

## CALENDAR

### December

- 13.....Cardboard Challenge Open House; 2:00-5:00 pm
- 13 PAC Meeting Cancelled
- 14.....Anawim Visit
- 15.....Candy Cane Spirit Day
- 16.....Jingle Bell Run; 9:00 am

### Dec 19-Jan 2...Winter Break

### January

- 9.....Family Grouping; 2:00 pm
- 10.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 18.....Ready Set Learn Open House; 3:15 pm
- 25.....Kindergarten Info Evening
- 30.....**Non Instructional Day**
- 30-Feb 3.Kindergarten Registration

### February

- 1.....Planet Protector Assembly
- 6.....Family Grouping; 2:00 pm
- 13.....**Family Day-STAT**
- 14.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 24.....**Non Instructional Day**
- 27.....Gr.4/5 Victoria Symphony

### March

- 6.....**Non Instructional Day**
- 9.....**Early Dismissal; 1:48 pm**
- 10.....Basketball Jamboree
- 13.....Family Grouping
- 14.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 15.....Swim Meet; 12:00 pm

### Mar 20 – 31...Spring Break

### April

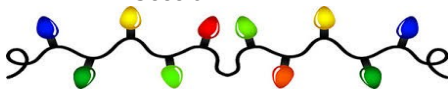
- 3.....Family Grouping
- 11.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 14.....**Good Friday-STAT**
- 17.....**Easter Monday-STAT**
- 28.....**Non Instructional Day**

### May

- 1.....Family Grouping
- 8.....**Non Instructional Day**
- 9.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 22.....**Victoria Day-STAT**

### June

- 5.....Family Grouping
- 12.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
- 28.....Year End Assembly
- 29.....Last Day of School
- 30.....Admin Day-No School in Session



### SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please phone 250-656-7425  
 if your child will be absent or late.

## December 2016

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It is hard to believe we are approaching Winter Break. Teachers have been extremely busy determining student progress. Report Cards have gone home with students. These reports communicate student progress, including achievement, attitude/effort, work habits and organization. Written comments will reflect what the student is able to do, areas in which the student requires further attention or development, as well as ways of supporting the student in his or her learning.

The process of assessment, evaluation and reporting are meant to support the student in his/her learning. Reporting occurs throughout the year but formal reports are sent home in December, March and June.

On behalf of Sidney staff, I would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful holiday.

### Anawim House



Again this year Sidney Elementary is showing the virtue of generosity and making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate members of our society. Our students will make Christmas stocking bags with the basic essentials: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair comb and other possible gift items and deliver bags to the Anawim House on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This home serves as a refuge for many homeless people who simply do not have a place to reside permanently or sleep. The home is a place to come for the day to clean up, shower, do laundry, learn to read, play a game, socialize as a family might, have a break from the weather or seek social help. This service-learning project has been done for the last 20 years and has proven to be a very rewarding experience for all that are involved. Many of the recipients have never received a prepared Christmas gift such as this.

### Cardboard Challenge



We at Sidney Elementary are excited about the new direction that education is taking. As a staff we have received training in both the new curriculum and teaching practices, have slowly integrated these into our daily routines with your children, and are eager to share our collaborative and innovative ideas with you.

### SOME BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

One unique aspect at our school is the staff's ability to work as a unit such that ideas we are passionate about become part of our school culture. We have seen this with our gardening program, musicals, physical fitness and social emotional programs. Our current school wide initiative is Project Based Learning or PBL. This is a student-centred pedagogy, or style of teaching, that involves a dynamic classroom approach in which students acquire a deeper knowledge through active exploration of real-world challenges and problems. We have chosen to do this in the form of a Cardboard Challenge where classes will be showing what they know about a particular area of the curriculum they are studying through the medium of cardboard. This involves not only using their background knowledge of the topic but also uses technology, engineering, art, and math to construct their project. We call this combination of subjects STEAM.

### SO.....YOU ARE INVITED!

We hope you are able to come and see our Cardboard Challenge projects in our classrooms Tuesday, December 13th from 2-5 pm. All 13 divisions have created something to share. Please feel free to wander through our school and see what Sidney Students have created using cardboard and their imaginations.

### Jingle Bell Run / Movie Day



On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> staff and students will be participating in a Jingle Bell Run at 9:00 am and Movie Day. We would like to thank Ms. Loeb and the Spirit Leadership Team for all of their hard work organizing this event. *We would also like to invite any parents/guardians to join us for the Jingle Bell run!*

## Phase Two Renovations at Sidney Elementary



As you are aware Sidney Elementary has become a top priority in the Saanich School District in regards to updating & renovating our school. Many of you may have noticed a much improved administrative office, teacher workspace and kitchen area from Phase One. We will begin Phase Two of renovations that will involve three classrooms being dismantled and renovated into our new Learning Commons area beside the main office. This will require four classrooms to be relocated into open rooms within our school. When funding is finalized this next phase of renovations is scheduled to begin late January or early February.

As some of you may have read we are also scheduled to be refitted with all new waterlines. This is very exciting news for us and the plan is to install the new pipes while each section of our school is being renovated.

This is an annual Provincial grant provided to the school district each year. All money must be used by the end of March and we are hopeful that all renovations will be completed by that time. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.

## What's New @ Your Learning Commons



- Our Book Fair was a HUGE success. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers: Lesley, Christine, Alison S, Anita, Gillian, Catherine, Tana, Karen, Anna, Maggie, Debbie, Allison, Julie, Nicola, Wendy and Jeannie. The students had a great time shopping for themselves and choosing books for our Learning Commons.
- Keep your child reading over the winter break—just 15 minutes a day will make a huge difference! Don't forget to checkout our public library.

## Winter is Here!



SD63 Transportation phone line is: 250-652-7343 (hours are 7:15 am - 4:00 pm). For school/busing updates you can also go to the district web-page ([www.sd63.bc.ca](http://www.sd63.bc.ca)) or "twitter@sd63bus" and become a follower.

School buses may be late or may not even arrive. Students should wait for 20 minutes and if they have not been picked up then they should return home or follow the plan laid out by their parents/guardians. It is really important that parents/guardians have a plan for their children if the school bus does not arrive.

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER, by 6:15 am the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Keven Elder informs area radio stations (eg: CFAX, The Q, CBC Radio, The Ocean, A Channel and CH News) that School District No. 63 schools will be closed and/or school buses are cancelled. **NO ANNOUNCEMENT means SCHOOLS AND BUSES are OPERATING AS USUAL.**

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Stay at least 2 meters from the bus. Due to road conditions buses can slide as they are stopping so please stay well out of the way. Cars may also fail to stop, slide or may lose control so be aware whenever you are around them. Look out for your own safety as well as for the safety of your friends.
2. Be on your best behaviour on the bus and at your bus stop. Poor weather requires all of the drivers attention to be able to drive safely.
3. Because of the slippery conditions be careful as you get off the bus and then get well clear of the bus.

For further information please call: SD63 Board Office Recorded Message: 250-652-7300 or SD 63 Transportation Department: 250-652-7343 OR [Twitter@sd63bus](mailto:Twitter@sd63bus)

## Lost and Found



Be sure to checkout our Lost & Found clothing rack and bins located near the gymnasium. There are several unclaimed articles that need to find their owners. Items left after December 16<sup>th</sup> will be given to a local charitable organization.

## WiFi Update at Sidney Elementary



After extensive consultation with staff, parents/guardians and District staff over the past year, the Superintendent has recently granted permission to install WiFi services at our school in accordance with the details provided in the submission and in accordance with Policy 3130. Limited WiFi at Sidney Elementary School now includes learning access points that provide a WiFi signal to limited areas in the school. Points of installation now include our Learning Commons (Library), Learning Services, Main Office and Gym. Each learning access point includes an on/off switch that would allow the WiFi signal to be turned on and off as needed by learners at a given time.

## Food Bank



Just a reminder that we have decided to do our Food Bank drive in the Spring to prepare the Food Bank for the summer months.

## Swim Club



Grade 3, 4 & 5s are invited to join our Sidney Swim Club starting in the new year, January 2017. The focus of the club is to encourage stroke improvement and develop stamina. More information will follow as we confirm our schedule with Panaorama Recreation. The District Swim Meet is scheduled on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00 pm.

## Saanich Schools (SD63) READY SET LEARN Open House



Introduce yourself – Parents and preschoolers (3 years and up) are invited to visit their neighbourhood school.

- Participate in hands-on learning activities.
- Tour your neighbourhood school.
- Learn about community resources available to support families.

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017; 3:15-6:00 pm.**

Join us at your neighbourhood school.

Brentwood Elementary	250-652-3996
Cordova Bay Elementary	250-658-5315
Deep Cove Elementary	250-656-7254
Keating Elementary	250-652-9261
KELSET Elementary	250-655-4648
Lochside Elementary	250-658-5238
Prospect Lake Elementary	250-727-3314
Sidney Elementary	250-656-3958

## Kindergarten Information Evening for Fall 2017

Please join us for an evening of information about SD63 Kindergarten programs on **January 25, 2017; 7:00-8:30 pm, at Keating Elementary, 6843 Central Saanich Rd, Saanichton, V8Z 5V4**

## Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2017

**January 30-February 3, 2017**

All Children born in 2012 are eligible to register for Full Day Kindergarten at your neighbourhood school

**To register at your neighbourhood school please bring:**

- Proof of your address (resident driver's license, utility bill, etc.
- Proof of your child's age (birth certificate).
- Your child's BC Care Card.

**After February 3<sup>rd</sup>, all K-5 registrations will be done at:**

Saanich School Board Office  
2125 Keating Cross Road  
8am to 4 pm

## PAC NEWS



The next PAC Meeting is January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the school Library. All parents/guardians of Sidney School students are welcome to attend. We hope you can join us!

## FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE



### BC Healthy Kids Dental Program

Basic dental coverage is available for children through the Healthy Kids Program. Dependant children under 19 years of age may be covered for dental care if the family is approved to receive premium assistance for BC Medical Services Plan (MSP).

Children are eligible for up to \$1400 of basic dental services every two years. This includes services such as exams, x-rays, fillings, cleanings and extractions. Some services are limited. For example the program does not cover orthodontic treatment. Healthy Kids may not cover all of the costs and there may be additional charges for each visit. Before treatment begins, confirm that your dentist is accepting children covered by the BC Healthy Kids Program, and what part of the services will be covered.

To use the services, take your child's BC Care Card to the dental office and they will confirm coverage before each appointment.

To find out if your child is covered call:

- o 1-866-866-0800 (have your child's Care Card Number handy)

Or access the [Healthy Kids website](#).

### HEAD LICE AWARENESS



Head lice are common in BC communities. Although they are a bother, head lice are not a health risk.

Head lice spread quickly by close, head-to-head contact. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet, and they cannot jump or fly. There may be few or no symptoms, but itching may occur.

You can help by:

- o Checking your child's head with the wet-combing method of detection once a week throughout the school year.
- o Review the pamphlet Wet Combing-How to Get Rid of Head Lice, available online, at your school and [Public Health Unit](#).
- o Encouraging your child to wear their hair tied back
- o Treating if you notice live lice on your child's head.
- o Reminding family and friends about the importance of routine head checks.

For more information:

- o [HealthLink BC File#06Head Lice](#)
- o Contact your local [Public Health Unit](#)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Peninsula Players and the Mary Winspear Centre proudly present

# Little Red & The Wolf



Written by **Dawn Cairns**  
Directed by **Lisa Bosman**

Traditional panto fun  
for all ages, filled with  
humour, music and  
audience participation.



The Berwick Royal Oak (next to Howard Johnson Inn) – December 16 at 7 p.m. • December 17 & 18 at 2 p.m.

The Charlie White Theatre (Mary Winspear Centre) – December 22, 23, 27, 28 & 29 at 7 p.m. • December 26 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for all venues are available online at [ThePeninsulaPlayers.ca](#) or at [Tickets.MaryWinspear.ca](#), or at the Winspear Centre Box Office (250-656-0275). Tickets for the Berwick Royal Oak Theatre are also available at Dig This in the Broadmead Centre Mall.



[www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca](http://www.thepeninsulaplayers.ca)



[www.marywinspear.ca](http://www.marywinspear.ca)

