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Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Dear grown-ups,

It's hard to believe that we have made it to the final days before our Winter Break. As we move into the break, and patience levels wane on behalf of both staff and students, we are going to take a few moments to reflect on the things for which we are grateful by building a gratitude wall just outside the library. Yes, this year has been full of challenges, but we all feel very fortunate to have your children back in the building, learning new things, building relationships with peers, and problem solving both inside and outside of the classroom. They are the reason we got into this profession, and it is their desire to learn and keen spirit that inspire us every day.

Monday December 7th was a productive Professional Development Day for our teachers at SSES. Teachers explored a variety of themes, such as ways to promote oral French school-wide, assessment, literacy, Digital Portfolios, and Core Competencies.

Before the holidays begin, there are a number of events and initiatives of which to take note.

The SSES PAC Hot Lunch Program every Thursday. Ordering for the Winter term (**January-March**) will be open from **December 4th at 8:00am** and will close **December 18th at 10:00pm**. **No late orders will be accepted! This is strictly enforced!** Please visit the SSES website (<https://south-sahali.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx>) for more information as to how to place your order and make your payment. Popcorn Day orders are now included with our HotLunch order. Popcorn Days will be January 20th and February 17th. Bags will cost \$1.50. Popcorn will be delivered to class at noon on the days listed above. *Please note a refund **will not** be issued if your child is not present on Hot Lunch or Popcorn Day*. To order both HotLunch and popcorn, please go to www.sses.hotlunches.net. **You will need your user ID and password that was created with registration in September.** Select the Winter Term and place orders for each student. If you have any questions please email Karlee at sses_hotlunch@hotmail.com, or contact her by message on Facebook.

Ugly Christmas Sweater/Pyjama Day will take place Friday December 18th. There is no need to go out and buy anything new. Be creative and embellish a sweater you already have with all the bells, tinsel and Christmas/winter décor that you have at home. We can't wait to see what you come up with.

This year's Winter Concert will look a little bit different than in previous years. We have created a primary and intermediate video with class performances that will be uploaded to YouTube. They will be unlisted videos. An unlisted video is a different type of private video. "Unlisted" means that only people who know the link to the video can view it (such as friends or family to

whom you send the link). An unlisted video will not appear in any of YouTube's public spaces (such as search results, your channel, or the Browse page). The video link will be shared to parents via e-mail on Tuesday, December 15th and the video will be taken down on Friday December 18th.

Teachers have reached out to the families who have not signed the media consent form, to determine if they want their children to participate in the filming of this Winter Concert. If you do not want your child/ren to appear in the video, despite having signed the form, please contact his/her/their teacher to make your wishes known ASAP, as filming for some classes has already taken place and the remainder will occur this week. They will still participate in the learning and practicing of the presentation, they will simply not take part in the filming portion.

Several classes are taking part in the collection of food for Christmas Amalgamated hampers for families who are less fortunate. All food donations need to be to the school by Monday, December 14th at the very latest. Please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

We are aware that there may be a few families that wish to start their winter holidays a few days early or come back to school in January a few days late. Please remember to use the safe arrival system to report your child(ren)'s absences ahead of time, so that the system will not



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need to call you. It is fast and easy, and it gives the school the necessary information to account for missing students very quickly. If you haven't already downloaded it, you can find it in your smartphone app store for free. If you do not have a smartphone or do not wish to use the app, we ask

that you use the safe arrival telephone number [1-844-350-2647](tel:1-844-350-2647) to enter the absence, rather than phoning the school directly. If the safe arrival system calls you to inform you of your child's absence, answer the prompts, otherwise the system will continue to phone you a number of times, or until the prompts are answered.

Let's make the last 9 school days of 2020, the best 9 days of 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Mabee".

Susie Mabee