**LIKELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

October 11, 2023

September has been a beautiful month for starting school! Staff members have been working hard to provide activities that develop a sense of belonging, celebrate each students’ contribution to our learning environment, as well as reinforce positive behavior and choices.

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY /TRUTH and RECONCIALTION** The responsibility to teach about horrific mistreatment of our Indigenous People in the past is a necessary duty for present day treatment of Indigenous People to improve. The staff of Likely Elementary recognize the weightiness of this topic given the age range and developmental phases of Likely students. We are proud of the engagement witnessed during the weeks leading up to Orange Shirt Day.

Students have an age-appropriate understanding of the ‘why’. Why do we wear Orange? What truth needs to be reconciled? Students learned about needs of survival versus needs of thriving from two plants named Steve and Alex. This understanding of needs was then personalized to a puzzle creation showing the ‘Pieces that make Me’. Students engaged in discussions about how it would feel if ‘Pieces of Me’ could not be developed due to needs not being met. This was connected to the fact that children at Residential Schools did not have their needs met. The level of empathy and understanding shown was impressive.

**PAC** PAC’s serve a vital part of child’s education. Learning is not just a ‘classroom’ event. Much learning happens outside the classroom through fieldtrips and special x Set (8 **Books**:  events. Likely students are fortunate to have as many special events and field trips as larger schools in our district. This is mainly thanks to our PAC and their effective fundraising. Parents are invited to have a voice in the year’s planning for their children by attending any meeting! This year we are thrilled to have Alsha Potter as our PAC President; Nykki Bolen as Vice President, Brittany Cabalfin as Secretary/Treasurer. The next PAC meeting is **4:30pm, Wed. Oct. 18** at the Likely Lodge.

**AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER** This is a new event hosted by the PAC and Likely’s Chamber of Commerce. Allison Gainer is our community Event Coordinator who creates many fun things for Likely kids to enjoy. After school Soccer Program is another idea of Allison’s. Students learn soccer skills and game play of course, but they also learn about commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship. We hope this idea can expand to other seasonal team sports such as Floor Hockey, Basketball, Baseball etc. As team sports serve the developmental ages of older students the program is offered to grade 3-7’s. If you have any experience in these team sports, contact Allison!

**BOTTLE DRIVE Thursday October 19th from 11-2:15**

As mentioned above, PAC hosts effective fundraisers for our students to have a variety of learning events . The bottle drive serves as one of these. Please save the date, save your bottles, bring them to the school Oct 18th and lend a hand, even if all you have is an hour to help!

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION** Time outside in nature being active, mindful and engaged in our environment contributes to positive mindset, mental and emotional well-being, physical health and learning. Thanks to our teacher Mariah Bouchard, we are spending more time outside. We start each day with outside with a ‘Morning Circle’ and walk; ‘‘A Tree and Me ‘ happens Tuesday and Thursday where we learn in and about our environment; Wandering Wednesdays are weekly mini-hikes to increase our physical endurance and enjoy sites close to our school.

**GRATITUDE LEAVES** Thanksgiving is the perfect cultural holiday to help students reflect on what is special to them and learn to be grateful. It is heartwarming to hear that one of the first things students are grateful for is their families! Next time you are at the school, check out the chain of leaves on our fence-I bet you will find your name there: Mom and Dad! ☺

**FALL ASSESSEMENTS**  Fall assessments will be starting next week. Students are assessed on their reading, math and writing skills to direct teacher instruction in each area. Results can be discussed at the Parent Teacher times scheduled for Nov. 16 & 17th (early dismissal days). The same assessments are repeated in the spring for evidence of student growth.

**LOCAL LIKELY LEARNING: SHUSWAP TRAIL & FISH HATCHERY**

Students learned about Indigenous Medicinal Plants while hiking the Shuswap Trail at Gavin Lake Sept. 21. We may have underestimated the length of the trail as we were challenged to complete the hike in time to get back to the bus! It was a beautiful hike with lots of learning and many laughs as we hustled our way to catch the bus.

Students will be involved in an unforgettable experience of raising salmon in an aquarium at school through the district’s Salmonoid Program starting in February. To give students some background on the importance of the Salmonoid Program we will touring our local fish hatchery Friday Oct 13th. Students will learn about salmon being a keystone species, their life cycle and why there is a need for fish hatcheries like ours here in Likely. The fun part of the day will be creating a ‘salmon print’ from an actual salmon.

**TERRY FOX**  Students have been learning about a Canadian hero and his commitment to cancer research despite his physical challenges. Everyone is expected to be ‘Tough-Like-Terry’ on the run/walk Monday October 16th-check planners for permission notices as we run/walk off school grounds.

**HALLOWEEEN** Another fun filled afternoon supported by PAC! Students will be involved in voting for preferred activities to rotate through in the afternoon of Oct. 31. This year we are excited to offer pumpkin carving in the morning as well! Please lend a hand if you are available!

**APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR** We were very spoiled with the weather in September, but fall is definitely here! Regardless of how cold it becomes; we take our learning outside so please dress your child(ren) appropriately. It is the season for gloves, hats, boots, and extra layers !

**GOOD TEAM WORK, GOOD LEARNING** In this section of the newsletter I like to share with parents tid-bits of information that support our ‘teamwork’: home and school working together to advance your child(ren’s) growth. As we have so many new parents, I think it is a good time to explain Likely Elementary’s emphasis on SEL: Social Emotional Learning. As we are all social and emotional beings-we must address our social and emotional needs before any learning can happen.

It is a well-researched fact stress stops all learning.

Stress is any stimulus that requires energy. When students are responding to stimulus in their environment, energy can be used anti-productive ways: excitement, silliness, fear, pouting, nervousness, anger, and defiance. These anti-productive responses must be managed for learning to happen. This management of emotions is called Self-Regulation.

This is the ‘why’ behind Likely Elementary’s focus on SEL. Guided by Dr. Shanker’s Self-Reg way of managing stress, we are committed to teaching your children ways to respond to stress so growth and learning can happen. Without these lessons, children’s response to stress restricts progress. Your children will be involved in many lessons and activities that teach awareness of emotions and how they individually respond to ‘stressors’.

Strategies to manage responses promote learning so your children will learn and practice many strategies to identify which works best for them. Other resources, beyond our training from Dr. Shanker’s Self-Regulation courses, are from the provincial program called **EASE.**

**EASE** is a MCFD developed program that helps educators teach students strategies to address the thoughts, feelings and behaviours associated with anxiety, while also supporting social and emotional learning and the mental health literacy of educators. I encourage parents to browse through ‘**EASE at Home’ :** EASE K-7 classroom lessons have been adapted for use by parents and caregivers to support children’s mental health across home, school and community settings. EASE at Home K-7 activities have been designed for all children to learn life skills that will benefit them now and into the future. When children practise EASE strategies at home, they are more likely to use them effectively. EASE at Home activities are available as downloadable PDFs.at [Healthy Minds BC](https://healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca/ease-at-home/).

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Oct 11 Picture Day at Goat Island**

**Oct 11 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 13 Local Likely Learning: Fish Hatchery field trip**

**Oct 17 Terry Fox Run 1-2ish**

**Oct 16 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 18 Mary Forbes: Composting and Bears Presentation**

**Oct 18 PAC Meeting**

**Oct 18 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 19 Bottle Drive**

**Oct 20 Pro-D Day– no school for students**

**Oct 23 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 25 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 25 Wildsafe BC presentation**

**Oct 30 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Oct 31 Halloween costumes all day**

 **Halloween afternoon activities**

**Nov 1 Ms.Kurki away at Principal’s meeting**

**Nov 1 After school Soccer Gr.3-6**

**Nov 3 Forest Foraging for Remembrance Day Wreaths**

**Nov 7 Wreath Making for Remembrance Day (helpers welcome!)**

**Nov 9 Student-led Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45am**

**Nov 10 Remembrance Day-school closed**

**Nov 15 Early Dismissal Afternoon**

**Nov 16 Parent Teacher meetings (Early Dismissal Afternoon)**