



November 2019

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
 SECRETARY: Ms. Sharon Binng and Ms. Judith Miehl

<http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/parkave/>

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents,

October is now in our rear view mirror and I must say the Halloween parade in the gym was a fun time for students, staff and parents/guardians. I had a wonderful time in there as well! Thanks to Mr. Robertson for making the music possible and to students, staff and other adults who participated. This year's process for parent and teacher meetings in October was similar to last year. I invite your feedback. Please let me know how that went.

November is a time for reflection, to appreciate the sacrifices of previous generations in preserving our cherished freedoms and way of life. Our Remembrance Day Assembly takes place on November 7th for our students, staff and other guardians who are able to come to the gym that morning. Thanks to Mr. Robertson and a group of Grade 7 students who are in charge of the assembly.

With this time of year comes cold and/or wet weather. Please don't let your child(ren) leave home in the morning without proper clothes for the weather. We encourage students to play outdoors during our recess breaks in proper waterproof attire, including gloves and boots.

Slegg Building Materials recently donated \$2800 towards our school meals program. Thank you to the Altrusa Group for donating \$150 to the school to help support student activities. All of this money will come in handy to support students. I want to thank these groups for their donations.

A newsletter cannot be sent out without mentioning our PAC. If you do not already know, we have a wonderful group of members who do a lot to support our school. Without this group many of the fun activities students enjoy could simply not be done. In addition, the group has purchased technology, and readers for the school that our students enjoy on a daily basis. Don't forget to read the PAC messages which are also emailed out on the listserve as well.

Our Winter Craft night will take place on Thursday December 12th from 6-7:15 PM in our gym. Please bring a box or something similar with you (something to take your creations home).

As always, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020

Remembrance Day (students do not attend).....Mon Nov 11
 PAC (6:30 PM).....Mon Nov 18

Winter Craft Night (6-7:15 PM) Gym.....Thurs Dec 12
 Last Day before Holiday..... Fri. Dec 20

First Day back Mon Jan 6

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Jan 13

Progress Report IssuedFri Feb 7
 BC Family Day (students do not attend)Mon Feb 17
 Non Instructional Day (students do not attend)Mon Feb 24
 Non Instructional Day (students do not attend)Tues Feb 25

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Mar 2
 Last Day before Spring Break/Easter Fri. Mar 13
 First Day back..... Mon Mar 30

Good FridayFri Apr 10
 Easter Monday.....Mon Apr 13
 PAC (6:30 PM).....Mon Apr 20

PAC (6:30 PM).....Mon May 11
 Victoria Day (students do not attend)Mon May 18
 Track and Field Meet (Gr 3-7@ Rotary) Fri May 22
 Non Instructional Day(Students do not attend).....Fri May 29

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Jun 15
 Formative Report Issued.....Thurs Jun 25
 Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:37).....Thurs Jun 25
 Administration Day Fri Jun 26

CROSS COUNTRY

Once again, we had a cross-country team this year.

Our team was open to all Tyke (grades 3 and 4), Peewee (grades 5 and 6) and Bantam boys and girls (grade 7). There were weekly practices and the athletes did a great job at the South Zone Race, which took place on Tuesday October 29th

and the district meet that takes place today (November 5). Congratulations to all of our student athletes. Thank you to our Cross Country coaches: Ms. Knight and Mr. Klan as well as all of the parent helpers.

FOOTBALL



the season.

Thank you to Mr. Shaw for coaching our Bantam Football team. The team has a solid season, that included 2 ties, along with wins and losses. As with all athletic teams, thank you to our adult drivers during

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS



The cool wet weather will arrive and there will be many days students will ask the question "Is it an inside day?" The answer on most days is no. Students will be going outside to play at recess and lunch unless it is raining heavily. We thank you for ensuring your child comes to

school with appropriate rain and cool weather clothing. At Park Ave we believe in the importance of fresh air and outside play for all students and appreciate your assistance in this regard. **It is also advisable students have a change of clothes in their school**

bags, including socks. Warm gloves are always a good idea as well.

YOU CAN HELP THE OFFICE BE MORE EFFICIENT BY CONTINUING TO:



- call the school in advance and leave a message on the answering machine which is on 24 hours a day, if you know your child will not be attending school on that day. It has been very much appreciated this year, and some days we have only had to make 2 or 3

calls to parents.

- have after school plans set up with your child **before** the start of the day so they do not have to use the office phone at the end of the day. Thank you parents for continuing to do this
- get your name on our email list by calling the office. If you know of families who are not receiving our emails please encourage them to contact our office and provide us with their email address or visit our website where the information is easily accessible.

FREE WEEKLY PUBLIC SKATE (LIONS CLUB) FRANK CRANE



Frank Crane Arena hosts free Sunday skates between 12:00 and 1:30 pm thanks to the LIONS club (until March 22 2020). There are occasional changes to the schedule, so double check the exact start time prior to going (some Sunday's (December 15 and January 12) are earlier (11:30-1 PM) because of Clipper games). This skate includes free rentals and helmets

(based on availability). It has been nice to see so many Park Avenue families out on Sunday's! Arrive early to avoid the lineups.

SCHOOL CLOSURES



It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice. If you are wondering if schools are open on a

particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, www.sd68.bc.ca, and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.

BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of our goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh BC fruits and vegetables as snacks. If you do NOT wish your child to participate in the program, please let us know in the office.

PARK AVENUE SAFETY PLAN:

As part of our safety plan, Elementary schools are required to conduct fire drills, earthquake drills, lockdown drills (and we are adding "hold and secure" drills) at various times throughout the school year. These planned drills are important in ensuring that staff and students are aware of how to appropriately respond in the event of a real emergency. If any

deficiencies or problems are noted, then changes are made to the plan.

We would like to share information on the following drills so that you are informed of what we are teaching your children.

Drill snapshots:

FIRE DRILL: fire alarm is pulled and students exit the building to meet in classes on the basketball court. Attendance is taken and when the "all clear" is given, children return into the school.

EARTHQUAKE DRILL: earthquake sounds come on the PA system, students duck and cover, count for 60 seconds, and another 60 seconds (in case of aftershocks), then exit the building to marshal on the field. Attendance is taken and when everyone is accounted for and the "all clear" is given, children return back to the school.

HOLD AND SECURE/SHELTER IN PLACE: PA announcement, students remain in the school, instruction continues, exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to leave or enter the school until the "all clear" is given.

LOCK DOWN: (potential threat within the school) PA announcement, all students and staff proceed to nearest classroom or office, classroom doors are locked (as are exterior doors), blinds lowered and everyone is instructed to stay away from doors and windows and to be silent. Instruction resumes when the "all clear" is given. In addition to the information about our drills, these are the procedures we have in place in the event of a real situation regarding potential threats to schools.

Hold and Secure will be activated if there is a **potential threat/security concern outside the school** (such as a police incident in proximity of the school). **Shelter in Place** will be activated if there is a potential environmental concern outside the school (such as bear, cougar, gas leak in area). In these situations, the police/conservation officers typically contact the school and direct the school to go into Hold and Secure/Stay in Place. When there is no longer a threat outside the school building, the police/conservation inform us that we can resume regular activities.

If our school is in Hold and Secure, the following procedures will apply:

- All exterior doors will be locked.
- NO ENTRY signs will be placed on each door.
- No one will be permitted to leave or enter the school until school administration announces that Hold and Secure is over.

Lockdown will be activated if there is a **potential threat inside the school building**. Again, this procedure is typically by initiated by the RCMP.

If the school is in Lockdown, the following procedures will apply:

Exterior doors are locked

- All students and staff will proceed to the nearest classroom or office.
- All doors to classrooms and offices will be locked and/or barricaded by the supervising adult.
- Students will be kept away from windows and doors and instructed to remain silent and still.
- No one will be permitted to leave their room until the Lockdown is over.

If you hear about a serious emergency at your son/daughter's school through media reports or other means, **DO NOT PROCEED TO THE SCHOOL. Please DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OR YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S CELL PHONE during an emergency**, particularly in a Lockdown situation where it is critical to remain silent, still, and not draw attention from any threat makers that may be in the building or distract staff from their priority of keeping students safe