



## ÉCOLE PAULINE HAARER

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### MESSAGE DE LA DIRECTRICE

December has come up so quickly this year! November was another very full month with these events:

- The Pauline Haarer Choir performed twice with the Bel Canto singers, in Lantzville and in Nanaimo. WOW! What beautiful voices!
- Students have robotic vehicles charging around the library thanks to Brent Stetar and Joris Wiggers' initiatives to bring coding and robotics to our students.
- We have 4 teams playing Triple Ball and learning new skills. In cross-country finals, our team placed first. In football, the girls placed second and the boys fourth. Congratulations to the teams, the coaches, the teacher sponsors and the dedicated parents for getting students to practices and games and for helping with the events.
- Our student council leaders have hosted moustache day and a football throw competition. Now they are planning for holiday spirit hats during the last week of school and holiday sweaters for Dec. 23.
- The garden has been put to sleep for the winter. Thanks to all who helped with the potato and artichoke harvest.
- All of the classes have had an artist-in-the-school activity. Also, thanks to PAC, we have been enjoying monthly hot lunches and popcorn days, and the Thursday evening meals are a real treat for families. Our spirit wear clothing is arriving now!
- The PAC movie, chili & bake sale event Friday was a great addition to the Scholastic Book Fair (which continues December 5 and 6).

Thank you all for contributing to our collaborative learning adventures!

### EXPLORATIONS IN REPORTING PROGRESS

Students and teachers are exploring with new ways to report student progress. The Ministry of Education is asking that student reporting be a shared communication with parents that includes the following:

- authentic evidence (samples of student work)
- based on learning goals (curriculum competencies)
- using descriptive feedback (comments, rubrics, checklists, etc.) AND
- student voice (students' perspectives on how they are progressing in their learning).

With the redesigned curriculum focusing on big ideas where students are encouraged to ask questions, to explore and to show their growing understanding by applying and extending the concepts taught in multiple contexts, the letter grades have become a very shallow way of showing progress. Your feedback on the communication you are receiving from your child and from your child's teacher is appreciated.

### PAC NEWS - NOUVELLES DU PAC

The next meeting for the Parent Advisory Committee is **Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm** in the library (the first week back at school). We would love to see new faces and new ideas so please consider joining us! Child-minding is provided by grade 7s. PAC organizes many events at our school like our salad bar luncheon picnic in the gym.

### NEW WEBSITE!

December 1<sup>st</sup> was our official launch of our new website. We will be adding student items, photos from school events and updating regularly. You can upload events from the calendar directly to your calendar at home or on your phone. Site feedback is welcomed!

## **BIENVENUE AUX VISITEURS ET BÉNÉVOLES!**

We appreciate the extra effort everyone makes to volunteer at school. We ask all new volunteers to complete the online CRC (Criminal Record Check), valid for 5 years, at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>. The access code is available from the office. When you have completed the application, let us know so we can look for your confirmation within the next week or two.

## **DONATIONS – DONS**

Over the next two weeks, you will notice the *Hamperville* boxes in the main hall by the library. These boxes were decorated by the student council and are being filled with your generous donations of coats, sweaters, boots, and non-perishable food items. If you have cold-weather clothing at home that no longer fits your child, bring it in. On the other hand, if there is an item in these boxes that would fit your child and make your winter season easier, you are welcome to take it. This is about families helping families.

## **GOOD LUCK – BONNE CHANCE!**

Mlle Ginny Knobl, teaching with Mme Suzanne will be finishing her practicum experience with us this week. We wish her the best of luck in her future teaching career. We are thankful she joined our staff and has worked with our students for the past three months. We hope to see Ginny back in our again school soon!

## **LOCKDOWN DRILL**

**Wednesday, December 7**, with the help of our school liaison officer, Dimitri Wilson, we will be having a lockdown drill **at 10:00 am**. We are required to conduct this drill twice each year and this helps us ensure staff and students have strategies to deal with challenging and unpredictable situations. Last year, our lockdown drill was instrumental in getting new blinds for the windows and changing the locks on our gym door. So in debriefing this drill with your child, please know this is to make our school as safe as possible.

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

Thanks to Mme April for her stories and projects and for opening the Gathering Place every Monday and Wednesday.

## **NOUVELLES DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE**

Mme Nicole is our new school librarian and we are fortunate to have her at Pauline Haarer every day as she also teaches grade 7s, school support and coordinates our inquiry and innovation projects. Volunteer helpers in the library are welcome! Tuesday lunch recess the library is open for Lego club.

## **NOTRE CALENDRIER DE DÉCEMBRE**

Our online calendar, [www.paulinehaarer.ca](http://www.paulinehaarer.ca) has information regarding special events. We also send out a weekly memo every Friday so you can plan for the next week. There are many class events happening this month, so please read the messages in your child's planner or back-and-forth books. Classes are doing special craft activities, skating, visiting the museum, and practicing for the year-end sing-a-long December 23 at 10:00 am. We invite you to join us for the sing-a-long!

## **TWINDERELLA?**

You will have noticed we are not having a Christmas concert. This is because staff and students are already busy preparing for the school musical, Twinderella which will take place in March just before spring break. The school musical is a BIG undertaking. This year, we have decided to host the event in our gym and will have four performances (with primary classes participating in two of the four shows). We will need parent help with sewing costumes, set construction, and other tasks. Let Mme Withers know if you can help.

## **“WHAT’S ON THE GROUND, STAYS!” (SNOW)**

Our first snowfall is here. “What’s on the ground stays on the ground.” Students are encouraged to roll snow for snowmen and sculptures but are sent in if they throw snowballs. We enforce this for the safety of students.