



# News from the Nest



Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Weyt-kp parents, guardians, and caregivers,

First of all, I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank-you to all of you who donated items or funds to the Merritt Families who were displaced due to the flood. Your generosity was noted and families were very grateful.

In my conversations with staff and many of you, I have noticed a level of exhaustion unlike any I have ever seen before (me included). This year, in many ways, has been much more difficult than last year, despite the fact that COVID health and safety guidelines have relaxed to promote more freedom in the ways teachers teach and students learn. The recent flooding in Merritt, landslides, and closure of the Coquihalla, in addition to heat dome and wildfires this summer has required the school to adjust to the changes in our community and the demands placed on our resources. Nerves are frayed and there have been many tears in the past weeks, *and that is just the adults*. Remember to be kind to yourself and to others, as everyone is doing the best they can with what they have at the moment.

As we move into the Winter Break, I want to wish you a very restful couple of weeks. I hope that the government doesn't issue any more travel restrictions that will impact any of your holiday plans, and that you will get to spend some quality time with loved ones. If you do decide to travel, please make sure to follow any of the Federal Government border restrictions and measures to address the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern. Also, remember that anyone who has not had their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the COVID-19 vaccination (this includes children under 12 years old) are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their arrival in Canada and are not permitted to come to school during that time.



## Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our second annual Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day. Students are invited to wear either or both a Holiday/Winter-Themed sweater and/or pyjamas! If you don't have a sweater as such, you are encouraged to make one. I can't wait to see the interesting creations you all come up with.



## Daily Health Check

This is just a reminder that you need to perform a daily health check with your child/ren before they come to school every day. It is very important that you do not send them to school when they are ill. As hard as we are working to keep COVID and other illness at bay by washing our hands frequently and wearing masks, the most effective way for us to keep them out of our school is to keep children home when they are not feeling well. Please take a moment to re-read the Daily Health Check attached, or access the [K-12 Health Check Website](#) , or download the [App](#).



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## Restricted Access

Our schools and facilities are open, but with restricted access. **Visitors must call ahead to make an appointment before entering any SD73 facility.** Visitor access during school hours will be prioritized to those supporting activities that benefit student learning and well-being. This promotes the safety of all students and staff. We need to work together and follow the direction of the Public Health Officer of BC.



If you need to drop your child off late, they know which door to enter; however, **if you must**, you may accompany them to the front office to get them checked in, but you are **not permitted** to walk them to their class without permission from the office. Public Health Guidelines in schools do not allow for parents in the school at this time. All students make their way to their classroom and put on and take off their winter gear several times a day on their own, and do not need an escort.

## Winter Concert

We will be sharing our winter concert with you in the same way we did last year. An unlisted You-Tube link will be shared with families, and the video link will be open for a week for you to watch with your family at your leisure. If all goes according to plan, and technology doesn't fail us, I will provide the link with you on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, and I will be taking it down on Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be no student or teacher names in the video, nor will there be any tags or other identifying features.



Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/Q-jwBgbMkHc>

## Kindergarten Registration, Schools of Choice Information Night, and Kindergarten Round-Up

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year already. We are starting to plan for the arrival of our new Kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. If you, or anyone you know, has a child/children who will be 5 years old by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (i.e. were born in 2017), please take note of the following important dates:

- **Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** @ 6:30pm – Information Night for Schools of Choice
- **Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** – Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Registration Week for Schools of Choice
- **Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Kindergarten Round-Up Information Night
- **Monday February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Friday February 11<sup>th</sup> – Registration Week for Neighbourhood Schools



For up-to-date details about information sessions and registration, please check the website [here](#).

## Basketball

Our basketball season will be starting in January and we are looking for coaches. If you or someone you know is interested in coaching this year, please contact our vice principal, Mme Leah Clare ([lclare@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:lclare@sd73.bc.ca)), to let her know. Once we know how many coaches we have, we will be able to determine how many teams we can offer to our students.





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We don't know what exactly our season will look like this year, but in the event that we have league games against other schools, we will also need some basketball referees to officiate. If you cannot commit to coaching a team several days a week, this might be just the thing that you can do to help support athletics at our school. Once again, contact Mme Clare if you are interested.

## E.R.A.S.E. Tool

Expect Respect and a Safe Education is all about building safe and caring school communities. This includes empowering students, parents, educators and community partners who support them to get help with challenges, report concerns to schools, and learn about complex issues facing students. If there is something worrying your child or your child's friends at school, let an adult know who can help resolve the situation.

The erase Report It tool is an easy to send a message to your school or school district's safe school coordinator, who will follow-up on the situation right away. They will also follow-up with you privately, if you provide your name. **DON'T WORRY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME AND THE PROBLEM WILL BE KEPT PRIVATE.**

Erase Report It Tool – Scan here with your phone

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## School Messenger - Texting

In the new year, near the end of January, you will be getting a message from our safe arrival system, School Messenger, asking you if you would like to get messages via text. From that message, you will be able to choose your preferred method of contact. If there are changes to your contact information, you will need to make those changes at school, as School Messenger uses the SD73 database to contact you. More information will come in January to make you aware of these changes.

## MyEducationBC Parent Portal

For those of you who do not have an older child in High School or are new to SD73, the Parent Portal Accounts in MyEducationBC will become live on January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have not already accessed the MyEd Portal, you will be receiving an e-mail from the MyEducationBC system to log in and set up your account. You can also watch the videos [here](#) to give you more information.



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You may be asking yourself what is this “MyEducationBC Parent Portal”? It is an on-line platform through which parents can access their child’s report card, learning portfolio, and other information. It is also the platform that our Grade 7 students will be using to register for their courses at SKSS.

## **Mme Viaud**

As some of you may or may not be aware, Mme Viaud has been gone since the beginning of November on a medical leave. She has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer and wanted me to let our school community know that she is feeling great after her surgery. She will not be returning after the Winter Break but hopes to be back before the end of the school year. I know you will join me in wishing her well in her recovery.

## **Young Authors’ and Young Artists’s Conferences**

These two opportunities exist each year for students in Grades 4-7, and more specific information can be found [here](#). This Winter Break would be a great time for those who are interested to begin their masterpiece. Have fun creating!

## **PAC Hot Lunch**

The PAC opened up the ordering for the next Hot Lunch period on Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Popcorn orders for this period are included as well. Orders and payment will be due Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>. **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** To order, visit <https://sres.hotlunches.net>. If your current financial situation is a barrier to ordering Hot Lunch for your child/ren, please contact Mme Mabee ([smabee@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:smabee@sd73.bc.ca)) to discuss options for your family. We do not want to see anyone who would like to participate, go without.



If you haven’t already created an account, you will need to use the access code SESHSL. The PAC is trying to figure out a way to add a donation option for those who wish to contribute to buying a lunch for those families who cannot afford it, so keep your eyes open for that in either this period or the next.

## **PAC Fundraising**

Mabel’s Labels (ongoing)

1. [https://mabelslabels.ca/en\\_CA/by-occasion/school-labels.html](https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/by-occasion/school-labels.html)
2. Click support a fundraiser
3. Search for South Sahali. Select our school
4. Shop as normal! 20% of your purchase comes back to the PAC.

## **PAC Meeting and PAC FB page**

Our next PAC meeting will take place **Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. This meeting will be a hybrid in that we will hold the meeting in person at the school, and we will broadcast it via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend at the school, you will be required to watch [this health and Safety Orientation](#) prior to coming in, perform a health check, sign in and wash/disinfect your hands upon arrival, and wear a mask while indoors.



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Our PAC also has a [Facebook page](#) (South Sa-Hali Elementary PAC-Ecole South Sa-Hali PAC) that you might want to consider joining. In order to be granted access, you will need to answer the questions posted.

## Important Upcoming Dates

If you subscribe to the calendar on our [school website](#), updates to the calendar will be sent directly to your e-mail.

Friday, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day
<b>Tuesday</b> , Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Re-Opens
Thursday, Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:30 (Hybrid – Virtual and In-Person)
Monday, Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Earth Rangers Presentation (Grades 1-6)
Thursday, Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Report Cards Go Home
Friday, Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development Day



As always, if you have any questions or have any concerns that you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to call the office.

Sincerely,

Susie Mabee  
Principal