

# MERRITT BENCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## January Newsletter January , 2017 Happy New Year, Everyone!



### What's coming Up:

**Jan. 9- Feb. 15 FSA for grades 4 & 7 – please ensure students are well rested and at school**

Thurs. Jan. 26 11:00—2:00—FN drumming celebration at the Civic Centre

Thurs. Jan. 26 3:00—3:45—Boys/Girls Basketball game at CMS

**Fri. Jan. 27 – Family Literacy Day – parents invited to come and read to/with children (8:30 – 9:00 am)**

**Fri. Jan. 27 2:15 pm—Sharing Assembly—kindergarten, gr. 1 & 2 performing**

Thurs. Feb. 2 3:00—3:45—

Boys/Girls Basketball game  
Cross-country skiing at Stake

Lake. Mon. Feb. 6—Gr. 3 & 7,

Tues. Feb. 7—Gr. 2 & 4, Wed.

Feb. 8—Gr. 5/6 & 6

(permission slips and info to follow)

Tues. Feb. 7—7:00 pm PAC meeting (child minding provided)- information /input into the Bench 3 year Enhancing Learning Plan

**Mon. Feb. 13- No School Family Day**

Thurs. Feb. 16 3:00—3:45—

Boys/Girls Basketball game

Fri. Feb. 17th—Basketball Tournament at MSS and CMS

Wed. Feb. 22 – Pink Shirt Day Assembly at 9:15

**Fri. Feb. 24- Pro D Day - no school**



### Highlights

Keep up-to-date with school happenings by visiting the Bench School website at: <http://mbes.sd58.bc.ca>

December was permeated with Christmas festivities . . . fabulous Christmas concert, gorgeous art projects/crafts, Elfred the Elf on the Shelf magic, the leadership group gathering items for community hampers, snowy/frigid days, generosity of our school community displayed in so many ways, and our traditional pancake breakfast with Santa. Thank you to both staff and PAC for helping our youngsters experience the magic of the season!



Cross-country ski days will be enjoyed by students in grades 2—7 this year. Permission forms will be sent home soon. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Kanigan for coordinating this experience for our students.

On **February 22, 2017** we encourage all of you to **wear something pink** to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. - See more at:

<http://www.pinkshirtday.ca/about/#sthash.XfISauOB.dpuf> To personalize this event, PAC is once again holding a fundraiser.

Our students will have an in school opportunity to design an anti-bullying logo. One piece of artwork will be chosen to print on Bench's pink special shirts. These shirts will be on sale in February. Pre-order forms will be sent home soon!



2016 pink shirt day

**January** is LITERACY MONTH and **January 27th** is **Family Literacy Day!** On the 27th, **we invite you to come to school with your child to read together before classes begin.** The Library and classrooms will be available to you between **8:30—8:55 am.** Grab a muffin, coffee / hot chocolate, find a book and a quiet place to read with/to your child.

Dr. Suess said, “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Harry S. Truman said “Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers.”

Clearly these quotes show the importance literacy has for children and adults alike. This month take time to read to your children, have them read to you, turn the gadgets off and pick up a book and model for your children the importance of reading for pleasure. Discuss with your child what books you loved as a child, take a visit to the public library and find a special book for you and your child to share.

Family Literacy Week is about learning together as a family in fun and different ways. The Literacy Merritt and Nicola Valley Society is hosting many special events throughout literacy week. (See the attached sheet for events and times.)

We will also have a Sharing Assembly on January 27th at 2:15 pm. Plan to join us. Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2 classes will perform.

Thanks for your ongoing support with home reading initiatives and encouraging your children to read with fluency, grow in their comprehension and be inquisitive.

#### **FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENTS Gr.4 and Gr.7**

Our Grade 4 and 7 students will be taking part in the FSA between January 9th and February 15<sup>th</sup>. There are specific schedules for administering FSA’s for each class. This is a Ministry initiative and we ask that our students be well rested and in a state of mind to try their best on the assessments. There are three parts to the assessment: Numeracy, Writing and Reading. The Student Learning Assessment Order (School Act Section 81 and 168) provides the legislative authority to mandate the administration of the FSA to all Gr. 4 and 7 students. As such, all students are expected to write the exams. Principals and teachers do not have the authority to excuse students from participation unless the student meets specific criteria (modified IEP, medical disability). The FSA’s take approximately 270 minutes to complete and the students will write in both written booklets and electronic exams on laptops. Once the booklets have been marked, parents will receive them back with a snapshot of your child’s performance. Parents can expect to know the results in early March. While students can not ‘study’ for these exams, parents are encouraged to have their child visit the Ministry of Education website to familiarize themselves with the types of questions on the exams. The exam results are also used as a snapshot to see how students are doing in our school and in our district compared to the rest of the province. The results are not in any way used for teachers to collect data for reporting; however, the ITEM TEST ANALYSIS is a very useful document in seeing what strands of the curriculum our students need support with. It would be most appreciated by myself, as the Principal, if you could send your children to school ON TIME each day. Making up the exams if students have been absent will be a huge undertaking and we need parents’ cooperation to ensure all grade 4 and 7 students are at school during the writing sessions. Parents can visit the Ministry Website themselves to see sample questions and have their child practice some of the online sample questions at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

Thank you for your support. If parents have questions or queries they should be directed to me as the administrator at the school.

Happy January, everyone!

Lori Stewart