

Simon Fraser Elementary School

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NEWSLETTER No. 7

March 23, 2010

Dear Fraser Families:

Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules with family and work to meet with us for the recent parent-teacher conferences. Thank you for your continued willingness to partner with us in shaping the social, emotional, intellectual and physical well being of your children.

Second term report cards went home before the Spring Break, and as I read through them, I was so impressed by the myriad of talents shown by your children.

The teachers are currently collecting evidence of student achievement to generate school goals for next year which we will discuss at our next **Professional Development Day** on Tuesday, April 6. Our hope is to continue working on Writing as a school goal, using assessment methods that provide useful feedback to students (Assessment for Learning). **Assessment for Learning (AFL) is a focus for the District selected for its power in helping students learn.**

Assessment for Learning can have a strong, positive impact on student learning, achievement, motivation, and self-esteem. Assessment is no longer viewed as something teachers alone are responsible for. With clear targets supported by models of quality work; activities that encourage reflection, self-assessment, and goal setting; prompt descriptive feedback; and instruction to help them acquire the knowledge and skills to meet the targets, students can grow as self-directed, competent learners.

Assessment that promotes learning recognizes that students need to be given and accept ownership for their learning. Assessment for learning is driven by the notion that students, in partnership with the teacher, can use assessment information to improve learning.

Launching JUMP Rope for Heart at Simon Fraser

This week we launched our 2010 JUMP program. This is the first year that our school will support the Heart and Stroke Foundation by participating in JUMP and raising vital funds for research. Your child



will be bringing home a pledge form and a 'Heart Healthy Activity Book' this week - Please keep an eye out for them! We encourage students to be active over the next 2 weeks as we run the program and to ask family and friends to support the cause.

Please join us for the big skipping event on Tuesday, April 13th, when all of the students will be skipping outside (weather permitting). More information about the event to follow.

Saving lives just got easier!

With **online fundraising**, your child can help the Heart and Stroke Foundation save lives without even leaving the house! This new online fundraising system lets your child email friends and family all around the world to spread the Heart and Stroke Foundation's message and gain support for this important cause. Online instructions are attached to your child's pledge form but for more information contact: www.jumpropeforheart.ca.

THINK Pink 2010 April

THINK Pink is a day of action, born when a youth in a high school in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school, and was called homophobic names. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, bullying and homophobia.



Fraser school will be participating in this Canada wide anti bullying event. Although we believe that it takes a community-wide effort over time to really reduce bullying, single events like this one can raise awareness and draw attention to an issue, while generating energy to address it in a more in-depth way.

Satisfaction Survey 2010

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

The Satisfaction Survey is being administered to

students in grades 4 and 7. We encourage all our community stakeholders to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. You will be receiving an invitation to complete the survey on line, with the help of a special log-on number. The survey contains standard questions for the Province and is completely anonymous. Thank you for your help in making our school even better.

Internet Bullying

The Vancouver School Board has developed a new resource to assist schools in responding to online bullying. It is a part of a special project, Facing Up to Cyber-bullying undertaken by the VSB Social Responsibility and Diversity team, and funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre.

Did you know that school staff in many Vancouver schools, along with the Vancouver Police Department School Liaison Officers have had to intervene in a number of cyber-bullying incidents? Much of student' online activities and communication originates from the students' homes. It is crucial to involve parents in both prevention and intervention. Please take some time to talk to your children about their Internet use. The VSB recommends that each family have an Internet Safety Plan.



News from Div 5 & 6

Divisions 5 & 6 have been busy learning about salmon and temperate rainforests. Our tiny eyed salmon eggs, delivered in mid January, grew and thrived in our classroom tank, and hatched into alevins a few weeks ago. Today our class went to the Seymour Salmon Hatchery to learn about the importance of hatcheries in helping salmon stocks, to go on a hike in a temperate rainforest, and to learn what salmon need to survive in a stream. In the classroom the students got to observe a dissection of a salmon in order to compare similarities and differences between salmon anatomy and human anatomy. Next month we will be releasing the salmon fry in Beaver Creek in Stanley Park before their long trip out to the Pacific Ocean.



Sports Update

Track and Field for grades 3 - 7 will be starting soon. Watch for notices coming home.

In line skating lessons for all students from Stardust Kids on Wheels will take place from April 12th - 16th. The Cost of \$995 is being covered by funds raised through our Walk-a-thon. Our students will be learning how to

balance, proper starting and stopping, forward and backward skating. A separate notice will be coming home in the next day or two.

Checking in at the Office

We are requesting that if you need to pick up your child from school early, please send a note to your child's teacher requesting that he/she be sent to the office at the required time. Also, if you need to drop something off (forgotten lunch or school books) once school is in session, please leave the items at the office and the items will be delivered to your child. In addition to safety concerns teachers are finding it very disruptive to instruction when family members show up at the door.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| March 30 th | Sarah McLaughlin Students Concert
1:30 |
| March 30 th | Ms. Sahota's class - Seymour Hatchery
9 - 3 |
| March 31 st | Ms. Adrian/Ms. French's classes
Cypress Mountain - 8:30 - 3 |
| April 2 nd | Good Friday - No School |
| April 5 th | Easter Monday - No School |
| April 6 th | Pro-D Day
No School for Students |
| April 7 th -9 th | Grade 6 & 7 Camp |
| April 12 th -16 th | Stardust Rollerblading |
| April 14 th | Grade 7's tour Hamber
12:45 - 2:45 |

Sincerely,

Milana Christie
Principal

