



# NEWS

## Sunset Elementary School

March 2016

Check out our website at [www.sunsetschool.ca](http://www.sunsetschool.ca)

### Principal's Message

#### Thinking; The Base for 21st Century Learning

On February 19th, the staff of School District 85 had the pleasure of spending the day in engaged learning. Mr. Tom Schimmer was invited by the Vancouver Island Teachers' Association to give a keynote address. He did not disappoint us!

Mr. Schimmer reminded us that education is changing and today, we can't be certain what students will need in twenty or thirty years. He told us that 21st century learning is about the mind and ways of thinking.

Our redesigned curriculum is a reflection of this statement. We are moving towards big ideas and global competencies. These include using critical thinking, being a competent collaborator or team player, using effective communication skills, being socially responsible and having a positive personal and cultural identity.

Mr. Schimmer encouraged us that as we continue to learn about assessment, we can accurately assess these important and somewhat abstract skills.

One worthy assessment practice is to conference with children. It is always delightful and sometimes surprising what students are thinking; how they articulate their thinking and ways they are taking ownership of their own learning.

Within the body of this newsletter, I trust you will enjoy students' responses. Equally, I know you will appreciate the depth of their answers and how they demonstrate learning is a continuum and serious business!

This is a very exciting time to be in education and partnering with parents and the larger community.

What we do know for certain is that the foundational skills of 21st century learning will require continued learning and conversations with parents, students and community stakeholders.

Parents and guardians please remember you are invited to participate in these ongoing conversations. Please join us on February 29th at the Civic Arena in Port Hardy. If you have questions about how to add your name to this list, please contact us at school.

#### Science Fair

**March 3, 2016**

**Parents Students and  
Guardians Welcome**

**6:00—8:00**

All adults and students are welcome to attend our annual Science Fair. The evening is open to the public to come and enjoy the learning that Sunset students have completed.



#### What Kids Say

"I'm learning about writing stories. I forgot to use periods today."

It is important to use periods so you know what a sentence is."

Grade 3 student

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 01–02.....Grade 7 Ski Trip
- 03.....Science Fair
- 04..... No Time For That
- 07.....Grade 6 Ski Trip
- 09..... Spring Dance
- 14.....PAC Meeting
- 16.....Report Cards Issued
- 17.....Hot Dog Day
- 17.....Wear Green Day
- 21.....Spring Break Begins

### April

- 04.....Welcome Back
- 07.....Regional Science Fair
- 11.....Jump Rope for Heart
- 14.....Ready, Set, Learn
- 21.....Hot Dog Day
- 15.....Fun Fair

## No Time For That Empowering Youth and Bullying Prevention March 4, 2016

Together with our Cheslakees friends, we will be assembling together to partake in encouraging words and learning to combat bullying.

Elsie Morden is a young singer-songwriter who turned to music when she experienced bullying in school. During her high-school year she created a "No Time for That" tour. Her songs relate to bullying and how to overcome tough times. She has toured across Canada and has visited over 350 schools sharing her encouraging message.

We thank the PAC for helping to co-sponsor this opportunity and we welcome parents to come to our 9:30 assembly.

## One to One Reading Program

(credits from the provincial website)

ONE TO ONE is very pleased to be expanding the Provincial Program to two schools in School District 85, Vancouver Island North. The program launched with a visit and full day training session on January 28th to Sea View Elementary School in Port Alice by Zahida Jaffer, Provincial Program Coordinator, and Linda O'Reilly, Area Liaison and ONE TO ONE trainer. It was a very positive and energetic day that included the District Coordinator, Tracy Hamilton, teaching staff from both Sea View as well as Port McNeill's Sunset Elementary School, and 15 community members from both Port Alice and Port McNeill who will be reading with students as ONE TO ONE volunteer tutors at the two schools. We are thrilled with the start of this program in the region and with the partnership built with these committed educators.



Thank you to Ms. Sarah Brooks and Ms. Jessica Tuttle who will be leading the reading program at Sunset Elementary. A special thanks to our volunteers who took the training and will make a lasting impact by supporting students at Sunset.

## Thank You!



Thank you to Tee Jay and his mom for keeping our fish healthy and happy! After another cleaning of the tank, our fish continue to provide enjoyment and conversation for all who visit the office area.

## Speed Control Rocks Sunset Elementary



Graham, Ian and Jody are accomplished musicians from the Yukon who together with our students wrote an original song for our school.

The chorus goes like this:

**"We are Sunset Elementary  
It is the place to be  
We are Sunset Elementary  
The place for you and me!"**



## Grade 4 and Grade 7 Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Survey

Parents and guardians who have children in grades 4 and/or 7 are invited to participate in a satisfaction survey. Students in these grades are also invited to participate in the survey and will take their survey at school. The survey collects data about the level of satisfaction regarding educational experiences. All collected information is confidential. Please see the letters that are included with this newsletter for further information.

Should you have any questions about this survey, please contact the school.

## Congratulations!

Adrian Van Gorkom and William Grant were recent winners of the Legion junior poster and junior essay contest. Mr. Cliff Slack presented both boys with cheques for \$50.00 for their efforts. Their entries have now been forwarded to the BC/Yukon zone contest for judging.

Thank you to all students and teachers who encouraged their students to participate! Everyone is a winner for trying!



Adrian—Poster Winner, Mr. Slack, William—Essay Winner

# **Pink Shirt Day**

## **Together we are Stronger**

### **Thank you for inviting us to the assembly NISS!**



#### **Kindness**

by Teresa McGregor

Kindness is sharing with my friends! I love to bring my soccer ball to school to share with everyone.

Kindness is when someone is down and you make them feel better by saying, "It's okay."

Kindness is helping others by helping them pick up something they dropped.

Kindness is showing good manners by being polite...if someone holds the door open for you don't forget to say 'thank-you.'

Kindness is being friendly by helping those in need...when a friend falls on the ice during a class skating trip and you go and help them, that is showing kindness.

Kindness is being nice by showing that you care for others by acknowledging a person exists even if they are not your friend by saying, "How are you?" or "Hi."

But kindness is not hurting someone when they ask you to stop.

Last but not least Maya'xala; Maya'xala is respecting yourself, your friend and your environment—and that is how you are kind.

Kindness

#### **Newsletter Information**

We are moving towards a digital delivery of our newsletters. After Spring Break, paper copies will not be sent home with each student. Please send an email to

**[mhicker@sd85.bc.ca](mailto:mhicker@sd85.bc.ca)**

to ensure you receive our monthly newsletter. Alternatively, you can find the most recent newsletter at

**[www.sunsetschool.ca](http://www.sunsetschool.ca)**



#### **What Kids Say**

Collaborative group of three in Grade 7

We are learning about Italian food and translating it into French. We have to create a menu, learn French words, create a logo, cook the food; there are lots of elements.

It is important because we need to get better at French.

The challenge for us will be the presentation and saying the Italian foods in French. It will also be hard to make the food.

## Basket Ball Tournament Fun

Special thanks to Ms. Brooks and Mr. Ellis who took 12 of our students to a Grade 5—7 basketball tournament which was hosted by T'Lisalagi'lakw School.



## Korean Pen Pals

Students from Sunset have mailed their letters to their Korean pen pal! We hope to have letters back soon!



## Student Council Activities

March 9th  
**School Dance**  
3:30—5:00  
Grades 4—7  
Cost: \$2.00

March 17  
**Wear Green Day**  
and don't let  
the Leprechauns  
catch you!

