



école Nesika Elementary School  
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Principal – Mrs. Holly Zurak  
Vice-Principal – Mrs. Heather McKinnon

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## December Newsletter

**A Message from your Principals:** School attendance is crucial in a child’s development. Students who have the best chance to succeed in school are generally those who attend school on a consistent basis. Regular school attendance is an essential part of the learning process and crucial to graduating from school with a strong foundation for further studies and a successful career. Is there something we can do to support you and your family to increase your child’s attendance? Please connect with us, or your indigenous support workers. We’d like to help! *\*Please remember to sign students out at the office, when picking them up early. Thank you!*

- Mrs. Holly Zurak, Principal

### Communication & Reminders:

**Term 1 Learning Updates:** First term learning updates (report cards) will be available in the MyEducation parent portal on **December 11<sup>th</sup>**. **Please check ahead of this date** to see if you are having any difficulties getting onto the MyEducation portal. If so, please contact Jackie Shaw at the school for troubleshooting or password resets.

This learning update is simply a summary of progress for the first term; strengths, areas to improve, and ways to support learning. Please contact your classroom teacher if you have any questions related to your child’s progress this term, or to set up an appointment.

**Winter Weather:** Winter weather has arrived. Please make sure your child has adequate winter clothing (warm jacket, snow pants, gloves, and a toque) also pack an **extra set of clothing (ALL AGES!)** to keep at school as they will be outside in all weather conditions during learning time and during break time, unless the temperature is deemed too cold by administration. ***If you need assistance outfitting your child for winter conditions, please contact Holly at the school.***

When there is enough snow, children are permitted to bring their crazy carpets and foam sliders. **Hard plastic sliders are not permitted.** Students must have snow pants, boots and mitts to slide. ***Please label sliders and clothing items.*** As we have already in classrooms; please remind your children at home that **snowballs are off limits**, and hands/feet off behaviour is still expected (ex. No “king of the hill” and snow tackles).

**Safe Arrival Program:** Nesika continues to use the student absence reporting system called “SafeArrival”. If you need help with the program, please call our office. If you have a message for your child – please use the child’s agenda, or your teacher’s email address to communicate the after school plan to your child and their teacher. This helps us cut down on calls to the office. Thank you!



**Code of Conduct:** Our Code of Conduct frames all behaviour as communication, with the Circle of Courage at the center. This is a strength based, resilience-focused approach rooted in the principle that to be emotionally healthy, all youth need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Please review it at home with with your whole family. Common language supports our collective good work.

**School Food Program:** We are pleased to continue to offer a school food program for students who need it. Every classroom receives a “Brain Food Bin” each morning with some grab and go food items. At recess time, a staff member will ask who in each classroom needs a full lunch, or a healthy top-up (additional lunch snack). The staff member then prepares *that many* lunches and top-ups for the day. It is important that students who need this program self-advocate and sign up each day as needed. There is no cost to this program, and no need to contact the school office. If you’re interested in helping with our program or have any questions, please contact Holly in the office.

On Wednesdays our PAC supports our School food Program with a hot meal that is ordered through Munchalunch. **Families are encouraged to pay if they can**, but a free option exists as well for families who may need it. Any funds raised go back into our food program. Questions? Want to help? Contact Latisha at [nesikapac@hotmail.com](mailto:nesikapac@hotmail.com). **January lunches will be open December 1 -30.**

*“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”*

**Safer Schools Together:** Parenting is challenging, and the rapid rise of technology and social media use in the lives of their kids makes it harder. To help, we're extending complimentary access to download "[Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – A Parent's Guide](#)" from [Safer Schools Together](#). The guide was designed to help introduce Parents and Caregivers to leading social media platforms, video games, and relevant trends that are either being used already or have the potential to be used by their children.

**Inter-school Sports:** Volleyball season for our grade 5/6 athletes is complete. Thank you to Ms. Therrien, M Routtu, Mr. Wallin and Mrs. McKinnon who helped with practices and coaching!

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Thank you Mrs. Stevens for organizing a Scholastic Book Fair for Nesika. Proceeds from the book fair have been used to purchase new books for the Library and classrooms.

**Red Tomato Pie Student of the Week:** Congratulations to the following students who received a "Red Tomato Pie Coupon" for being nominated as student of the week.

November 4: Mary-Jayn W. - nominated by Ms. Storzynsky

November 11: Mason C. - nominated by Mrs. Hamilton

November 18: Sydney B. - nominated by M Routtu

November 25: Jack S. - nominated by Miss Stanchfield



For more details on the Nesika Student of the Week Program check out our Facebook page.

### **Mark your Calendars / Events:**

- **December 2:** Last day to order Purdys Chocolate. Late orders will not be accepted.
- **December 11: Learning Updates posted online** in the MyEd Parent Portal
- **December 11: Family Board Game Night:** Students can bring a game (please label it), Hot Chocolate by PAC (please bring your own mug), and pizza slices by pre-order on Munchalunch an/or some pizza available at the concession).
- **December 16-20: Student Leadership Presents - Spirit Week**
  - Student Leadership invited all students and staff to participate in a fun holiday spirit week to put us all in the mood for winter vacation. No purchasing required; we encourage creative homemade dress-up!
    - *Monday December 16: "Baby It's Cold Outside":* Wear a toque and/or scarf
    - *Tuesday December 17: "Fa la la la Flannel":* Wear flannel/fleece clothing
    - *Wednesday December 18: "What Not to Wear Wednesday":* Wear an ugly sweater or wild holiday accessories
    - *Thursday December 19: "Holly Jolly Christmas":* Wear red, white or green
    - *Friday December 20: "Night Before Christmas":* PJ and stuffy day
- **December 18: December Celebration Assembly:** Everyone welcome 9:15 a.m.
- **December 18: Holiday Craft-er-noon!** On December 18<sup>th</sup> our big buddy / little buddy class pairs will team up for a buddy "craft-er-noon!" We always look forward to this fun event. *If you would like to attend as a parent volunteer, please talk to your child's teacher.*

\*Note, our wonderful music teacher Mrs. Neufeld also works with 150 Mile Elementary and she organized a large-scale Holiday Concert here at Nesika last year. We hope to host one again next year as we take turns with this big project. Thank you for understanding.

### **PAC NEWS/Nouvelles de PAC**

**PAC Meeting:** Next PAC meeting is **Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm - 6:00pm** in the school library – all parents welcome! Childcare available. Questions? Contact: [nesikapac@hotmail.com](mailto:nesikapac@hotmail.com)

Thank you to our PAC and school community for the recent purchase of a large grill BBQ, buses to the skating rink, and sponsoring prizes and food for our upcoming Games Night!

**Find us on Facebook @ Nesika P.A.C.** for news, updates, reminders and opportunities to get involved at Nesika.