



ÉCOLE PUNTLEDGE PARK ELEMENTARY

401 Willemar Avenue, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 3L3

Phone & Whereabouts Line: (250) 334-4495 Fax: (250) 897-0487

School Website: <http://sd71.bc.ca/sd71/school/puntledge/school/index.htm>

Principal: Mr. Allan Douglas

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Andrea Rowland

"A Community of Learners exploring our world in a creative, healthy and caring environment."

March 4, 2005

Dear Parents,

It was nice to see so many parents (and new faces) at our last PAC meeting where we discussed the "configuration paper". Our trustees assured us there would be no school closures for September 2005. If you have not looked at the discussion paper, which looks at declining enrolment, extra spaces in our schools and a reconfiguration of existing grade structures in our elementary, middle and senior schools, go to the school district web site (www.sd71.bc.ca) and have a look. Take some time, be informed and respond to the draft document.

The parking lot continues to be a traffic nightmare! Too many vehicles in a small space at the same time. Try walking or parking out on the road. When in the lot, please remember to "slow down" and "watch out" for children.

We now have dates for Kindergarten registration!

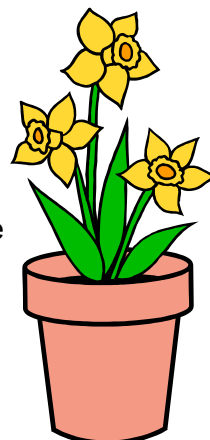
- a) **March 15th, 7:00-8:00** - French Immersion orientation. This is an opportunity for parents to receive information about the program and to ask questions.
- b) French Immersion registration
April 5 & 6 – Siblings (means you already have a child in the French Immersion Program)
April 7 & 8 – Open registration for new kindergarten students
- c) **April 12, 13 & 14** - English kindergarten registration

****Please make sure you have your child's birth certificate and care card when registering.**

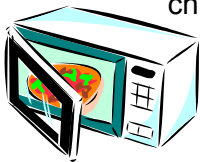
The teachers are currently working on report cards. A lot of learning has taken place since our November reports and interviews. Our goal is to have all of the report cards out the week before Spring Break. Remember, if you have concerns or questions about the report card, contact the classroom teacher and request a meeting.

Yours truly,

Allan Douglas
Principal



MICROWAVE ~ On these cooler days, the children like to have a warm lunch, but we do not have the personnel to man the microwave. If you wish your child to have a warm lunch, please pack it in a thermos.



LOST AND FOUND ~ A mountain of clothes has accumulated since the end of January. The items are in the hallway and will be bagged up and sent off by March 10th, so please come by and have a look.

CEDAR BENCH ~ Our cedar bench, worked on by our students under the direction of local carver, Randy Frank, is almost finished, so watch for it in the main hall in the near future.

TELEPHONE BOOKS ~ The school will no longer be paid for collecting old telephone books. We understand from the SuperPages people, that the past practice of paying customers for returning their old telephone books was a great incentive

that worked, however, they feel enough people are recycling, so the program has ended. Please take them to the recycling boxes in your area. Thank you for your past support. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

CHICKENPOX ~ We are experiencing chickenpox in our school again. It is usually a relatively minor illness. For the first couple of days, your child will feel ill, with cold-like symptoms, cough, fever and abdominal pain. Then a rash of red, pimple-like spots will appear. Chickenpox is very contagious, 1 to 2 days before the rash appears and lasts until all the spots have crusted over. If you suspect your child has chickenpox, please have it confirmed by your family physician and then let the school know.



The Public Health Unit will be immunizing all Kindergarten aged students against Chickenpox. Consent forms have been sent home. The

immunization will **not** take place at the school, please refer to the consent and information forms provided, and if you have any questions, please contact our Public Health Nurse at 338-1711.

GRADE 6 TRIP ~ Mr. Hartig's grade 6 class raised over \$550. for their Strathcona Park trip! Thank you to all who helped and especially to the people who supported us by purchasing firewood. A special thank you to *Brycyn Construction* for donating the wood.



Mr. Hartig's class will also be having a **garage sale** on Saturday April 9th, at the school. Donations are welcome. Please see Mr. Hartig. More news to follow.

EMERGENCY PLAN ~

- Develop a family emergency plan and practice it regularly
- Identify an out-of-area phone contact person to call and check in with
- Choose a couple of family meeting places; pick easy to identify, open and accessible places that you can likely walk to
- Prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days
- Assemble an emergency supply kit; include food, water, prescription medications and first aid supplies, a battery operated radio, flashlight, extra batteries, shelter, clothing, sturdy shoes, and personal toiletries
- Assemble similar emergency kits for your workplace and vehicle
- Take an approved first aid course
- Quake-proof your house by securing heavy furniture and objects

Come to our Emergency Planning Meeting on April 14th at 6:30-9:00, at Lake Trail Middle School.

PUBLIC CONFIGURATION MEETINGS ~

- Lake Trail School, March 7, 7-9 p.m.
- Cumberland Junior, April 11,
- Aspen Park Middle, April 21, 7-9 p.m.
- Courtenay Middle, March 14, 7-9 p.m.

BAKE SALE ~ Mrs. Croonen's kindergarten class will be hosting a bake sale on March 17 & 18th. Proceeds from the sale will be put towards purchasing supplies to make banners, which will be displayed in downtown Courtenay. Prices will range from .25 to 1.00.

LOST & FOUND ~ A camera has been left in a classroom. If you are missing one, please call the office to identify it.

FUN FAIR ~ Thursday April 28th.

The bike raffle is coming up fast (by the beginning of April at the latest).



1st prize: a bike from *Mike's Bikes*, plus a helmet and lock from *Croonen Construction*.

2nd Prize: 2 half-day kayak rentals from Comox Valley Kayaks.

3rd prize: a hoodie from Mike's Bikes. Tickets will be cheap!!

Start collecting your little toys for the grab bags, jello boxes for the jello eating contest and whatnot for Mrs. Greenlaw's make-and-take art projects.

SCHOOL GROWTH PLAN ~ Our goals

- 1) Literacy
- 2) Numeracy
- 3) Student Wellness

Initiatives for Student Wellness:

- We have embarked on our Art Journey. The students have participated in their first gallery walk. Have begun responding to art, music, and theatre in their art journals! The community, parent, and teacher artists have begun the class workshops.

Active Schools:

- It is Jump Rope for Heart month.
- Lets get everyone jumping

Our Homework club is very popular and will be starting another session after Spring Break

School Nutrition Program:

- Our breakfast and lunch programs are running smoothly with the help of all our volunteers.
- Grade 3's are having the opportunity to learn how to cook in Junior Chef's Club. They made fruit kabobs. What a healthy treat!



If your child is of Aboriginal Ancestry, status, non status, metis or inuit, he/she will qualify for All Day Aboriginal Kindergarten.

All Day Aboriginal Kindergarten means that your child registers and attends your neighbourhood kindergarten in the morning. In the afternoon they attend a kindergarten taught by an Aboriginal teacher, in an Aboriginal environment, and with a focus on numeracy and literacy.

One site is Puntledge Park Elementary School. Depending upon enrollment, a second Aboriginal Kindergarten may be started. Parents would be responsible for transporting their children to and from the Aboriginal Kindergarten. Please register your son/daughter at your neighbourhood school, and tell the secretary that you wish your child to also be enrolled in the afternoon Aboriginal Kindergarten.

For further information, please call Helene McGall at 334-5502.

Don't forget, there will be no school from March 19 to the 29th. School reopens Wednesday, March 30! Have a good Spring Break!

SUMMARY OF PAC MEETING – February 21, 2005
Next PAC March 14, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

Treasurer's Report – Jan Katerberg

Jan explained that the budget is on track for this time of the year.

School Planning Council (SPC) – Mark Steven

There is an ongoing review of the school growth plan, which was outlined in previous newsletters. Parents and teachers are involved with this. There is a SPC meeting on March 8th at 7:00, all parents are welcome to attend.

School Trustee – Danny White & Janice Caton

Danny & Janice talked about the district reconfiguration discussion paper that is posted on the school district website. They would suggest parents read through it and especially pay attention to the scenarios of how to deal with declining enrolment and respond back to them with their opinions. They stressed that this is an ongoing process and no decisions will be made in the short term. There will be public meetings scheduled at different schools in the next little while so watch out for them. They will be posted in the local papers. Andrea Rowland gave a good presentation showing us figures and summarizing the discussion paper.

Teacher's Report – Debbie Nelson

The drum workshop went well on the last Pro-D day. The Art Show is underway and artwork is displayed in the library, so have a look around at some of the fabulous pieces.

Old Business – Eva Hemmerich reported that the clothing & toy drive sent to Sri Lanka for the Tsunami victims was very successful. There was talk of partnering with other area schools to "adopt-a-school" in Asia but realize that this is a big undertaking and would need an organization backing us up. A small committee will likely be formed to see what the next step is.

COMMITTEES:

Earthquake committee – Linda Graceffo

Linda reported that an inventory was taken of all the earthquake kits in the classrooms and large totes that hold supplies throughout the school. Expired and missing items will be replaced. Some of the committee will attend a community earthquake preparedness workshop at the Wachiay Friendship Centre on Feb. 24. It is hoped that an info session would be planned for the parents in the evening soon.

Fun fair committee – Julie Kochanuk

Julie gave us a report on how the Funfair is proceeding. The first meeting was held already with the parent reps in preparation for April 28th. So mark it on your calendar and plan to have some fun. If you would like to make a donation for the silent auction please let the office know.

If you wish to volunteer for or need to contact any of the programs undertaken by the PAC, please call one of the people listed here or drop your name off at the office.

PAC Chair	Tome Nakashima	897-3137
Treasurer	Jan Katerberg	338-9190
Secretary	Lisa Taylor	338-4275
Hot Lunches	Anne Koke	336-8773
Nutrition	Eva Saxton 334-8445/ Laura Murray	338-0315
Fun Fair	Julie Kochanuk	338-4532
Whereabouts	Anna Leever	338-9486
Lice Checks	Gaylene Rehwald	338-2973
PAC Minutes	Linda Graceffo	338-9172
DPAC	Ron Amos	338-7923
Magazine Sales	Colleen Holden	334-3676
School Planning Council	Tome Nakashima 897-3137 /Lisa/Dave Taylor	338-4275
School Planning/Past Chair	Mark Steven	703-2070



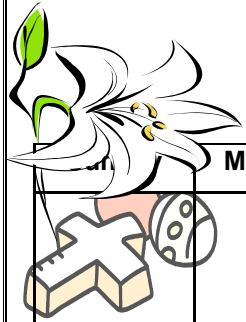
***** Please note there is a drop off box in the office for PAC*****

FUN FAIR

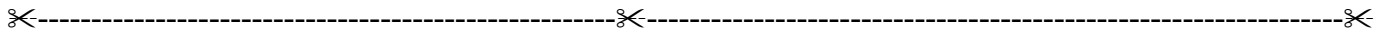
Is coming up on **April 28, 2005** ... Mark this date on your calendar!!!

Start saving your recyclables for the **Make & Take Booth** ...

- Various small boxes (soap/pudding/jewelry/tooth paste)
 - Cardboard rolls
- Plastic milk jug lids / frozen juice lids / soup cans (without sharp edges)
- Styrofoam meat trays / plastic containers (yogurt/apple sauce / Pringle cups)
 - Old greeting cards (cut off side with writing), envelopes, stamps
 - Paper bags / paper doilies
- Tissue / wrapping paper / wallpaper / coffee filters / shiny papered items
 - Feathers / silk flowers / pipe cleaners / felt scraps / pompoms
- Buttons / med-large beads / old jewelry items / sequins / sticks / ribbon / string / yarn / twine / rickrack / lace
- Strawberry baskets / ice cream lids / med-large plastic / metal lids (mayo/peanut butter)
 - Plastic film canisters / plastic bottles / tubs (with lids)
 - Egg cartons (clean)
 - And the list goes on . . .

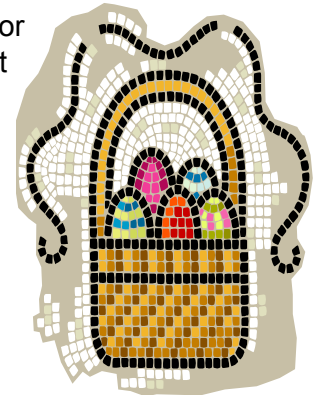


	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 ~ Jr. Chef's Club	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 ~ Jr. Chef's Club	10	11 ~ Hot lunch Hot dogs	12
13	14	15	16 ~ Jr. Chef's Club	17 ~St Patrick's Day ~Mrs. Croonen's class-Bake Sale	18~ Hot Lunch Subway Mrs Croonen's class- Bake Sale Last day before Spring Break	19
20	21	Spring Break		24	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Sunday	28 Easter Monday Schools closed	29	30 Schools re-open	31	1 Hot lunch - Hot dogs APRIL	2



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DRAW ~ Congratulations to Wyatt Funk of division 15 for being our monthly newsletter draw winner for February. Wyatt wins a \$5.00 gift certificate, compliments of White Spot.

The monthly newsletter is our way of communicating with the parents and guardians of our students. It will normally go home with the youngest member in the family or you can get it on-line by going to our website:
<http://sd71.bc.ca/sd71/school/puntledge/school/news/news.htm>



To enter the draw for March, please complete the tear off and return it to the school.

Student's Name _____ Division _____

Parent's Signature _____

HOT LUNCH

Fundraiser for Mr. Hartig's Grade 6 Strathcona Trip.

March 11 & April 1- HOT DOGS

Hot dog - \$2.00

Rice Krispie - .50¢, banana - .50¢, juice - .50¢

March 18th - SUBWAY

Tuna, veggie, pizza or ham sandwich - \$3.00

Cookie - .50¢, banana - .50¢, juice - .50¢