

Horse Lake Elementary School Newsletter February 2023



Horse Lake Elementary Winter Carnival Ushers in February

The entire student body of Horse Lake Elementary took to the outdoors on the afternoon of February 3rd to participate in the Winter Carnival, organized and run by Mrs. Pugh's grade seven students. The grade sevens divided the school playing field into 9 different activity stations, and class groupings rotated through the activities throughout the afternoon.



Among the activities offered were Snow Bowling, 'Snowball' Throw, Tug Of War, Snowshoe Races, Snow Art for the kindergarten students, the Sliding Hill, Team Toboggan Races, Canadian Golf, and the Maple Candy Station, where students were treated to boiled maple syrup on a stick, which soon evolved into Maple Syrup Snow Cones. The grade seven students kept everyone active at their respective stations, and the afternoon flew by. Judging by the smiles on the students' faces, a great time was had by all!



Grade Six Students Attend Gavin Lake Outdoor Winter Camp

The grade six students from Ms. McKinnon's and Ms. Langton's classes hopped on a school bus on the morning of February 6th to head to the Gavin Lake Camp near Likely for a two day outdoor experience. They were greeted by over a meter of fresh snow, as the camp is located in a natural bowl that attracts a lot of precipitation. The instructional components at the camp featured students strapping on cross-country skis to learn about animal tracks, and the story their imprints tell about their winter survival. Forest and animal adaptations in the winter environment was another instructional component, as the students snowshoed through the demonstration forest, with the instructor pointing out the various survival tactics living things implement in the winter. Finally in Snow Science, the instructor had students examine various layers of snow and explained how differences in snow layers can contribute to hazardous conditions in the back country. Their module concluded with students learning how to use avalanche beacons to locate sensors buried in the snow, re-creating real-life avalanche rescues. In their free time, students had the opportunity to ice skate and play hockey on the outdoor rink, slide down the 'luge run' driveway, icefish, as well as enjoy the other recreational activities the camp has to offer. The camp is a free program offered by the Gavin Lake Forest Education Society made possible by donations from many local business with bussing costs covered by the school district. A volunteer cook keeps everyone well fed and volunteer instructors provide the educational opportunities. Many thanks go out to the parent chaperones that ensured students were safely supervised at all their activities. We hope to make this camp an annual event and regular part of the grade six curriculum.



Carole Fullerton Returns To Work With Intermediate Teachers on Math Teaching Strategies

Teacher Leader and Educational Consultant, Carole Fullerton, will join our intermediate teaching staff on February 16th to collaborate on the planning and teaching of Big Math Ideas through problem solving using manipulatives. After planning the lesson together, the intermediate teachers and Ms. McKinnon's grade 5/6 students will join Carole as she demonstrates strategies for teaching a lesson involving fractions. Afterwards, the teachers debrief with Carole to ask questions and discuss how they might implement what they have learned in their own classrooms.

Family Fun Night Returns to Horse Lake Elementary School Gym Friday, February 24th

The school gym will be a busy place next Friday night, as Family Fun Night returns to the school, organized by the Horse Lake PAC, with booths sponsored by every classroom in the school. Tickets to participate in the evening's events will be on sale at the door, with single tickets selling for \$1, 12 tickets for \$10, and 25 tickets for \$20. A full list of the booths and activities can be found on the Horse Lake Elementary PAC Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you there!

Traffic Congestion After School A Concern For Bus Drivers

Just a reminder to parents who meet their children after school that they need to keep their vehicles clear of the entrance and exit gates of the school, as the school busses need to make a wide turn to enter the front of the school to pick up the students. We have up to five busses that need to access the front of the school, so parents parking vehicles are asked to do so well past the entry to the driveway. Additionally, parents that park by the backstop of the playing field are often pulling out in front of busses as they are leaving the school after picking up their children. We ask that you give busses the right of way so we can keep all our students safe as they leave for the day.

Reminder To Return Report Card Envelopes

If you have yet to return your child(ren)'s report card envelope(s), please return them to the school with your child. The envelopes are needed so that report cards can go home from the Term 2 reporting period on Wednesday, March 8th.

Kindergarten Registration Continues Through February

Parents wanting to enrol their child(ren) in kindergarten are advised that registration is open. In order to register, parents need to produce the child's Birth Certificate and Care Card, as well as two pieces of identification that demonstrate residence within the Horse Lake Elementary catchment area. Schools of Choice information and registration packages are available at the school office.

Respectfully,
Murray Helmer, Principal

