

Horse Lake Elementary School Newsletter November 2022



The warm weather and blue skies of a late summer have quickly turned into the cold, snow, and ice of an early winter. However, October featured many activities and events that kept our students engaged and active. Halloween-themed events dominated much of the month.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

The first major event sponsored by the school's Leadership Group was the Pumpkin Carving Contest, where both Primary and Intermediate prizes were awarded in the categories of Funniest, Scariest, and Best Overall. The record number of entries challenged our guest judges, Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Santelli, to come up with winners from an outstanding array of pumpkin entries.



Ultimately, 30 winners were crowned for their carving creativity, even though everyone who entered is commended for their effort and variety of entries received.



Casual Snow Removal Opportunity At The School

Horse Lake Elementary is looking for anyone interested in a casual snow removal job at the school. While the parking lots and bus areas are kept clear by the district, we are in need of someone to keep the sidewalks and entry door areas free from snow. Snow may either be removed by hand, plow, or a quad fitted with a blade. The goal would be to have the snow removed prior to the arrival of staff and students, but no later than 8:00 a.m. on school days.



Remembrance Day

In honour of Remembrance Day this week, we will be collecting images and information/stories for our Hall of Heroes display. Photos of Canadian military veterans or those in active service can be sent to Mrs. McKinnon (heather.mckinnon@sd27.bc.ca), along with their name, rank, years and location of service, relationship to one or more Horse Lake students and, if possible, a brief story about them. Photos will not be returned so please either send an electronic copy to address above or send a hard



COPY to the school with your child(ren). I do not have any of the lovely images or stories that were sent in last year either so please feel free to re-submit. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 9th so that we can have it all ready for Thursday's assembly. We are hoping that this activity and the display will help our students connect more meaningfully to the importance of Remembrance Day. Your help and participation is greatly appreciated!

Horse Lake Elementary will be observing Remembrance Day at a school assembly scheduled for Thursday, November 10th, beginning at 10:45 am. Some classes are preparing material to present during the assembly, in honor of those who lost their lives to protect our freedom. Parents and guests are welcome to attend this function.

Coats For All Program Returns

The Coats for All program is getting underway again in 100 Mile House. The Joint Outreach Team is asking for your help in collecting warm winter outerwear for children such as coats, snowsuits, scarves, gloves and toques. The donated clothing can be taken to 100 Mile Laundromat in Owen Square, opposite the Library, between November 1 and November 30. If possible, please wash the items you are donating and label them "washed".

From November 5th to November 30 the donated clothing will be offered free at Loaves and Fishes, 100 Mile Food Bank, Canim Lake and Canoe Creek Bands, Stemetewuwi Friendship Centre, The Family Enrichment Centre and the Mental Health Office. In conjunction with the monthly free store, coats and other winter items will be available to anyone, at St. Timothy's Anglican Church (corner of Horse Lake Road and Blackstock Road), Friday, November 19th from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM to help working people and families who do not normally go to the distribution sites. Coats for All is sponsored by 100 Mile Free Press, Radio Station CKBX and 100 Mile Laundromat. It is coordinated and staffed by the Joint Outreach Team of St. Timothy's Anglican Church and 100 Mile United Church. If you have any questions please contact Annie McKave at 250 395 6054.



Parent Teacher Interviews Scheduled For Early Dismissal Days - November 16th and 17th

In order to provide parents with an opportunity meet and discuss their child(ren)'s progress with their teachers, two early dismissal days have been created in November. On November 16th and 17th, students will be dismissed one hour early, at 1:25 pm, to provide time for parents to meet with teachers. Some teachers will be providing interim information about the student's achievement and other pertinent information ahead of these early dismissal days, and parents seeking more information, or simply wanting to meet, can then make an appointment with the teacher during the time set aside. First term written report cards will be issued during the week of December 7th - 14th.

New Benches Arrive For the Outdoor Learning Structure

A big thank you goes out to the Horse Lake Parent Advisory Council for contracting the services of Wessels Custom Logworks to have portable benches constructed for outdoor learning structure. The benches match the structure perfectly, and make the structure more user friendly for the classes working outside in it. The PAC is still looking at ways to protecting the interior of the structure from the snow and wind to keep it useable year round.



Clerical Hours Set To Change at the School

Our minor enrollment decline this year is going to have a major impact on the Secretarial time we are going to have for the remainder of the school year. The Support Staff contract ties student enrolment to the clerical hours available for all school secretaries. This year our enrollment dropped just below 200 students, and this is resulting in a reduction of weekly hours for Mrs. Weston, our school secretary. **Beginning on November 17th, there will be no secretary in the office after 1:00 pm.**

While we will do our best to answer phones in the afternoon whenever possible, and to check messages before the end of the school day, we ask that you make every effort to make bus arrangements with your child(ren) earlier in the day so late day switches can be avoided. We understand that emergent issues may arise and we will do our best to limit the inconvenience this change may create.

Reminders

Team Shirts: The last day to order Horse Lake Team Shirts is November 14th. The order forms remain available in the office.

Outdoor Clothing: With the onset of unpredictable weather and colder temperatures, please make sure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Safe Arrival: SafeArrival is an absence management system used in School District No 27 that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence. You are asked to report your child's absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:

SchoolMessenger app (free or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>)

Web and Mobile Web: go.schoolmessenger.com

Interactive Toll-free Phone: 1 (833) 582-6944

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

