



Ranchero Elementary School



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Newsletter # 7

Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty & Fun

Happy February, everyone, I hope you and your family have had a great start to 2019 and have been enjoying the spring weather!

Grade 5 – 8 students have been at Silver Star Mountain skiing and snowboarding. This is an opportunity for students to be outside and active and hopefully get some sunshine. Thank you to Miss Turner and Mr. MacKay for supporting this activity. The Ranchero PAC supported this program this year by providing the funds to pay for part of the bus costs to and from the mountain. This program could not happen without the PAC support!

Primary students completed swim lessons in Salmon Arm in January. Swimming is an important skill that all students should have the opportunity to learn. Thank you to the Ranchero PAC for paying for the swim lessons. This could not have happened without PAC support.

On February 27, we will be recognizing Pink Shirt Day for bullying awareness at Ranchero. We encourage all students to wear pink to school on this day. This assembly will be at 10:30 am and will include a short presentation on building positive relationships and educating students on the negative impact of bullying.

I would like to thank Mrs. Montgomery, Mr. Mueller, Ms. Major and Ms. Turner for coaching our basketball teams. We have three teams this year and all teams have had a great start to the season, as the students are eager and excited to play basketball.

Thank you Mrs. Seed for working with the Grade 3/4 class, as they have been training for the School District No. 83 Pirate Loppet. I hope the students had an amazing time cross-country skiing at Larch Hills, as they have fun and do their personal best. Thank you as well to all the parent and guardian volunteers who helped at Larch Hills!

We keep our school website up to date with current news and events. Please visit <https://ran.sd83.bc.ca/> for current news and events. We look forward to the second half of the school year and continuing to see growth in all students of Ranchero.

Sincerely,

Doug Cumming
Principal

Important Dates – All dates are on the Ranchero Website home page and at:

<https://ran.sd83.bc.ca/school-calendar/>

- February 11 PAC Meeting in the Library at 6:30 pm
- February 14 Valentine's Day – wear Red and Pink to school
- February 15 Pro D Day – Students do not attend
- February 18 BC Family Day – School Not in Session
- February 22 Pajama Day
- **February 27** **Pink Shirt Day – please wear Pink to school**
- February 28 Report card home today
- March 5 Ready, Set, Learn at 1:00 pm, in the Library
- March 15 Last day prior to Spring Break
- April 1 School reopens from Spring Break

PAC News

All parents, with children in the public school system automatically become members of the school's Parent Advisory Council. Please feel free to join our next **PAC meeting on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 pm**. If you are interested in becoming involved with the PAC this year, please attend this meeting to show your interest and learn more about this vital part of our school community.



Pink Shirt Day 2019

There will be a brief assembly in the gym on Wednesday, February 27 at 10:30 am with the focus being on celebrating Pink Shirt Day.

What is Pink Shirt Day? It is a nationwide day of recognition in which students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear pink to "Stand up against bullying". As stated by the Pink Shirt Day organization:

On February 27, 2019, we encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. We wish we could take credit for this idea but it comes from two incredible Nova Scotia high school students. Here is a brief of the Globe & Mail article, which inspired us:

"David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied... They took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. 'I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,' says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. 'Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.' So Mr. Shepherd and some other headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again."

Ready, Set, Learn

Ready, Set, Learn is coming to Rancho Elementary on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 pm. Ready, Set, Learn is a free early learning event for families and caregivers with preschool-aged children who are 3, 4, or 5 years old. All families who attend will receive free books and a kit of materials/resources to help support their children's early learning experiences. All families are encouraged to pre-register for the event by calling Rancho Elementary at 250.832.7018. The School District's early learning coordinator, Jen Findlay, will facilitate the event.



2018 – 2019 Reporting Survey

This year, in November, we had our Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate the high turnout rate we had, and believe that this is an important conversation to have to support your child's learning.. Thank you to those who completed the survey sent home good decision.

The School District received over 400 responses from parents on the written report card. Here is a synopsis of the survey:

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences received positive feedback from parents and teachers. This was the second year of our elementary reporting conferences and we received over 400 survey responses from parents and 70 responses from teachers. Of these, 90% of parents and 87% of teachers stated that the conference was an effective way to communicate student learning, with 96% of parents noting that it was specific and individualized to their child. Parents and Teachers also gave us great direction for the future with over 70% of both groups suggesting the Fall as the best time for the conference and 70% preferring a conference to a written report card. It is clear that the hard work of teachers in preparation, and most importantly the clear and earnest conversations with students and parents, have been a key to successful implementation of student-parent-teachers conferences. A need for clear and direct communication with

students and parents is something we heard three years ago when we surveyed our community (over 1000 surveys). I believe this is an example of getting great and community feedback and creating something to meet the need. Indeed, while early dismissal can be a challenge for parents, still 83% say they 'want' the conference even with early dismissal, this speaks to the value that parents see in this type of communication. I really appreciate how parents have supported this despite the challenges of early dismissal process.

