is open to all grade 5, 6 and 7 students studying at Grindrod Elementary. There is no fee, but since this is a fundraising event, we ask that each participant donate \$10, or more if they wish, to this chosen cause. Staff and parents with criminal record checks will provide overnight supervision. More information will be sent home with participating students closer to the event date.

### **Kindergarten Orientation Day**

If you have a student entering kindergarten at our school this fall, we are pleased to invite you to a school visit and orientation event on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great opportunity for you and your child to get to know our school and kindergarten program just a little bit better. The fun begins at 1:00pm.

### **Tennis Lesson for Division 2 and 3 Students**

We are pleased to be introducing our students to tennis, a sport that is growing in interest and participation in Canada. This program is targeted to our grade 3/4 and 5/6 classes and will take place at the tennis club facility behind Little Mountain Park in Salmon Arm. Students will take three one-hour lessons, taught by local tennis instructors. More information will be sent home with participating students.

### **Public Speaking**

Our grade 5, 6, 7 top-3 students will be presenting their speeches at the school's speeches event on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 12:45pm. The top student from each grade will be presenting their speech at the Zones competition at South Broadview Elementary on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Photograph Day**

Our photo day is May 30<sup>th</sup>. Class photos as well as our whole school picture will be taken and we don't want you to miss it! We expect pictures to be taken early in the morning, as we have other events happening later on that day.

To all our Mom's,   
we wish you all a very happy Mother's  
Day on May 12<sup>th</sup>! 