

Horse Lake Elementary
School
Newsletter
April 2023



Grade Seven Class to Undertake Cottonwood Canoe Construction Project

The grade seven class, under the direction of their teacher Mrs. Pugh, will be beginning the construction of a canoe from a cottonwood log that was recently delivered to the school site. In a short ceremony last week, our head carver, Joe Archie, a Canim Lake knowledge keeper, and Karen Pelloran, our own Horse Lake First Nations representative, led a Canoe Blessing Ceremony with our intermediate students in attendance.



Joe Archie explained to the students the origin of the log that was being carved, and explained the importance of being selective when harvesting from nature, to ensure there would be a steady supply of resources for future generations. He explained how it was important to measure the log to maintain sufficient flotation of the finished product, while ensuring the parts of the log that were cut away could still be used to make paddles, and that no part of the log should go to waste.

The senior class of Eliza Archie School at Canim Lake will also be participating in the project by simultaneously carving a 'sister log', also overseen by Joe Archie, who said it had been many generations since canoes were carved at Canim Lake. Constable Jason Flett, the Canim Lake Liaison Officer and certified canoe instructor, also participated in the ceremony and will be part of a launching ceremony of the completed canoes at Ruth Lake in June. I will be sure to share the project progress as construction evolves over the next several weeks.



Grade Seven Leadership Group Sponsors Easter Activities

On the Thursday afternoon before Good Friday, the grade seven class sponsored an Easter Bonnet/Hair Day, as well as an Easter Egg hunt for students from Kindergarten to Grade 5. Students were given an opportunity class by class to scavenge through the forest in search of a limit of 4 chocolate eggs. At the end of the day, an impromptu assembly was held to show off everyone's Easter hats. The Easter Bunny made a special appearance at the assembly, first wondering where all his eggs had gone, and then to lead the entire gymnasium crowd in the Bunny Hop Dance.



Cross Country Running Practices Are Underway Ahead of Inter-School Meet

With snow levels starting to recede, interested students have begun to practice their running skills in preparation for the Inter School Cross Country Run. Practices are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the beginning of the lunch break, with students taking to Ryall Road to practice one of three distances depending on grade levels, before returning to the school grounds to eat their lunches. If you happen to be driving by the school around 11:20 am on these days, be on the lookout for our young athletes.

Candy Bones Theatre and 'Doctor Professor' Entertain Horse Lake Students

In our first cultural event of the year, Candy Bones Theatre brought its production of "Oopsie" to Horse Lake to entertain our student body. The slapstick performance by 'Doctor Professor' delighted our primary students, while our intermediate students had the opportunity to improvise a number of situations offered by the Professor. The theme of the show was that not only was it okay to make mistakes, but we often learning from things that didn't work out the way we planned them.



Early Dismissal Days For Parent Teacher Interviews / Scholastic Book Fair / Report Card Envelopes

Following on the heels of the issuance of term 2 report cards prior to Spring Break, parents have the opportunity to meet with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) to review the report(s) and discuss student progress. School will dismiss one hour early this Wednesday and Thursday, April 19th and 20th to accommodate these conversations. Busses will pick up students at 1:25 pm on these two days. Parents can contact their child's teacher to set up an appointment to meet.

To coincide with the early dismissal days and interviews, the Horse Lake PAC is bringing back the Scholastic Book Fair for the second time this year. Students have had an opportunity to browse the books with their class, and can visit the Fair during recess and lunch. The Book Fair will also be open to parents on Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm.

Finally, parents are requested to return the envelopes that the March report cards were sent home in. They will be used one more time this year when year-end reports are issued at the end of June.

Festival of the Arts April 25th / Hot Lunch Day Rescheduled

Three of our classes will be performing at this year's Festival of the Arts on Tuesday, April 25th. The Hot Lunch scheduled for that day will be rescheduled to Wednesday, April 26th, as almost half of our student body will be out of the building on Tuesday. Good luck to all our participants in the Festival!

Student Learning Surveys

Each year, the Ministry of Education surveys students, parents, and school staffs with respect to the education the school provides to your children. The Student Learning Survey is an annual province-wide census of Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12 students, their parents, and staff in public schools. The questions were developed with input from partner groups, teachers, and experts in educational measurement and special education. The survey is completed by grade 4 and grade 7 students as part of their school day, and their parents are offered the opportunity to be heard by taking the survey on line until April 28th. While student surveys are linked to their student number, parent surveys are anonymous. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>.

Safe Arrival Reminder

Just another reminder that if your child will be absent from school on any given day, parents are asked to register their absence through the Safe Arrival program. Absences can be logged using the **SchoolMessenger** app, the Web and Mobile Web at go.schoolmessenger.com, or by interactive toll-free phone by calling 1-(833) 582-6944.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Helmer, Principal