



## December 2022

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The December newsletter is the final one in my role as Principal, and as you might imagine I am experiencing a variety of emotions. It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to spend the past 3½ years at Promontory, and I have looked forward to coming to work every day. Our time together has been quite eventful. I will always remember the sewage flood of 2019 (during the Christmas performance!), the ever-present specter of Covid19 starting in 2020, school closures, remote learning, mask mandates, heat domes, atmospheric rivers and floods, smoke days, forest fires, and more. I can honestly say that not a single day has been dull! But it was your children that have made each day worth it, and I will miss them very much. Our vibrant, engaged staff is second to none. I am sad to leave my work family but happy to leave your children in the hands of these kind and capable professionals. And your smiling faces as you drop off your children, engage with us in conversation, encourage us in so many ways, volunteer countless hours to make our school a better place...saying "Thank You" seems too little, but I mean it from the heart. Being entrusted with your children and our school has been a gift, and I have treated it as such and will always treasure the memories. I wish you all the best in the days and years ahead. And remember, Chilliwack is still a small enough city that I will likely see you again. So, I will just say "Merry Christmas! See you later."

### NEW PRINCIPAL

The final decision on Mr. Bloch's replacement will be made at the December 6<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting, and a formal announcement will be made public on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### WINTER PERFORMANCES (Grades 1-3)

#### December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm

(Please have students in their classrooms by 6:00pm)

**\*These students are to be performing both nights**

#### Red Cast: December 6<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Maclsaac    Mrs. Plummer  
Mrs. Wouda     Mrs. Henrotte\*  
Ms. Pearson    Mrs. Peterson  
Mrs. Erickson   Mrs. Balsillie  
Soloists\*

#### Green Cast: December 7<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Johnston    Mrs. Henrotte\*  
Mrs. Griffen     Mr. Armstrong  
Mrs. Bannerman   Mr. Alfred  
Mr. Ingham       Mrs. Davidson  
Ms. Hussain      Soloists\*



### GRADE 5 Students Interested in LATE FRENCH IMMERSION (LFI)

*Parent Meeting – Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @7:00pm. Meeting will take place via zoom. (link to follow)*

Online applications for **students entering Grade 6 in September 2023** can be submitted at any time by visiting <https://sd33.bc.ca/registration> and selecting either Chilliwack Middle School (LFI) or Vedder Middle School (LFI) as your school of choice. If the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces available, a lottery system for selection will be used within the parameters of our Selection Process. All applications received by 12:00 pm on February 10, 2023 will be included in this draw.

Applications after February 10 at 12:00pm can also be made [online](#) by selecting either Chilliwack Middle School or Vedder Middle School as your school of choice. If space is not available, applicants will be added to the existing wait list.

Please note, Grade 6 students do not require previous French experience. For more information, please visit the website [HERE](#).

### SALVATION ARMY FOOD DRIVE

This year all schools are being asked to prioritize a specific non-perishable food item. Our item is **Condensed Soup**. ALL other food items (as well as monetary donations) will continue to be accepted; the condensed soup will be our main focus this year. This will allow the Salvation Army to maximize donations of their most essential food bank needs.

### LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with items. These will be placed out on display December 5-9<sup>th</sup>. Items not claimed during this week will be donated. Please make sure to stop by and take a look if your children are missing items.

### GRADE 5 FUNDRAISING

A simple and convenient way to support fundraising for our Grade 5 events, including our trip to Camp Squeah, yearbooks and end of year celebration, has been set up. Simply follow the instructions below to donate your bottles and cans:

- Take your bottles and cans in clear or blue plastic bags to any Return It Depot.
- Go to the "Drop Off" kiosk and input the schools phone number (604)824-4885.
- Print off one label per bag. Scan each bag with the handheld scanner under the screen and deposit bags into the drop off bin.

### IN/OUT DAYS

**WE WILL GO OUTSIDE MOST DAYS. With the colder weather on its way, we can expect more frequent cold, wet weather.** Even on days with drizzle or light rain, children will be sent out for a period of time to get fresh air. The day is long, and children do crave exercise and fresh air. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES AND ENSURE THEY ARE DRESSED PROPERLY FOR THE WEATHER. If your family is facing financial hardship and purchasing winter clothes is a struggle, please read the Affordability Fund section below.**



### AFFORDABILITY FUND

The Government of BC recently announced that school districts would be receiving funds that would directly support families who are currently facing financial hardships. These funds can be used to improve students' access to nutritional food before, during and after the school day, and to directly off-set costs to parents, guardians, and students, such as school supplies, field trips, winter clothing, or other cost pressures. If your family is in need, we are ready and able to help. Simply contact any member of our office staff or another staff member with whom you feel comfortable, and we can help. This will be handled privately and with discretion.

### COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

Sometimes you may have a concern with something you may have observed, something your child comes home and tells you or perhaps something you hear other parents talking about. In our school district the first step is to speak to the person you have a concern with. If it is the classroom teacher, go to the teacher, let them know what your concern is and have a conversation. This is a respectful process, and 99% of the time the situation is cleared up at that level. If it is not resolved, then you are welcome to come and speak to Mr. Bloch or Mr. Moore. They are not always in the office, so often the best thing to do is to email [chuck\\_bloch@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:chuck_bloch@sd33.bc.ca) or [justin\\_moore@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:justin_moore@sd33.bc.ca).

### DAILY HEALTH CHECK – A commitment from you



It is the season of colds, flu and COVID-19. Everyone is mindful of how quickly illness can spread through a class or the school. **If your children are ill, especially if there are COVID-like symptoms, please keep them home.** Please **do not send a sick child to school** hoping that they may get better. Err on the side of caution and **keep your child home to help prevent others from becoming sick. If your child demonstrates symptoms of illness at school, we will ask you to pick them up.**

### **REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES**

For the safety and security of the children, if your child is going to be absent or late, please use our “Safe Arrival” program, located on the front page of our school website, or [here](#). Please indicate “late” in the note to office section. This program can be accessed at any time of day. We are trying to limit the call volume to the office and appreciate your help using this new service. You are still able to report a late or absence over the phone if you prefer. If you are calling outside our office hours (7:30 – 3:30), please leave a message on the answering machine indicating the following information: Date, Late or Absent, Child’s Name, the length of absence, and the Teacher’s Name.

You can email the classroom teacher or Mrs. Thiessen [diane\\_thiessen@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:diane_thiessen@sd33.bc.ca). If we have not been previously informed of your child’s absence via a phone call or note, you will receive an email or phone call to confirm your child’s absence.

### **SIGNING YOUR CHILD OUT**

If you wish to take your child out of school during the school day (i.e., Doctor/Dentist or other appointments), **please call the office and sign your child out.** The office will then call your child’s class to have your child come down. It is very important for us to know when a child has left the building/grounds. **Upon returning the same day, please inform the office.**

### **LUNCHES**

If you drop off lunch for your child, please make sure their name is on it. You can inform the office and we will arrange for your child to receive the lunch; we will not interrupt class time if we can avoid it.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

#### **BOOKS OVER WINTER BREAK**

All library books are due back to school before winter break. Please return all library books during the week of Dec 12th to 16<sup>th</sup> or earlier. Students will have to read classroom books or books from home during the last week of school.

#### **SUPER READER PROGRAM**

Please do not forget about the Kiwanis Super Reader Program. We are approaching 100 nights of home reading fast! The earliest date for 100 nights is December 14. Please return your child’s Super Reader Booklet to their classroom teacher. This year prizes will be awarded in the New Year.

It is not too late to start Super Reader! There are extra booklets available in the library. Logs can also be back dated. Students are required to read or be read to for 15 minutes a night. This is a great way to build reading into your routine. Students receive different prizes at the 50,100,150,200,250-night levels.

#### **100 Nights of Reading Prizes from Kiwanis**

*Kindergarten: T-shirt & McDonalds Goodie Bag*

*Grade 1: Picture Book & McDonalds Goodie Bag*

*Grade 2: Chapter Book & McDonalds Goodie Bag*

*Grade 3: Binder & McDonalds Coupon*

*Grade 4: Water Bottle & McDonalds Coupon – NEW THIS YEAR!*

*Grade 5: Stylus Pen + FREE book & McDonalds Coupon*

#### **CAMP READ S'MORE READATHON**

Congratulations to Mrs. Plummer’s Grade 2 class for raising the most money and winning the pizza party! They raised a total of \$651. The second-place class was Mr. Ingham’s Grade 2 class with \$555. This is the second year in a row that Mr. Ingham’s class has come in second place. The third-place class was Mrs. Wouda’s Grade 1&2 class, who brought in \$417.25. Ms. Hussain’s Grade 2 class came in 4<sup>th</sup> place with \$406.45. Ms. Murley’s kindergarten class placed 5<sup>th</sup> with \$354.85. Mr. Ingham’s, Mrs. Wouda’s, Ms. Hussain’s and Ms. Murley’s class will win a popsicle party in the springtime.



The annual Fall Readathon was super successful this year. Our school raised \$6161.75. This is a new record. We will be purchasing a large roll laminating system for the school community to use this winter. Thank you to everyone in our school community that made this possible. Every year I am amazed by generosity of our community. You are helping to make our school a better place! Thanks again!



**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

The plan is to have a book fair this winter. Please check out the January Newsletter for more details. The plan is to host it sometime in February.

**FAMILY READING**

During December, our weekly Family Library Access on Friday mornings will continue. While I am away, families can take out a maximum of 5 books at a time. The last family access date will be this Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please note that all family accounts must return their books on or before Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please note that my replacement will not be able to add any new family library accounts.

The first **Family Read Aloud in 2023** is scheduled for Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Check the January newsletter for more updates.

**MAKERSPACE NEWS**

Check out what we are making in the Makerspace! Please visit our Instagram page: “Promontorymakerspace”

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- 1.) Pipe Cleaners      3) Elastics            5) Toothpicks      7) Pom Poms
- 2.) Marbles            4) Nails/Screws    6) Magnets        8) Beads

**Dates to Remember**

Dec 2	- Hot Lunch (Shandhar Hut)
Dec 6&7	- Grade 1-3 Performance at 6:30pm
Dec 9	- Festive Sweater Day
Dec 13	- Kindergarten Performance at 6:00pm
Dec 15	- PJ Day
Dec 16	- Hot Lunch (Jim’s Pizza) - Last Day!
Dec 17 – Jan 2	- Winter Break
Jan 3	- School Re-Opens

**PAC NEWS**

Welcome to December, a month full of Christmas festivities, winter fun, and concerts. The students at Promontory Elementary have been hard at work practicing for their Christmas Concert. It’s exciting to finally be able to attend an in-person concert, and for some students it will be their first time performing in front of a live audience. There are two Christmas Concert times, December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>, so please ensure that you know the time and day of your child’s performance.

PAC will be having a Christmas Bake Sale at the end of each Christmas Concert Performance on December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you check it out and stock up on Christmas treats for your family or for yourself! If you would like to contribute to the Bake Sale please bring your baked treats, wrapped and ready for sale, on the day of your child’s performance. Contact Bronwyn at [bronwyntwilson@gmail.com](mailto:bronwyntwilson@gmail.com) for further information or questions regarding the Bake Sale.

The Christmas Market was a big success and raised **\$2778** towards the construction of the new playground. Wow! Promontory PAC would like to thank Leah Shields for her dedication, time, and hard work in making the Christmas Market a huge success! PAC would not be able to function without the sacrificial time our volunteers put into our school.

**Lost & Found** items will be sorted and tabled for parents to go through from December 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Anything that has not been claimed will be donated. Please check the tables near the front office.

This is a season that can be financially difficult for many families. If your family is struggling, please reach out to Administration at Promontory Elementary and they will help provide support for your family this Christmas season.

Sadly, it’s Mr. Bloch’s last 2 weeks here at Promontory and we are sad to see him go, but we are happy for him as he embarks on his new chapter of retirement. He is looking forward to spending time with his family and hitting the golf course. The new principal of Promontory Elementary will be announced soon, and we know that whoever it is will be a great addition to our school.

## Fundraisers

### Purdy's Fundraiser

Orders to be picked up the week of December 12<sup>th</sup> (more info to come closer to the date).

## Hot Lunch

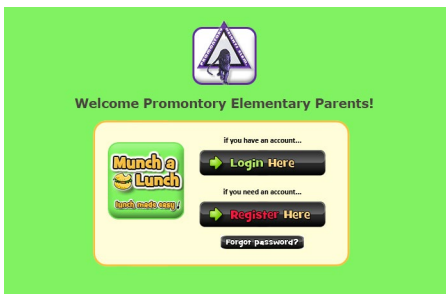
Ordering hot lunch for the remainder of the year is open!

Dec 16th-Jim's Pizza

**Note to returning parents upon first login.** Any returning parents who login will see this message: "Welcome to the 2020-21 school year, please update your child's grade/teacher/div BEFORE ordering". **You must complete this step before you will be able to order.**

### HOW TO REGISTER:

- 1) Go to: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/PromontoryHeights/>
- 2) Click the "Register Here" button (as shown below). The system will guide you through from there.
- 3) After adding your children, click the green "Order Lunch!" button to order
- 4) Next time, just click the "Login Here" button to access your account.



### ORDERING DETAILS

- Online ordering will be open at least by the 1st of each month until 1 week before date of hot lunch
  - Orders are paid for using credit card online through munch a lunch secure system. Or brought to school by ordering date deadline. If payment is not received by deadline you will be notified of your order cancellation.
- Please only order for the dates you intend to pay for. Munch A Lunch does not accept partial payments. Thank you!**
- Please note if your child is ill on a lunch date, you are welcome to come and pick up their lunch at 12 pm from your child's classroom; otherwise please consider it a donation for a child who does not have a lunch. Consistent with previous years, there are NO REFUNDS as this is a PAC fundraiser.**

We appreciate your support for our hot lunch program as the funds go towards needs of the school and general fundraising within the school. We are love having parent volunteers, but due to COVID restrictions this will be paused for now.

### If you have any questions, please email the following:

Hot Lunch Coordinators -Karmen - [promontoryhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:promontoryhotlunch@gmail.com)

Fundraising Coordinator - Leah Shields – [promontory-pac@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:promontory-pac@sd33.bc.ca)