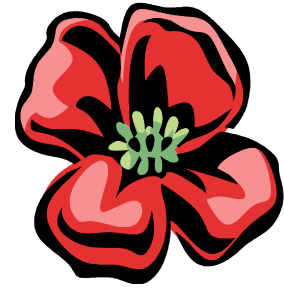




École Pauline Haarer

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November - novembre, 2016



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE – MESSAGE DE LA DIRECTRICE

October has been an extremely busy month and this past week was by far the busiest!

Tuesday, October 25, 63 cross-country runners represented our school at the Small Schools South Zone Meet. November 2, 41 of those runners tested their grit at the District Meet in blustery, wet, and mucky conditions. Congratulations to our runners and many thanks to our parents who hosted the zone meet and also helped with the District Meet!

Kudos also to our bantam boys' and girls' football teams who have played hard all season and have both won their first playoff games playing in torrential downpours. The final games take place next week...Let's hope for sunshine!

Last Thursday, students were treated to a presentation by BC Dairy representatives, Victoria and Andrew, and their bovine star attractions, Karma and Oreo. Friday, staff and students donned pyjamas and completed their pumpkin colouring; both events were organized by the students' council. For Hallowe'en, staff, students, and parents first paraded and then danced in their creative costumes. Thanks to students' council, Mme Celia and Mme Withers for leading the parade.

Students' council and grade 4-5 helpers have also been active coordinating recess games and equipment. So, the grade 4s and 5s were the natural choice to be first to play the Nanaimo Clippers October 18. Our assistant superintendent, Mr. Tim Davie also joined in to watch the game during his visit to our school. Many students attended a Clippers game October 22 and won the cheer-off competition. So there will be other Clippers tickets available for a second cheer-off.

We are looking forward to our Remembrance Day Ceremony November 9th with Mme Withers, the choir, Don Lapointe, Ms. Cameron from the Royal Canadian Legion and several of our students preparing to honour our veterans and peace-keepers. November 26 and 27, the EPH choir will be performing with the Bel Canto Singers in Lantzville and Nanaimo.

Your ongoing involvement makes this school what it is! Thank you, everyone for your support, time, and energy!
Karina Younk

PAC NEWS – NOUVELLES DU COMITÉ DE PARENTS

At the November 3 Annual General Meeting, the budget was approved and the executive elected. Thank you to these parents for having the courage to put their names forward in order to represent the students and families at our school: Kara Brunt, Chair; Jenni Burdes, Past-Chair; Treasurer, Debbie Greene; Secretary, Max Nodwell; Bingo Rep, Michelle Gagnon; Fundraising Chair, Heather Vogels; Members-at-large, Sara Reeves and Catherine Morrison.

If you were unable to attend the AGM but are interested in helping, Heather Vogels needs a group of parents willing to share the fundraising load and a partner to co-chair with her. Hot lunches, popcorn days, spirit days, movie nights, year-end picnics cannot happen without parents helping. At present, a very small handful of parents organize PAC activities to raise funds for student field trips, artists in the schools, the school musical, sports jerseys, playground supplies, and books and equipment for our library.

The next Parent Advisory Committee meeting is not until Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm in the library. Attending monthly PAC meetings is a quick way to catch up on all of the happenings at school and across the district. Child-minding is provided by grade 6-7 volunteer leaders in the gym.

THINKING OF OTHERS

The rainy weather has moved in and you may have found your child's boots and coats from last year no longer fit. To support families in our school and in our broader community we are suggesting an exchange between November 14 and 18, where we will set up two tables in the hall by the library (one primary; one intermediate). If you have gently used coats, sweaters, pants, boots or shoes that look new but don't fit anyone you know, place those items on the table. If there is something on the table that fits your child, it is there for the taking. Items still on the table after November 18 will be donated to other district schools and organizations.

GARDEN CLUB – CLUB DE JARDINAGE

The Garden Club is ready to hibernate for the winter but not before doing one final cleanup Wednesday, November 9. You are welcome to join in for the Jerusalem artichoke harvest. Bring gardening gloves if you have them. Thanks to Helen and her crew for inspiring our budding gardeners. If you have extra leaves at home, please feel free to spread them over the grass near the kinder park, too. Bark mulch is also a welcome addition to our kinder park!

LIBRARY – NOUVELLES DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Mme Nicole has been busy purchasing books for our library. Parent volunteers are always appreciated for shelving books and keeping the library in top condition. Mme Nicole also has a Lego Club in the library on Tuesdays and a board games club on Thursdays.

WELCOME – BIENVENUE

Mme Ginny Knobl (pronounced Noble) is a student teacher working with Mme Suzanne. We are fortunate to have her with us until December.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS – BONS VOISINS

It is great to see so many parents out chatting in the gathering area at the front of the school and to see the bikes and 'walking school buses' coming and going each day. Dr. Goodall is also grateful for everyone's consideration in ensuring his entrances remain clear. Thank you!

We work closely with the city to keep our shared play areas in excellent condition. We can do our part by ensuring outside snacks are paperless and that our litter goes in the garbage cans. Please report any concerns to the office so we can address them quickly. Together, we make a great team!

WEST COAST WINTER – HIVER DE LA CÔTE OUEST

Rain, wind, wet snow, maybe black ice! Please ensure your child comes to school dressed *appropriately* for the day's weather. Schools promote fresh air and physical activity and our 45-minute lunch recess break is almost always spent outdoors (barring absolutely torrential downpours). Hats, coats, mitts, warm and dry footwear will keep your child comfortable and healthy while playing outside on the school grounds. Please send a change of old clothing to keep in class in case of an unexpected tumble in the mud or water.

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFO – FERMETURE DES ÉCOLES

If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements are made on local radio stations (**WOLF 106.9 FM** and **WAVE 102.3 FM**) by **7 am on the day of the closure**. In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website, Twitter and Facebook, unless there is a technical problem or power outage. We remind all parents it is your right and responsibility to determine whether it is safe for your children to travel to school on any given day. While the school district strives to make the best decision for students across the district, there may be particular weather conditions in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even if schools are officially open.

ILLNESSES - MALADIES

October 24-28 we had approximately 20 students away each day with others going home during the day. If your child is presenting with flu or cold symptoms in the morning, please give your child a day to rest to be in shape for school the following day. We do our best to keep everyone healthy! Last week we were busy doing extra cleanings of desk surfaces!

STUDENT PROGRESS – PROGRÈS DES ÉLÈVES

As you are already aware, there will be no formal report cards going home before the end of January. Instead, you have been, and will continue to receive samples of your child's work illustrating your child's progress. You will begin to notice teachers are spending more time on some of the larger assignments in order to share more detailed feedback with you. As we explore the interim Ministry Reporting Guidelines, we are experimenting with these four criteria:

- *Authentic Evidence of learning* (student work)
- *Learning Standards* (core learnings expectations)
- *Descriptive Feedback* (with a focus on strengths, ways to improve, and next steps). This feedback may be a sticky note, a journal entry, a rubric or checklist outlining expectations, a reflection sheet like *3 stars and a wish*, or any other format that helps teachers reflect with students.
- *Student Voice* where students are being asked to reflect on their growth in learning competencies. While this may be a new expectation in the reporting guidelines, it is a reflection of current teaching practice. This reporting element makes visible to parents what teachers have been doing to help students in class and what parents are doing to help students at home when they ask children to describe their project, their effort, their learning, and what they might do next or do differently.

Parents often ask teachers for ways to support learning at home. Here are a few strategies to focus on:

- Teachers send home regular electronic or paper communication to inform you of class activities, assignments and special projects. Please take the time to review these carefully, yourselves and with your child.
- The most important way to build success is to encourage children to read about anything and everything that interests them (recipes, comics, sports, travel, adventures, mysteries) and to have conversations about the connections they make between the text and their own experiences or with other media and texts.
- To build your child's math skills, focus on *estimating* numbers (steps taken walking to school, minutes to complete a homework assignment, bites to finish a sandwich) and *verifying* your estimation; look for and create *patterns* (shapes, numbers, words), use visual *puzzles* and Sudoku; expand plain number equations by using *algebra* to look for another great answer to balance your equation. Yes, $2 \times 3 = 6 = 3 + 3 = 18 / 3 = 10 - 4 \dots!$

Stretch and flex those critical and creative thinking skills!

CALENDAR – CALENDRIER www.paulinehaarer.ca

November – novembre

5	Set your clocks back by one hour!
9	Garden Clean Up Day
9,16,23,30	Science Club (Fall session)
9, 12:45	Remembrance Day Ceremony
11	Remembrance Day – No School
26-27	Choir performing with Bel Canto Singers
30	Kindergarten Information Night (2017)