

November 29, 2021

Newsletter # 6

We Are Nut Aware!

We Are Scent Aware!

EDGEWOOD NEWS

The Eagles Are Dancing!
With Jess Dance Instruction December 2,3,6,8th

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Nov. 29th

Primary CSL Writing Day
No School for Divisions
1,2,3,4,5

Wednesday, Dec. 1st

Monthly Assembly 1:30 pm
Tree of Warmth Campaign
Begins

Friday, Dec. 3rd

Fancy Friday Dress Up Day
Dress Your Best!

Tuesday, Dec. 7th

PAC Mtg 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 9th

Season Sweater Theme
Day

Friday, Dec. 10th

PAC Hot Lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 14th

Seasonal Spirit Theme Day

Thursday, Dec. 16th

Written CSL Home

Friday, Dec. 17th

Pajama Day
Last Day of School for 2021

Winter Break

Dec. 20th to Jan. 4th

Every Friday!

Spirit Day

**Wear Your Spirit Wear or
Black!
(our school colour)**

Office Hours

8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Monday to Friday

Principal's Message

Hadih - Bonjour Parents!

It's a two for one week this week - two months in one week. November ends and December begins. Unbelievable!

Amazingly, only 15 school days until winter break. This can be a very energetic time of year, with lots going on. Our grade 7 leaders have many fun **theme days** planned as well as the yearly **Tree of Warmth** campaign.

Students will find their inner artists through dance and the visual arts. The latter is in preparation for our **second winter virtual art show**. For a variety of reasons (logistics, time, space, ongoing COVID concerns to name a few), staff have opted to, once again, focus on the visual arts rather than the performing arts this December. This was not an easy decision but the best one for the school community, at this time. Thank you for understanding. We will build on our learning from last year. The art show is set to debut, Friday, December 17th after lunch.

The dumps of snow, though not long lasting enough have brought the **sliders** out, much to the delight of students. Our Kindergarten students were introduced to this fun activity last week. Believe it or not, there is a lot to consider for sliding so that it can be done safely, understanding directions, how to slide safely, how and where to walk at the end of a slide to avoid collisions with those coming down the hill, waiting patiently to slide etc. The question often is asked if students can bring their own sliders to school. Due to spacing issues inside the school, we ask students to use the school sliders that PAC has generously provided. Students who have been sliding so far are doing a GREAT job sharing and following expectations. Snow pants must be worn to slide. Now we just need more snow! Happy end of November and beginning of December!

Health and Safety Need to Knows:

Emergency Procedures Drill Practices

We have successfully completed our Emergency Response Drills since our last newsletter. We will be required to practice these again in the spring. Thank you for supporting your child and the school with conversations and check-ins. These really do help.

Winter Fire Drill Tuesday

We will have our first winter practice this week. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the main difference between this drill and a normal fire drill, is that children get their coats as they exit the building. Some classes also have a different exit door, one that is closer to their coat area so they can exit more quickly. Classes that may be in the gym, library or computer lab during a winter drill or real event, wool blankets are in each of these locations for students to take with them. This drill is at 11:30.

Being Aware of the Effects of Despair

The recent devastation in the southern part of the province will impact not just those directly living in the regions affected but everyone throughout the province. The panic buying, the constant media replay of the loss of structures, people, animals, can trigger a lot in people of all ages. Our children, whose brains are not yet fully developed, who do not yet have the skills and strategies to process this need, adult support. They need to be protected from being re-traumatized with daily newscast updates, social media feeds, overhearing adult conversation. Brains are full. All of us have been in a heightened state of alert for nearly two years because of the pandemic. Now this. Please be mindful of how the current provincial plight is impacting you, your loved ones, and your children.



Edgewood Eagles

SOAR

**Safety, Ownership,
Achievement, Respect**

Theme of the Month

Empathy

Safe Start

If your child is going to be **late or absent**, please call the school and leave a message, complete with your child's full name, grade, and teacher. Calls home are made for those students not in attendance to ensure their safety and whereabouts

Supervision

Morning supervision
8:15 – 8:30
After school supervision
2:27 – 2:42

4440 Craig Road
Prince George, BC
V2K 3P5

PHONE:
(250) 562-5381

FAX:
(250) 562-4204

WEBSITE:
www.sd57.bc.ca/school/edge

FACEBOOK
@ edgewoodpac
@ edgewoodelementarypg

PAC News

Meet our new executive for this school year. We thank the following parents for taking on these important leadership roles for your child's school.

Chair: Danielle Davis
Co-Chair: Meghan McGibbon

Secretary: Marian Berg
Treasurer: Ethan Hoffman

Being a part of PAC is one important way to be involved in your child's school experience and help build community. There are many ways to be involved.

Please visit our school website for updated meeting minutes, financial reports and agendas.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 7th, 7pm via Zoom and Onsite

This will be a reoccurring meeting, using the same Zoom information each month.

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/68908841753?pwd=TWdpK0dFUGd2SzdGdIBZdDBvcy9Ndz09>

Meeting ID: 689 0884 1753

Passcode: 741529

Everyone Welcome!

PAC Hot Lunch Update

Orders are taken via the online order system called "Munch-a-Lunch". You can order for up to three hot lunches in advance. If you need help navigating Munch-A-Lunch or need an alternative, contact PAC or the school.

Munch-A-Lunch closes 11pm the Sunday before the hot lunch day.

Next Hot Lunch - Friday, December 10th Costco Hot Dogs

Next Popcorn Day TBA

Mable's Labels

Check them out on line at <https://mabelslabels.ca>

Click on the tab "support a fundraiser" and look for our school. Mable's Labels will help you label any and everything.

Save-On Foods Helps PAC

Don't forget that purchasing Save On gift cards (GCs) from any Save-On Foods brings money to our school. Consider using a GC to pay for your groceries, or **if you are purchasing any for Christmas gifts**, go to the Customer Service counter at any Save-On to purchase your GCs. Be sure to say you are with Edgewood and PAC receives a percentage of all sales of GCs.

Fundraising: Pointsettas and Chocolates

Pointsetta Order - Arrived **Purdy's Order Now Closed- Awaiting Delivery**

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program & BC Dairy Foundation

We have had three deliveries of fruit and milk so far this year. The latest delivery were apples. We thank PAC for continuing to support this program for our school.

Indigenous Education Highlights

The Outdoor Club for grade 4 and 5 students will be wrapping up in December. After the break, there will be more opportunities for other grades to have a go. Indigenous Drumming and the game of Lahal continue to be offered to classes. Ask your child to tell you about their learning experiences with these activities. Ms. Gould will be taking her third group of students out on the DP Todd Trapline this week. We are so fortunate to be able to partner up with our feeder high school for this very unique experience.

November Survey for Parents Still Open

In our continual efforts to strive for improvement and meet our School Plan goals related to Equity, Wellness, Learning and Truth and Reconciliation, we want to hear from you. Your voice is important, your feedback vital as feedback drives learning.

Please click on the link below to access the survey. Printed copies will be made available as well. Thank you to those who have been able to complete the survey.
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sGeWW4->

Edgewood Safe Start Take Two

All schools have a Safe Start program. The purpose of this program is to ensure a "safe start" to the school day for school. This ensures all student absences are followed up on. It is essential that we make actual contact with someone who can confirm the student is safe.

Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

A formal, written CSL will be coming home Thursday, December 16th just before the winter break. These written communications get placed in your child's student file. You are welcome to keep the communication that is coming home in the special CSL envelope. **What we need back** is the envelope it will come home in. Please sign and return the envelope with your child before the break so that it does not get lost amongst the many flyers and envelopes that come this time of year. You may request an interview with your child's teacher on the envelope should you need.

In order for educators to meet the goal of timely and responsive communication of learning, you will notice that **not all subjects will be included** in this first written CSL. All communications for all students will include math, English Language Arts and your child as a learner (personal, social and career development). The inclusion of other subjects will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Not all subjects are ready for communicating at the same time, thus the need for flexibility. As math and English are the foundations for the other subject areas, they will be reported on in each formal CSL.

You can expect all other subjects to be reported on at least one time between now and the end of May. All subjects will be communicated in the June Summative CSL.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Included in the written CSL you will be receiving will be two student self-assessments. Having students assess their own learning with the support of their teachers really helps them be a part of their learning. It helps them "drive" it. Assessment is not something that should be done to students but rather done with them, so they can see the importance of being an active participant in their learning.

Theme of the Month Empathy

We end 2021 with one of the most important virtues a person of character possesses and that is, empathy. The ongoing Pandemic and recent events in the province have brought empathy to the forefront of our lives.

According to educational researcher, Michele Borba, empathy is the first and most important in her list of essential virtues that teach kids to do the right thing. It is the most important to have, yet often the hardest to teach.

In her book Moral Intelligence: The Seven Essential Virtues to Teach Kids to Do the Right Thing, Borba defines empathy as the ability to identify with and feel another person's concerns. She believes this is the foundation of moral intelligence. Empathy is what sensitizes our kids to different points of view and increases their awareness of others' ideas and opinions. She believes it is what enhances humanness, civility and morality. It is what moves kids to be accepting and compassionate. Borba also believes that empathy is what halts violent and cruel behaviour and urges us to greet others kindly. She states that all children are born with the capacity for empathy, yet it is not guaranteed without proper nurturing.

Borba outlines 5 factors that are lethal in preventing empathy development. They are:

- emotional unavailability of parents
- absence of supportive fathers
- the barrage of cruel media images
- raising boys to mask their feelings
- abuse in the cradle (repeated stress, abuse, neglect, and trauma of newborns, babies, and toddlers.)

She notes because peers are huge moral influences that in the end all kids are affected and at risk. In order for children to have empathy for others, this needs to be taught. We also know that empathy for others can only occur if people have empathy for themselves first.

It is my experience in working with children, they are very good at having empathy for others or situations that are further removed from what they experience (lack of food, homelessness, etc). They also have huge empathy for animals. What they have more difficulty with is having empathy for their peers and themselves. Kids can be so hard on each other and themselves. We need to model empathy in all situations and for all people. If empathy is the foundational virtue for humans as Borba believes, then we all need to work to help children have a solid foundation with this.

Grade 7 Student Leadership Update

This year's leaders are a keen bunch. Honestly if we could have a theme day every day they would. 😊 Check the dates' section of this newsletter for the schedule of theme days for December. Fancy Friday is this Friday. Students are welcome to dress in their best!

Ella the Elf (On the Shelf)

This was a HUGE hit last year. Some of the younger students have wondered if Ella will be visiting us again this year. She sure will. Keep this a secret, please. Everyone has so much fun with it. The leadership students create the riddles and place Ella. Everyone else gets to do some detective work. Last year Ella got pictures and special notes. She was embraced whole heartedly.

Tree of Warmth

This has been a yearly leadership initiative for years. A tree placed in the front foyer is decorated with warmth with donations of mitts, gloves, hats, scarves, blankets, and jackets. These items can be new or gently used. If you are donating the latter, please ensure they are cleaned prior to donating. These items will be given to those in need via local agencies like the Salvation Army, Elizabeth Fry, and St. Vincent de Paul. Any warm items for animals, dog coats, booties etc can also be donated. The last day to donate will be Dec 17th. Thank you in-advance for your donations.

