

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

January 6th, 2017

**'Home of the  
Mavericks'**



## **Happy New Year...**

Welcome back. The staff at Marion Schilling would like to wish everyone all the best for health and happiness in 2017.

A new year brings new beginnings... we are offering Basketball for our Intermediate students to participate with, skating times have been set aside for all classes, ukulele lessons are starting in our Music classes, Battle

of the Books is available for our students in Grades 4-7, and a myriad of classroom opportunities to engage our students with their learning.

As always we appreciate open and respectful communication. We are a team here in the Marion Schilling Community and always welcome questions, comments, and/or concerns to be brought forward to enable us all to work together to support the learning of our students.

Mr. G. Cumming ~ Principal

## **Monthly Calendar of Events**

January 18th	PAC Meeting in the Library
January 19th	PAC Subway Lunch Day
January 20th	Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL
January 31st	Pizza Day
February 13th	Family Day - NO SCHOOL

## **SAFE ARRIVAL**

Marion Schilling Elementary introduced a new Format and Process for Safe Arrival back in November. The staff is now all trained and the Program is up and running. ***Please use the new toll free number 1-844-350-2647 to report your child's absence or lateness.***

## **ATTENDANCE IS STILL AND ALWAYS WILL BE, IMPORTANT**

It is your responsibility to inform the school if your child is going to be late or absent. We have a "safe arrival" program at Marion Schilling and if your child is absent and we have not received a call from you, we will call your home and all other contact numbers. ***Please use the new toll free number 1-844-350-2647 to report your child's absence or lateness.*** Also, if your child is going to be arriving late, please remind them that they must check in at the office. Thank you!

In addition, be sure your child knows what the family plan is for their after school care before they go to school. If the after school care is different from the norm be sure to write a reminder for your child in their agenda book. If your child will be riding on a bus they don't normally ride or will be getting off at a different bus stop, write a dated consent note for the bus driver. Thank you.

## **PAC**

**The next meeting is Wednesday, January 18th @ 6:00 pm in the Library**

We encourage you to be involved in your children's education. Our aim is to make our children's educational experience the best that it can be. Come and meet other parents and share your ideas and concerns. We need your support.

## **STROLLERS IN THE HALLWAYS**

Due to Fire Regulations and keeping our hallways clear at all times I need to request that strollers be kept outside the school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## **PARKING LOT**

Student safety in our South Driveway/Parking lot is a concern. I appreciate and have noticed an improvement in dropping and picking up students in the appropriate locations (Valleyview Community Centre and the Valleyview Bible Church Parking lot), however there are still a few parents who feel this expectation does not apply to them.

Please respect students' safety... We do not want to see a child injured because someone is disobeying the expectations.

## **UNPLUG & PLAY**

Literacy in Kamloops (LinK) has invited our students to participate in Interior Savings Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week which takes place January 21st to 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to encourage families to find a healthy balance, and to spend more time playing and interacting together which in turn builds literacy skills.

Some things parents can do at home are - limit screen time to allow for more creative play, establish family rules for screen time for ALL family members, and have parents model the behaviour and habits they ask of their children.

The goal of LinK is to provide a better balance in children's recreational time and technology use. This has become an annual event in Kamloops/Thompson with over 5,500 students participating each year, increasing an awareness that healthy balance=healthy families.

## **ENCOURAGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

At our January Assembly we welcomed back our students and reminded them that Marion Schilling Elementary is a PBIS school that promotes students to act appropriately and deal with conflict in a non-aggressive manner.

At MSES we are focusing on: Safe, Responsible, and Respectful behaviour.

Indoor expectations for cold days, expected behaviour, and acceptance of others were also addressed at the assembly.

## **WINTER WEATHER**

January and February are known for their cold temperatures. It is very important that students come prepared for this cold weather. If the weather is deemed to be too cold to safely be outside for an extended period of time, Marion Schilling Elementary will have all the students stay in during Recess and Lunch breaks.

Please have your student wear the proper winter wear; boots, pants, jacket, hat, and gloves to ensure they are prepared for the cold weather.

## **STRONG START**

Our Strong Start Program is back in full swing again after the winter break. Thank you to all who have come out to enjoy this wonderful program for families of toddlers to age 5. Our qualified ECE instructor, Deanie Stevens is there to assist you and answer your questions while you enjoy this time interacting and helping your child make some new friends and explore new play centres.

## **GRADE 4 & 7 FSAs**

Our Grade 4 and 7 students will again be participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) this year. The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning basic skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and to make plans to improve student achievement. The skills tested are directly linked to the provincial curriculum and student performance is measured against provincial performance standards. The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in the public and provincially funded private schools.

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 Grade 7 students. All students are expected to write the FSA. Principals and teachers do not have the authority to excuse students from participation unless they meet specific criteria (on modified IEP or have a medical disability). If students are in attendance at school during the testing period they are expected to participate in the assessment. Students who do not participate in the FSA will be reported as "Has Not Yet Demonstrated Meeting Expectations".

The FSA takes approximately 270 minutes (4.5 hours) to administer, spread over two or three days. This year the FSA will be administered in mid-late January. The assessments will be marked and results for individual students will be sent home. Further information and practice materials can be found through the Ministry of Education Website and or by contacting the school principal. [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa).

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Code of Conduct is intended to encourage acceptable student behaviour in order to establish and maintain a safe, respectful and caring learning environment. This code will clarify expectations for student behaviour while at school, while going to and from school, while attending any school function or activity at any location, or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school environment. The Code of Conduct prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's or a group's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family and marital status, age, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.

Acceptable conduct includes the following:

Students are expected to:

- a) Respect themselves, others, and property;
- b) Attend school regularly and be punctual for all classes;
- c) Engage in purposeful learning activities and set high standards for personal achievement;
- d) Show consideration for diversity: the thoughts, feelings, and heritage of others;
- e) Use electronic systems in a respectful, responsible, and ethical manner;
- f) Conduct themselves in a polite, respectful, and co-operative manner;
- g) Dress in a manner that appropriately reflects a school environment.

Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to the following:

Students are expected NOT to:

- a) Engage in behaviours that interfere with the learning of others;
- b) Engage in behaviours that create unsafe conditions;
- c) Bully, cyberbully, harass or intimidate others;
- d) Engage in threatening or violent behaviours;
- e) Retaliate against a person who has reported incidents;
- f) Possess, use, or distribute illegal or restricted substances;
- g) Possess or use weapons;
- h) Damage property;
- i) Use personal technology devices, such as cell phones or cameras, during the school day except where expressly authorized.

Students who contravene this Code of Conduct will be subject to progressive discipline, reflective of the age and maturity of the student, any special needs, and the severity and frequency of the unacceptable conduct. The discipline will be fair, consistent, and meaningful, for the purpose of making restitution and enhancing student responsibility and self-discipline. Special considerations may apply to students with special needs if these students are unable to comply with a Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature. The Board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation by a person against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of a Code of Conduct.

School officials will notify parents, school district officials, and other agencies as deemed appropriate for any particular incident.

#### REGULATIONS

Schools must:

- a) Ensure Codes of Conduct are available to the public and are displayed in a prominent area in the school;
- b) Ensure Codes of Conduct are provided each year to all employees and students, and are provided to parents when students start attending the school;
- c) Communicate Codes of Conduct to students in an age appropriate manner.

Schools must review the Codes of Conduct annually with Parent Advisory Councils, employees, and students to assess the effectiveness of the Codes of Conduct in addressing current school safety issues.

# *Happy New Year!*

#### **SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD NOTES**

School District No. 73 Board Notes can be found at [www.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.sd73.bc.ca).