

Erickson Elementary School Newsletter

Thursday, October 15th, 2009

Mrs. DeVuono's cell #: 250-402-9370 (only after 11:30 am) – School Website:

<http://www2.sd8.bc.ca/schools/erickson/>

Need/Want to send Mrs. DeVuono an email?: ndevuono@sd8.bc.ca

Photo Retakes

Please remember that if your child missed having his/her photos taken on picture day, there will be a retake session on Thursday, October 29th. You must PREPAY for this session and have a completed order form to give to the photographer with payment in full. Please come and get an order form at the office before October 29th. Photos are guaranteed or you can return them for a refund. It is important to remember NOT TO WEAR GREEN or green patterned clothing.

Photo proofs have arrived and are being sent home today and/or tomorrow with your child.

Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone for a very successful Book Fair! Our Library and classrooms will have over \$1000 in new resources as a result! Special thanks to the following parents for helping out: Barbra Marini, Lisa Viola, Laurie Powell, Breanna Sorenson, Juanita Banman, Lisa Grisewood, Victoria Troughton and Claire Gurnett. Also a big thank you to Nancy Nicolajsen, Caryn Zilka and Emmie Roelofse for your offers of help. We couldn't do it without you and you are very much appreciated. Congratulations to Jessica Sorenson, the winner of the door prize (\$25 in free books for Jessica's classroom).

PAC News

PAC is once again doing our magazine fundraiser and forms went out with the kids last Friday. This is one of our major fundraisers and we appreciate all support. Magazines can be ordered with the form provided in the handout, or are very easy to do online at www.qsp.ca. Our school id number is 2111. If you currently have a magazine that you like, you can also renew it through the school. You just have to check the renew box and our school will get credit for that order. If you have any questions, you can call Sandi at 428-9439. Order will have to be in by the 26th of October to ensure time for arrival for Christmas. Thank you.

PAC minutes will be posted to the website as soon as can be arranged.

Budget Cutbacks - This past September the government announced a 50% reduction in the Direct Access Grants to PACs and DPACs – commonly known as gaming funds. This year PACs will receive \$10 per FTE students based on last year's September enrolment and DPAC will receive \$1250. The criteria for spending these funds remains the same.

The 50% reduction in funds will affect every family in this district. The funds are used to support extra-curricular activities, purchasing needed equipment such as sporting and computer, and buying library books, etc. DPACs reduction will mean our ability to network with parents across our province is now in jeopardy. As BC School Sports funding has also been cancelled many families are forced to pay more for their children to participate in school sports tournaments or even having to withdraw from these events. At a time when the province boasts a focus on health and fitness and promoting "the most literate place in North America", the reduction of these funds will see a decline and elimination of programs and activities that endorse Ministry goals, and will have a long term negative impact on children. If you are concerned about these cuts, DPAC encourages you to write your own letter to Rich Coleman and to the Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid and our local MLAs at the following email addresses:

rich.coleman.mla@leg.bc.ca, margaret.macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca, katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca,
michelle.mungall.mla@leg.bc.ca

Our provincial parent voice BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils has information regarding these cuts as well. Please visit www.bccpac.bc.ca to view letters from other PACs and sample letters you can use.

eNewsletters

Today is the first time in over a year we will return to eNewsletters. If you have not sent in your form to receive newsletters by email, sent a note in your child's agenda if you wish to have them emailed instead of a paper copy.

Important Reminder

Please do not enter the circular drive at the front of the school before school or at home time. This is a restricted school bus zone.

Breakfast Program

Our wonderful breakfast program is always in need of donations throughout the year. Families are welcome to donate bread, fruit, yogurt, juice, etc. Please remember we can provide only one serving per child. Thank you to all the helpers who make the kitchen and the program run smoothly.

Student Illness

There have been many children at Erickson over the past two weeks who have been ill with flu, colds and strep throat. Our absenteeism total went as high as 20% last week (although we know some of those students were on family vacation). As per protocol, we reported this to the Public Health authority and requested some additional cleaning support from the school district. Mr. Gabruck, our custodian, is now cleaning with a new anti-viral disinfectant. We remind students to wash their hands regularly throughout the day and before eating, to cough into their sleeves and to stay home if they are sick. To our knowledge, we have not had a confirmed case of H1N1 in our school but there are confirmed cases in Creston. If you would like more information about H1N1 go to www.gov.bc.ca/swineflu or call Health Link BC at 811 (www.healthlinkbc.ca).