



Merritt Bench Elementary School

Principal: Mrs. Lori Stewart
3341 Grimmert St., Merritt, BC V1K 1M3
Phone: 250 378-2528 Fax: 250 378-5289

October 17, 2016

As I sit to write our October newsletter I am still feeling the afterglow of our time together at the Harvest dinner. What a positive sense of community there was! Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy being together and for providing such wonderful food! An extra special word of thanks to our PAC and staff for working together to make the event possible.

One of the highlights for me was to see the children compete against their parents in the “Play is the Way” game – Zigzag! Talk about healthy competition! Yes, parents admit it . . . you were determined those children were not going to beat you! But amidst that healthy competition, and that is what we teach our children through these games, there were so many moments of people choosing to do the right thing. We had Dayton in grade 7, one of our most competitive athletes in the school, slow his game down to ensure his 5 year old sister was successful in catching the ball. We had other students gently calling friends’ names to inform them the ball was about to be delivered. This is what these games teach . . . empathy for others, teamwork, accommodating needs, doing the right thing, being sensible. What strong, true virtues to instill in children at an early age.

But look out parents because the children want you to feel respected so next time you play against them you will not only have more balls but will also be further apart and be expected to catch with one hand. Play is the Way games are intended to push us out of our comfort zone, to make us stretch, to increase anxiety just a little so that we can truly experience the warmth of team and personal success! We challenge you to come and play again!

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, October 18th – Grade 6 Immunizations Please make sure your forms are completed and handed in to your classroom teacher.

Tuesday, October 18th 10: 00 – 1:30 - FN Traditional games for our Grade 7s at Central Elementary School.

Wednesday, October 19th – Cross Country run in Princeton. 50 students are attending. Please ensure students have a substantial lunch, water bottle and appropriate clothing.

Thursday, October 20th 7:30 am – District “Bagel and Coffee” morning for all parents at Diamond Vale Elementary. Join Mr. McNiven and Dr. Perkins for information on the new curriculum.

Friday, October 21st – Pro D Day No school for our students. This is the day teachers have the opportunity to take more education through a variety of workshops offered throughout the province.

Wednesday, October 26th 9:15 – Art Start performance of “Land of Trash” (Green Thumb Theatre)

Wednesday, October 26th 12:00 noon – Bench is hosting the district Sash run. Come out and cheer on our athletes.

Friday, October 28th 10:45 – 11:45 – Final cross country run of the year at the Info Centre. Permission slips will be sent home soon.

Monday, October 31st – Halloween Parade at 9:15 am. Students are welcome to wear their costumes. **Please no weapons.** As Merritt Bench School is diverse in many ways, please be aware of keeping the **costumes fun – not overly frightening.**

Tuesday, November 1st – Interim Report Cards will be sent home with your student.

Monday, November 7th Photo Retake Day – If you missed our Photo day or you would like to have your photo taken again, this is the day! We encourage our PAC to have their photos taken so you can be included in our Bench staff composite.

Thursday, November 10th at 10:45 - Remembrance Day Assembly (Kindergarten, Grade 2, Grade 4, Grade 6 performing)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 1:00 PM – BENCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Follow this link: <http://www.playistheway.ca/for-parents.html>

for A SERIES OF PRACTICAL PARENTING TIPS FROM PLAY IS THE WAY® FOUNDER
WILSON McCASKILL.

Sincerely,

Lori Stewart
Principal
Merritt Bench Elementary School