

## January 2017

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Dear ESR Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a fun but relaxing holiday and that everyone is ready to get back to a school routine.

Over the break I had time to reflect on the last few months at ESR Elementary School. ESR students are fortunate to have parents who take a keen interest and who are participants in their child's education. Since joining the ESR community I have been impressed by the generosity and school spirit shown by parents, family members and the local community. One of the strengths of ESR is the fact that parents, families, teachers and staff all work together in order to create a superb environment for students.

Many research studies indicate that parental involvement in school is a factor in student success. Parents who are unable to be at the school during the day can achieve similar gains by having conversations with children about school, by maintaining communication through emails and attending parent/teacher and PAC meetings.

While all parents at ESR are automatically Parent Advisory Council members it is a relatively small group that accomplishes a lot of the work. Some of the ways children benefit through the PAC are: musical instruments, library books, sports equipment, field trips, and technology. Additionally in January intermediate students are receiving a series of Drama Workshops, primary students will have visits from a professional storyteller. In the Spring we will have an Artist in Residence help us prepare for the Spring Celebration. Also in the Spring all students will have Irish Dance lessons through one week – at the end of the week ESR will host an evening Ceili and parents will be invited to come dance with us! All these resources and events are due to the volunteer hours put in by the PAC executive (led by Mrs. Beemish's great energy) and all the ways families participate by purchasing hot lunches, buying raffle tickets, baking cakes, and participating in other fundraisers. On behalf of students "we are grateful to the PAC and everyone who supports them."

Melinda Dempster, Principal

### **Important upcoming dates:**

Hot Lunch	January 6 <sup>th</sup>
PAC Meeting	January 10 <sup>th</sup>
Division 1 & 3 Skating	January 10 <sup>th</sup>
Division 2 & 3 Skating	January 12 <sup>th</sup>
Hot Lunch	January 16 <sup>th</sup>
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	NED assembly
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Spirit Day
Hot Lunch	January 27 <sup>th</sup>
Swimming Div 9, 10, 11	January 30 <sup>th</sup> 9:40
Swimming Div 6, 7, 8	January 30 <sup>th</sup> 10:40
Booster Juice	January 31 <sup>st</sup>

## The NED Show

On January 18<sup>th</sup> students and staff will meet in the gym for a 9:00 am assembly.

NED is a fun cartoon character whose name is an acronym for: **N**ever give up, **E**ncourage others, **D**o your best.



You may find out more about the NED show here: [http://www.thenedshow.com/ned\\_program.html](http://www.thenedshow.com/ned_program.html)

## Little Readers:

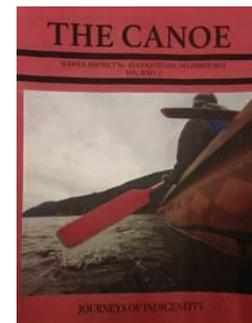
Little Readers is a parent-run program for preschoolers. Typically parents of young ones meet in the library once per week. One parent usually takes the lead (sometimes the responsibility rotates). They read a book, have a snack, do a craft and then sign out a library book to take home for the week. Little Readers is an great way for young children to become familiar, and part of, the school community before starting Kindergarten. If you are interested in volunteering to start a Little Readers Program at ESR please contact the school.

- kits with plans for crafts to accompany a storybook are available, as are funds to support Little Readers.

## The Canoe

You may know that this Aboriginal newspaper is a co-venture involving Mission, Coquitlam, Surrey, (and now a partnership in Australia). Mission students conducted interviews, took photographs and wrote compelling articles highlighting many of our Aboriginal success stories in Mission. Each family has been sent a copy home with the eldest sibling at the school. If you haven't seen it you may want to check a backpack!

At ESR we are fortunate to have Kristy Hackel as our Aboriginal Liaison who supports the success of Aboriginal students and shares Aboriginal Culture with all students in classes.



## Parking Lot Woes

As E.S.R. is a school of choice many more children are driven to school than what is typical. I recognize that everyone arriving to the school at once creates frustrations and ask that you:

- **Do not park or “wait” in the drop off zone in front of the school** – if we can keep cars moving there traffic will not back up. If you use this zone children should be ready to hop in or out of your car quickly.
- **Do not park in staff parking.** Education Assistants arrive close to the bell and need to be here for students

## You could consider:

- Parking a block or so away and walking your child to school (great time for conversation!)
- Arriving 10 minutes earlier or later (if it is really cold or rainy the foyer is available)

Let's remember that children learn from what they see so please follow and let's support each other and be kind.

## Valentine's Day Cake Walk



A PAC fundraising tradition at E.S.R. is the Valentine's Day Cake Walk. More information will be coming your way soon. Be prepared to get out your measuring spoons, donate a cake and have your child bring something yummy home!