



Prospect Lake Elementary

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Principal: Mr. Mark Guiguet



FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Our Family Read In on January 27th was a great success as many parents, grandparents and guardians visited the school and read with our students. Thank you to those who attended and to all of you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to read with your child on a daily basis. There is a wealth of research supporting the benefits of daily reading with children. However, it is often difficult to find that one-on-one time to be reading with our children. But there is nothing more wonderful than snuggling a young child on your lap while reading a few storybooks aloud. Even if your child is beyond the “snuggling” stage, spending 15 or 20 minutes reading provides you with quiet, uninterrupted time together engaged in the same activity. During reading times your child need not always be the one reading. Reading aloud to children builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about. Don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read with your child as often as you possibly can.

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift." —
Kate DiCamillo

Mark Guiguet
Principal



DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 13 Popcorn Day
- Feb. 16 PAC Meeting @ 6:45 ROMS Principal Carly Hunter attending
- Feb. 18 & 19 Early Dismissal @ 1:48 pm
- Feb. 18 Open House @ Prospect 8:30 – 9:30
- Feb. 20 Non-Instructional Day – Students not in session
- Feb. 23 Grade 4/5 @ Victoria Symphony
- Feb. 25 Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day
- Feb. 27 Hot Lunch Day
- Mar. 4th District Swim Meet 12:00 – 2:30
- Mar. 6th Basketball Jamboree 12:00 - 2:30 Grade 4/5s at ROMS
- Mar. 9 – 20th School Closure & Spring Break**

STAFFING:

There has been a change in our Learning Services Department. In addition to Laura Gardener coming to our staff to teach learning assistance three mornings per week, Christine Falk will replace Jill Wilson from January 22 until Spring Break. Jill is on medical leave. Christine has been working in our District in different capacities for many years and holds a Masters Degree in Special Education.



LATE ARRIVALS

Although we understand that arriving late for school cannot be avoided at times please make every effort to ensure your children are into their classrooms on time.



DOORS LOCKED!

As of Monday February 16th, the doors to the building at the parking lot entrance will be locked between 9:30am and 2:15pm. Please use the main entrance during this time.



WET WEATHER CLOTHES

It is rare that we do not spend time outside during lunch or recess play time. During the winter the weather is usually wet and students are prone to getting wet or muddy. If your child is one of those people who often gets wet it is a good idea to send some additional clothing from home in a plastic bag (inside their backpack - extra socks are also helpful!). Then your child can change and put their soiled clothing in the plastic bag to take home. Our entire playground is wet and soggy and boots are also well advised.



COLD AND FLU SEASON

Cold and flu season is here. As the weather gets cooler and we move indoors, so do germs. Children need reminders to decrease the risk of colds and flu in your house by: Washing hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, not sharing hand and face towels, keeping hands away from nose and mouth and not sharing food, drink, suckers, etc. with someone who is sick. To help limit the spread of germs, please keep your child at home if he or she is feverish, coughing a lot, has a thick yellow or green discharge from the nose, or is otherwise obviously unwell.



OPEN HOUSE

Prospect will host an Open House on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 8:30 – 9:15. There will be coffee, tea and muffins for adults in the foyer and parents are invited circulate throughout the school and visit their children's classrooms.



GREEN TEAM



The Green Team is sponsored by Ms. Harward and Ms. Rainer and the children work hard every Thursday during their lunch time to recycle for our school. Their leadership through dedication and strong work ethic is much appreciated. The Green Team wishes to thank all parents for sending lunches with as little recyclable material as possible and students who sort and clean their own lunch wrappers and containers. They really appreciate these daily efforts at recycling. We would also like to recognize all of those students who take care of our compost buckets each day.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Basketball season is underway for students in Grades 4 and 5. Mrs. Harward, Mrs. Gladwin and Mrs. Schwann have organized the teams and created a schedule. The students have been practicing their skills and playing games against each other at noon. In addition after school games have been organized against Lochside and Cordova Bay Elementary Schools. Our South Zone Basketball Jamboree will be on Friday, March 6th from 12:00pm – 2:30pm at Royal Oak Middle School.



The Swim Club is practicing after school on Mondays in preparation for the District Swim Meet which will take place at Commonwealth Pool on March 4th from 12:00pm – 2:30pm. Thank you to Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Schwann for organizing and supporting this Club.

Prospect has a Knitting Club once again this year and a big thank you to Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lail and Mrs. Pat Baker for organizing this very popular club and supporting the children every Thursday at lunch hour.

Our Garden Club is up and running and Mde. Tate and her students, in addition to working in our gardens, recently completed a workshop on how to create Worm Bins.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Family Literacy Day: Thank you to everyone who came to read around the school on January 27th in celebration of Family Literacy Day. It was wonderful to see all of our students so engaged with reading!

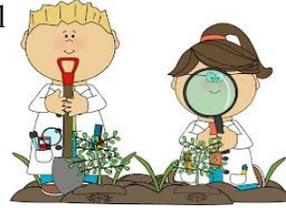
50 Cent Used Book Sale: In early spring we will be having a 50 cent used book sale to raise money for our school library. If you have any used books to donate please drop them off at the library. We will be looking for volunteers after spring break to help with set up of the sale. Thank you for your support!

Library Volunteers: Thank you to all of the hard working volunteers who have helped shelve books from October-January. Your help is very much appreciated! There are new sign up sheets outside the library if you are able to help out in any of the upcoming months (February/March/April/May).



OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES

Spring is not too far away and our staff have been planning and working with students in our garden. It is very gratifying to see the interest and excitement in both the students and staff. We are currently moving forward on the final two phases of our Outdoor Learning Spaces: The benches, trees and shrubs that will be located between the garden and the library and the forest path. We will be working on additional fund raising for these projects and we hope to have them completed this spring.



DISTRICT AND PROSPECT WELCOME FIGURES

Two years ago, well known First Nations artist Bear Horne, was our Artist in Residence for the Spring. He worked with the students of our school to carve a welcome pole and share the oral history of the Wyanech people. This was a very powerful experience for the students and our grade 5 students will soon be working on a unit involving our Welcome Pole. Because of the success of the program at Prospect, the District has embarked on a similar program that will create a Welcome Figure for the District which will be located at the Board Office. As a part of this program Doug LaFortune, Bear's father will visit Prospect in February for two days to share with our students the carving of this new pole and its significance to the First Nations people.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE FOR THIS SPRING

Sandi and Leigh Newman of Dansko Dance Studio will organize a program for our school but it will not be taught by them. They have assured me that the instructors they choose will be, in their words, "top quality". The program will run for four weeks, commencing on April 13 and each class will receive instruction during two of their PE sessions per week.

Different dances will be taught however each grade will learn the same dance. In the last week classes will be combined and will prepare an afternoon recital where all students will be present and parents will be invited.

PINK SHIRT DAY

On Wednesday, Feb. 25th students and staff are encouraged to dress up in pink to highlight Anti-Bullying Day across the province. At Prospect we think that everyday is an Anti-Bullying Day and staff work together to encourage students to be respectful of each other.



PCEC "1000 X 5"

CHILDREN'S BOOK RECYCLING PROJECT

If you can donate gently used children's picture books, please bring them to the school. Drop box located in main foyer. The books will be forwarded to volunteers at the Saanichton Individual Learning Centre where they will be processed for distribution to young children and families living on the Peninsula. For further information, please contact:

Daphne Macnaughton, PCEC "1000 X 5" Project

Leader: dlmvictoria@shaw.ca