

Horse Lake Elementary School Newsletter December 2022



Staffing News

We would like to officially welcome Kacey Boettger to our staff as our newest Education Assistant. Kacey has been completing her EA Practicum at our school this fall, and was the successful applicant for the position vacated by Linda Porter, who posted into an EA opportunity at PSO. Kacey will also continue with her duties as a noon supervisor.

Near the end of November Mrs. Pecor and her youngest son, Maxx, in grade 7, were involved in an incident that resulted in serious injury to both. It will be a long road to recovery for this family. The staff and Horse Lake School community are working in conjunction with the Pecor's hockey family to coordinate support efforts. We are collecting monetary donations that will be put towards prepared meals or the purchase of gift cards for gas and food items. We will also collect gift cards if you'd prefer to donate those directly. Please send donations in with your child to their classroom teacher or directly at the office. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Remembrance Day Assembly



Our second assembly of the year was held on November 10th to commemorate Remembrance Day. A number of parents attended the ceremony which featured presentations by several classes, as well as two groups of grade sevens who shared their insights of the day. In addition, students were encouraged to bring in memorabilia and reminders of family members who served in past wars, and displays of the 'personal side' of Remembrance Day brought the message to a meaningful level for our students. Thanks to all those that contributed to our acknowledgment.



Assessment and Reporting

Our grade seven and four students completed the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment in early November and a group of district teachers, including five from Horse Lake Elementary, gathered one Saturday in November to mark the written components of the numeracy and literacy assessments. The opportunity to collaborate with other district teachers is a great learning opportunity, and ensures greater consistency in the evaluation of student progress across the district. The results of these assessments also give us a snapshot of student learning that we can use to compare with our daily results in the classroom. The FSA results will be returned to students in the coming weeks.



Crazy Hat, Hair and Moustache Day

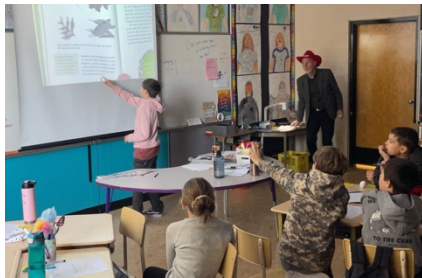


The School Leadership Group gave the staff and students of Horse Lake Elementary another Theme Day to celebrate, with Crazy Hat, Hair and Moustache Day. Points for participation were awarded toward the School House Teams, and many of our students had displays of creative styles to celebrate the day.



Staff Professional Development - Leyton Schnellert

We were very fortunate to be able to host yet another Education Consultant into our school work with our students and teachers on November 24th. Leyton Schnellert is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at UBC's Okanagan Campus who specializes in literacy, and he worked with a class of our grade 5/6 students and several of our educators demonstrating a lesson on finding the key ideas in works of non-fiction. Our students were one of the first classes to work with aboriginal author



Monique Gray Smith's new book,

Braiding Sweetgrass. Not even the distraction of Crazy Hat, Hair, and Moustache Day could keep the staff and students alike from engaging with Leyton and the key literature topics in the book!

On the following Pro D Day, several of our teachers attended Leyton's sessions at PSO on teaching through Inquiry, as well as a session on Reading and Writing. Thank you Leyton for another amazing learning opportunity at our school!

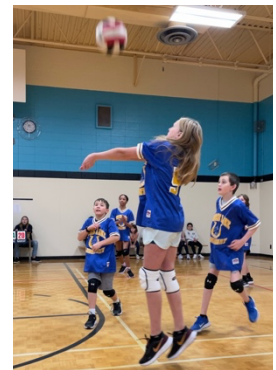


Volleyball Tournaments



School team sports have returned and last week saw our school host the Grade Six Interschool Volleyball tournament, and Mile 108 host the Grade Seven Tournament. Our intermediate students had been practicing regularly for the past month and a half, and their talents shone through as they captured first place in both tournaments against 100 Mile, Mile 108, and Forest Grove teams.

Congratulations to our students, who displayed both talent and sportsmanship, and to our coaches, Ms. Pugh, Ms. Masterson, Ms. MacKinnon, and Ms. Langton. Next up will be basketball, beginning in the new year.



Horse Lake Elementary Christmas Store Returns

The Horse Lake PAC is once again sponsoring the Christmas Store, operating out of Mrs. Ball's Learning Support Room for the week of December 5th – 9th. Students have the opportunity to shop for gifts that the PAC has accumulated over the year and have priced appropriately for the student's budget.

The opening of the Christmas Store comes on the heels of the Scholastic Book Fair, also run by the PAC, which was open during the week of Parent Teacher Interviews and which also raised funds for the school and helped to bolster classroom libraries in all grades.

Class Gift Baskets for the Christmas Raffle / Christmas Concert

All of our classes have selected their theme for the Christmas Basket they will be collecting goodies for over the next couple of weeks. The completed baskets will then be raffled off on the evening of this year's Christmas Concert to be held on Wednesday, December 21st.

There will be an afternoon concert for our own students to watch beginning at about 12:45 p.m., and then an evening performance beginning at 6:00 p.m. Keep the date clear and watch for more information coming out closer to the date.



StrongStart Program to Close For Christmas Break

The last day for the fall session of StrongStart is December 9th. The early closure is to facilitate the deep cleaning of the toys, tables, and equipment used in the program, as well as to allow our StrongStart Educator, Ms. Jones to attend an Early Childhood Education Pro D activity. The program will start up again in the new year on January 10th.



StrongStartBC

Report Cards to be Issued on December 14th

First term report cards will be going home on Wednesday, December 14th.

Library Corner

It has been busy in the library! As we wrap up for the holidays, please have a look for any stray library books in your home and return them. This year, students can borrow books over the holidays if they want to, however there is a high risk of them being lost. Please have a conversation with your child about whether or not it is a good idea to borrow a book over the holidays.

Santa's Library: This year the library will be hosting 'Santa's Library'. This event promotes reading and the act of giving! Students can come to the library and borrow a book on behalf of a friend. They will fill out a gift tag with a holiday message and who the book is from (they can even say it's from Santa or an Elf!). Each day, the books will be delivered by the library elves to the friends. Students who receive a book will have one week to read the book before it must be returned. Of course, it can always be returned early.



Lastly, we have a new pet gecko in the library, which I refer to as Cedric, but whose name has yet to be determined. He's adjusting well to his new environment, especially with so much to read!

Jackie Hunt, Teacher Librarian

Affordability Concerns

If you are aware of a family in the Horse Lake School Community that is struggling financially this Christmas season, or if you yourself are in this position, our school can help with providing warm clothing and food for the table through our Affordability Fund. This money can help offset increasing costs families are facing, especially costs related to school like winter coats, snow pants, boots, as well as sufficient food on the table at home or for your children at school. You can advise me directly at murray.helmer@sd27.bc.ca, and all emails will be handled discretely and confidentially.

Respectfully, Murray Helmer, Horse Lake Elementary School Principal and Grade 5/6 Teacher

