



Ranchero Elementary School



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December 1, 2021
Newsletter # 6

Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty & Fun

Principal's Message

As another calendar year ends, we want to recognize that Ranchero Community for all of the continued positive support of the school. As expectations have changed for students, we have greatly appreciated the support from home. We have also want to thank families in keeping all students healthy by completing daily health checks and keeping students' home if they are not feeling well. We are very proud of our school and community for continuing to be kind, caring and respectful during this time.

As you may have heard schools and classes in School District #83 have had to temporarily transition to home learning because of COVID exposures. When this happens teachers in the School District will be using TEAMS to communicate with students/ parents and provide assignments and support. We used TEAMS in the spring of 2020 at Ranchero when students were learning from home. TEAMS can be downloaded to your phone in the APP store or to your computer through a google search. All Ranchero students already have a username and password for TEAMS as part of their use of office products. If at any time we have to transition to home learning, we will use TEAMS to support students remotely.

We will not be opening our doors for our annual winter concert again this year. This is very disappointing. As we know at this time we cannot gather inside without proof of vaccination and only 60 students can be together for an indoor event. Student Winter Concert presentations, led by Ms. Wilson, will take place by classes and we will record these presentations for sharing on our school website. Students in Divisions 2 – 7 will be presenting "The Mitten" and Division 1 will be presenting "A Christmas Carol". The performances will be recorded on December 9 and shared on the Ranchero Website by Thursday, December 16 for families to view. ***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 for Media.*** Almost all families have already completed this form for their child. For those families that have not signed this form, we have had a copy sent home. Please complete as soon as possible and return to Kathy in the office.

Thank you to Ms. Billard for organizing the School Book Fair this year. Together we sold over \$2300 and this raised over \$450 to support new books and resources for the Ranchero Library.

Each year Kathy in the office organizes our annual Dielman Fundraiser. The funds from this raised support the purchase of resources that go directly to students and their learning. Kathy's time with this is greatly appreciated. This year we raised over \$700 dollars!

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 17, 2022.

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, 2022!

Sincerely,
Doug Cumming

Principal

Winter Recreation for Ms. Allen and Mr. Kroeker's classes

This year students in Ms. Allen and Mr. Kroeker's classes will have the opportunity to participate in Ski and Snowboard lessons at Silver Star Mountain. Information on this will be sent home to parents and guardians soon. The tentative dates this year are January 14, 21 and 28.

Primary Swim Lessons

We are working with the City of Salmon Arm on having swim lessons for our grade K – 5 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!

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 12, 2022, 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.

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. If entering the school all visitors must complete a health check and wear a mask.

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.

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.

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.

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 10 in the Library
- Last day of classes, before the Winter Break, will be Friday, December 17- Pajama Day!
- Classes are back in session on Tuesday, 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 Krocker*
Pamela Wilson *Catherine Auten* *Sara Allen*
Barry MacKay *Shannon Seed* *Teresa Cooper*
Korrie Mueller *Joel Mueller*



Cheri Calvert *Tracy McNabb* *Denise Billard*
Alyson Coubrough *Jennifer Harper* *Hannah Spencer*
Donna Wray *Kathy Schmidt* *Bret Sherwood*
Jennifer Abraham *Tanya Timofee*