



# Ranchero Elementary School



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December 1, 2020  
Newsletter # 6

*Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty & Fun*

## Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the calendar year it is often a time to reflect. Thinking back on the year 2020 I want to acknowledge the incredible teamwork that has taken place within the Ranchero Community. Ranchero students have continued to be respectful, responsible, compassionate, and fun students we know them to be regardless of how school has changed. Students have adapted quickly to home learning, hybrid learning and new school expectations. The Ranchero staff has risen to each challenge with courage, teamwork and a relentless positive can-do attitude. All that has been asked to be done has been accomplished by the amazing Ranchero team! The parent support has also been tremendously positive and encouraging. Thank you, Ranchero families, for going above and beyond during this challenging time.

We are looking forward to 2021 with hope and optimism. At this point it is not possible to see what changes may happen over the next year. I am confident that whatever comes our way we will together rise to the challenge and continue to prepare Ranchero students for their next level of learning and the world ahead.

We will not be opening our doors for our annual winter concert this year. This is very disappointing. As we know at this time we cannot gather in large groups. Student Winter Concert presentations, led by Ms. Skibbe, will take place by learning cohorts and we will record these presentations for sharing on our school website. The performances will be recorded on December 15 and shared on the Ranchero Website on Wednesday, December 16 for families to view. Information will be sent home in early December with more specific details on the concert and on costumes for students. ***In order to be part of the video that will be posted to the school website parents will need to have signed and returned to the school the Personal Information Consent Form.*** Almost all families have already completed this form for their child. For those families that have not signed this form we will have a copy with other forms home very soon.

Thank you to Ms. Billard for organizing the School Book Fair this year. Together we sold over \$1500 and this raised over \$450 to support new books and resources for the Ranchero Library.

On Friday, December 18 at 12:30 pm we will be opening the Ranchero year 2000 Time Capsule. The time capsule was sealed in December of 2000 and this year we will be adding items to place in the time capsule that will be opened in the year 2040! This will be a Facebook Live Event, check out the Ranchero Time Capsule 2020 FB page for more details on how to watch live.

There is much in the news about how school may look moving ahead. Please keep monitoring our school website and the School District Website ([www.sd83.bc.ca](http://www.sd83.bc.ca)) for the most current updates. If there are any changes, we will also email all families. Please ensure your current email is up to date.

Thank you to all families for participating in the student / teacher / parent conferences in November. The next formal report is a written report and will be sent home on February 24, 2021.

On behalf of all the staff at Ranchero Elementary School, I would like to wish our students and their families a very Happy Holiday season. Have a safe, relaxing and fun-filled break. We are all looking forward to seeing the students back at school in the New Year on January 4, 2021!

Sincerely,

*Doug Cumming*  
Principal

## Winter Recreation for Grade 5, 6, 7, and 8

In past years students in grades 5 – 8 have had the opportunity to go to Silver Star Mountain for skiing and snowboard lessons. Unfortunately, this program is not being offered this year by Silver Star Mountain. We look forward to having this happen in January 2022!

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## Primary Swim Lessons

We are working with the City of Salmon Arm on having swim lessons for our grade K – 4 students this year. The pool staff has let us know that they will keep us updated on if this can happen, at this point the plan is to have lessons take place in May. We will keep all updated on this. Thank you to the Rancho PAC for supporting this activity again this year!

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## 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 Tuesday, January 20 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.

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## Checking in at the Office

A reminder to all that when visiting the school, picking up your child early, or dropping off late to please check in at the office window in the hallway and sign in or out on the orange student sign in/out sheet. This will limit the number of adults in the building keep disruptions to the class limited and will also help us keep all students safe. If entering the school all visitors must complete a health check and wear a mask.

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## Ministry of Education ERASE Website

The new Ministry of Education ERASE website has been launched. Please check it out at the link below:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

# erase = expect respect & a safe education

**erase** is all about building safe and caring school communities . This includes empowering students, parents, educators and the community partners who support them to get help with challenges, report concerns to schools, and learn about complex issues facing students.

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## Head Lice checks

Please examine your child's head if they are itchy or scratching to see if head lice are present. Steps to checking for head lice:

- STEP 1: Find a comfortable well-lit spot.
- STEP 2: Check the hair from the scalp to the end of the hair strand. First, look at the hair at the back of the neck, behind the ears, and above the forehead. Then, check the rest of the head (eg. crown).
- STEP 3: You are looking for head lice and/or live nits (eggs). Head lice can move very quickly. Combing the hair with a fine-toothed nit comb can help find head lice. Wetting hair or using conditioner prior to combing may also help find head lice. Live nits are glued to hair close to the scalp (6mm or ¼ inch). Nits are white to light brown in colour and may be confused with dandruff. Nits are firmly attached to the hair and do not move unless you slide them down the hair strand.
- STEP 4: If you find head lice or live nits, check all household members. Treat only those who have head lice or live nits, following Option A or B or C (see attached). The Interior

Health website provides detailed information for each option.

STEP 5: Let the school know if your child has head lice or nits.

If you do not know what head lice and nits look like, please contact your local Public Health Unit, Mr. Cumming or visit the Interior Health website at [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca).

Here are some tips to prevent the spread of head lice.

1. Children with long hair should keep their hair tied back in a pony tail.
2. Provide individual combs and brushes and towels for all persons in the household.
3. Teach your children not to share these or any other articles that come in contact with the head, neck or shoulders (ie: hats, scarves, coats, pillows, combs, brushes).
4. Provide weekly head checks for all your family.
5. Report any infestation to the school and inform your recent social contacts (friends and relatives) to suggest that they check their families.
6. Tea tree oil in a person's hair is *thought* to be a preventative measure. It does not rid the hair of lice.

In compliance with School District No. 83 Regulation 1030.12R students with head lice are required to remain out of school until they have been treated for head lice.

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## On the Horizon

A few things to keep in mind as the month of December comes to an end and January quickly approaches...

- Family Letter Writing Day – Looking forward to this next year
- Poinsettia pick up after school on December 11 at 2pm in the Library
- Last day of classes, before the Winter Break, will be Friday, December 18- Pajama Day!
- Classes are back in session on Monday, January 4
- The PAC sponsored annual sledding party – Looking forward to this next school year
- Primary swim lessons – More information to follow – planning on May 2021

The school calendar can be found at: <https://ran.sd83.bc.ca/school-calendar/>

*Doug Cumming*    *Heather Montgomery*    *Jennifer Blair*    *Duane Kroeker*  
*Adrienne Skibbe*    *Joel Mueller*    *Sara Allen*  
*Barry MacKay*    *Shannon Seed*    *Teresa Cooper*  
*Korrie Mueller*



*Chelsy Beckman*    *Helen French*    *Denise Billard*  
*Alyson Coubrough*    *Jennifer Harper*    *Raelene Rands*  
*Donna Wray*    *Kathy Schmidt*    *Marylou Decelle*  
*Christina Fraser*