

# Marion Schilling Elementary School Newsletter

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"Learning is Cool at our School!!"

December 18, 2014

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

Winter Break begins Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>! School will be closed until Monday, January 5, 2015. I trust that all families will truly enjoy the Holiday Season with family and friends. May it be a time wherein special memories are created together.

I want to take this time to thank all of our families who were able to come out and support our students by attending yesterday's Concert, "Snowed In"! The students truly enjoyed performing for you! Special thanks to Mrs. Piroddi, our music teacher, for organizing our concert and preparing our students. Thanks also to the staff for rehearsing and decorating the gym.

During this Season of Giving, I want to thank our MSES students and families who brought in non-perishable food items for the local food bank. Your generosity and giving spirit to those less fortunate is both needed and appreciated.

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> is a special School Spirit Day. Mrs. Patton's Grade 2 class has determined that students



and staff should wear a Santa or Elf hats to school!

**READY, SET, LEARN**

Tomorrow, MSES will be hosting a Ready, Set, Learn event for our families who have

a 3 year old child. This activity will take place in our library from 10:45 – 11:30 am. Jo McKenna, our Literacy Resource Teacher will share how to support young children's early learning through books. A book will be provided to the child of parents/guardians who attend this session.

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Mrs. Wood  
Principal



## SUPPLEMENTARY JANUARY EVENTS

Please mark **January 18<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar! Our PAC is hosting a Pub Night at McCracken Pub from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The Menu includes: Ribs, Cole Slaw and Fries. Don't delay in purchasing your ticket, as there are only 100 tickets available! You can phone or text Jen Fraser at 250-371-4811 to purchase your ticket/s. Thanks in advance for supporting our PAC in this fun fundraiser!

January 23<sup>rd</sup> is a scheduled Early Closure Day for MSES. All students will be dismissed at 12:30 for parent/teacher interviews. Please set-up a meeting with your child's teacher by calling the school or writing a note in your child's agenda! No busses will be running at 12:30 so families will need to make arrangements for children to be picked up.

**FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)**  
The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of BC students' academic skills and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning basic skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing and Numeracy. The primary purpose of this assessment is to assist the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils in evaluating how well students are achieving and develop plans to improve student achievement. **Grade 4 and 7 students will write the FSAs during the weeks of January 19 & 26<sup>th</sup>, with make-ups occurring the last week of January and first week of February.** The FSAs will take approximately 4.5 hours to write.

The Student Learning Assessment Order (School Act, sections 81 and 168) provides the legislative authority that mandates administration of the FSA to all Grade 4 and 7 students. Principals do not have the authority to excuse students from participation unless they meet very specific criteria. Students who are in attendance during the testing period will be expected to participate in the assessment. If your child should meet the requirements to be excused from writing the FSAs, Mrs. Wood will be in direct contact with you.

## BASKETBALL SEASON

January commences basketball season in our School District! We look forward to being able to provide a range of teams for our Intermediate students this season!



## UNPLUG AND PLAY JANUARY 24 -31

January 24 – 31<sup>st</sup> is Family Literacy Week!

Families are encouraged to take this week and

spend time together participating in activities that don't require electronics. Suggestions include: sledding, skating, playing a board game, reading a book together, storytelling, cooking, etc. MSES will be hosting a special literacy activity each day this week! Our schedule is as follows:

*Do more, watch less...  
Together!*

Monday: A favourite for students and staff is Door Decorating! Each class will choose a favourite genre, author or book for their door.

Tuesday: DEAR (Drop Everything and Read). Our

school will gather in the gym and all read together

Wednesday: Wordle Wednesday! Each class will

develop a wordle with literacy as its theme!

Thursday: Heap a Honda Book Drive. Marion

Schilling Elementary would

like to participate in Heap

the Honda Children's Book

Drive this year! As a

school we are very fortunate to have a Bright Red

Book Shelf in our school. This book shelf is

regularly stocked with books that come from this

annual Book Drive

and books from

the Bright Red

Book Shelf are

free to our

students. If you have gently used and new

children's books that your children are no longer

reading and you would like to donate them, please

have your child/ren bring them to MSES on

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>!

Friday: Dress as your favourite book character

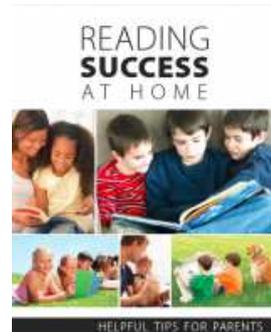


**Big Red  
Bookshelf**



## READING RESEARCH

Current reading research maintains that everyday, every child should listen to a fluent adult read to them. This provides modelling for children of what fluent reading sounds like. Choose a great chapter book, or one of your favourite childhood books and read it to your child/ren.



## COME READ WITH ME

All parents and guardians of Grade 1 students are invited to our annual "Come Read With Me" workshop of Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:30. This is an opportunity for parents to participate in a brief workshop that promotes how to effectively support your young reader.

## AFTER SCHOOL AND WALKERS!

We have a number of walkers who like to hang around the school yard and play after school; often extending to an hour. We do not provide supervision for students after school and would ask that our "walking" students go home immediately and check in with families.

## MATH WEBSITE

Did you know that our School District's website has a section dedicated from the Numeracy Coordinator? On this website you will find information for teachers, students and parents. Please check out this useful resource of information and games at

<https://sites.google.com/site/numeracy73/>

# PAC NEWS

Our PAC meets each month to discuss events and organize activities. Our PAC is very supportive of MSES students and the various initiatives we have. This fall they generously purchased sports equipment for students. The equipment included many floor hockey sticks, softballs and hacky sacks! Students and staff are extremely appreciative to our PAC for these new purchases! All parents/guardians are considered to be members of our PAC and hence are invited to all monthly meetings. **Please plan on joining the PAC on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for the next meeting!**

PAC fundraisers for the month of January are the McCracken Pub Dinner & Valentine's Lollipops.

Please help our PAC with their fundraising initiatives by supporting one or both of these events!

### HEAD LICE

Outbreaks of head lice often occur after extended school breaks. The two week Winter Break is a good time for families to do due diligence and check children's heads for nits and lice. The management of head lice is the primary responsibility of each family. If your child has head lice, please take the time to effectively treat them, as well as all family members. For more information on head lice, how it spreads and how to treat it, please visit the following Interior Health websites:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile06.stm>  
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/Pages/default.aspx>

You are always welcome to contact Jessi (250-851-7428), our PHN if you have questions about the treatment of headlice or any other questions!

### INTERIOR HEALTH

Interior Health will be offering vision screening for all children in kindergarten over the winter and spring. The purpose is to identify those children with possible vision concerns, as well as to evaluate efforts in the prevention of visual disorders that could affect learning. Following the screening, each kindergarten child will receive a handout to inform the parent that their child was screened and to provide some helpful hints on keeping healthy eyes. If a child is deemed to need a follow-up, a staff member from public health will contact parents directly.

### DID YOU KNOW

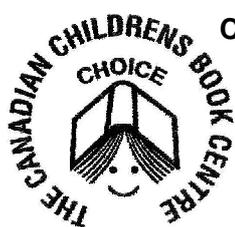
The BC Healthy Kids Program is a resourceful website for parents?

Financial assistance is available for children aged 0-18 living in low-income families in need of glasses?

Visit the BC Healthy Kids Program at



<http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/publicat/bcea/Healthkids.htm>



### CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE

This fall all Grade 1 students in Canada were provided with a personal copy of the book

**Doors in the Air**, written by David Weale and illustrated by Pierre Pratt. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that The Canadian Children's Book Centre has been able to distribute a Canadian book to every Grade One child in Canada! Like us, the goal of CCBC is to foster a love of reading and a passion for books at a young age!

### EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI)

Kindergarten students took home earlier this week information on the Early Development Instrument and their participation in this project. If you do not want your child included, please notify your child's teacher. You can do this by calling the school or sending a note in your child's back and forth book. For more information on EDI, please go to HELP's website at [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/ediparent](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/ediparent)

### MIND OVER MADDER (Ages 8 – 12)

Interior Community Services is hosting a 9 week support group designed to help children learn skills to manage conflict and understand anger. For more information or to register your child, please call Interior Community Services at 250-554-3134 or visit their website at



[www.interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca](http://www.interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca)

### TEEN ANXIETY WINTER GROUP (Ages 12 -14)



Many youth experience problems with worry. The Boys and Girls Club will be hosting six sessions that focus on learning about anxiety and developing "tools" that will help youth manage anxious moments as

they arise. Sessions are on Wednesdays from Jan 14 – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 5 pm. For registration and screening, please contact Jocelyn Campbell, SD73 Mental Health Clinician at [icampbell@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:icampbell@sd73.bc.ca) or 250-376-2266.

**ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.SD73.BC.CA](http://WWW.SD73.BC.CA)**

**OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2015**

