



PORT GUICHON Elementary School

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<http://pg.deltasd.bc.ca/>

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 – December 2010

*“Our students need to know how to **read** so they can **learn about the world**. But they also need to know how to **write** so they can **change the world**.”*

Brian Cambourne

Dear Parents/Guardians,

These past few weeks, our students were engaged in a school-wide write activity in which all students shared their thoughts on specific topics designed by our teachers. At our last Pro-D, our staff was engaged in a workshop with Elisa Melan, District Literacy coordinator. We focused on analyzing our students' writing as well as planned a series of school-based professional development activities for this academic year. Starting this month and into the new year, our staff will examine the stages of writing development, ranging from drawing, scribbling to “write” messages, to our fluent and proficient writers. Our staff will also explore the powerful six-traits writing framework including Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions.

Celebrating Students' Writing: Poems by Division 5, Mrs. Mitchell's grade2/3 class

OPEN FUN by Laura
Stop watching T.V.
It is not time for winter's cold
Let's go play in the summer warmth
I love the summer
How about you?

FALL by Molly
Close the fun
Close the cabin
Close the sun
Close the flowers
Close the summer and
Open school!

CATS by Kyle
I saw black cats
I saw brown cats
I saw brown and black and white cats
I saw all colour of cats

MY UNDERTAKER COSTUME by Orion
I went trick or treating
I did not do too much eating
Just one candy

FRIGHT NIGHT by Sierra
I see kids in their costumes
I see witches on the doors
I see kids trick or treating door to door

Celebrating Teachers' Learning

Three of our teachers, Mr. Hope, Mrs. MacLennan and Mrs. Chan, have been given opportunities to participate in 4 of our District's Professional Development Series:

- Roland Case's "Critical Thinking" Series
- Bruce Bearisto's series on "Engagement"
- "Universal Design for Learning" Series
- "Social Emotional Learning" Series

Their learning is a reflection on our District and school's commitment to prepare our teachers with the skills and knowledge to fully engage students with the challenges of the 21st Century. Way to go, Mr. Hope, Mrs. MacLennan and Mrs. Chan!

Safety and Well-Being of our Students: Lockdown Drills

On a regular basis, all of our students participate not only in fire and earthquake drills but also lock-down drills. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure a safe, caring and orderly school environment for all students. By involving our students in drills, and especially the lockdown drills, our students learn how best to respond in emergencies and to be prepared in dealing with concerns and anxious feelings that may arise in a situation where there may be a viable threat such as a wide animal or an intruder in the school. During a lock down drill, our staff follows a prescribed procedure discussing what the lockdown drill is and why it might be necessary to have the shutters and doors closed and locked. In the "Code red" drills, lights are turned off and students are to move away from windows and doors to have a quiet rest. Our staff and students undertake all these drills very thoughtfully and our students are very responsive, calm and quiet. We greatly appreciate your support by reassuring your child that drills are ways of learning to keep ourselves safe.

Virtue for the month of December: Generosity

Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving freely because you want to, not with the idea of receiving a reward or a gift in return. Generosity is being aware that there is plenty for everyone. It is seeing a chance to give what you have and then giving just for the joy of giving. It is one of the best ways to show love and friendship. **Our school community is a very generous one and we are thankful!**

Grace Sproul
Principal

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

With expertise and leadership from Mrs. Sadd, our Music Specialist, and all our classroom teachers, Port Guichon students are already practicing and rehearsing for our annual Christmas Concert. The choir has been rehearsing and all of the classes will be participating. There will be two performances on Thursday, December 16th, so that everyone will be able to celebrate with our students. We welcome families to attend on the afternoon of **Thursday, December 16th**, at 1:30 pm, with the evening performance following at 7:00 pm on the same day. Please watch for further details coming home from your child's classroom teacher regarding appropriate clothing, etc.



TERM 1 REPORTING

Report cards for Term 1 will be sent home on Friday, December 10th. There are 5 reporting times in the year; 3 formal reports through report cards, and 2 informal reports. The 2 informal reports are designed to be the ongoing communication between home and school that keeps parents regularly informed about the progress of their children. Teachers determine how they will best communicate informally twice a year with parents. Some examples of informal reports are conferences (telephone, parent/teacher, 3-way, student-led), written or oral interim reports, portfolio reviews, or journals. We recognize the importance of parent support at home for your child's education and we encourage you to contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns after receiving the first term report card.



CANNED FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT DELTASSIST CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The "Holiday Season is a time where many diverse cultures celebrate in many ways, and it is also a time for understanding and giving. Once again, we will be holding a canned food drive to support families in our community through Deltassist. The most useful contributions are:

- ◇ canned fruits
- ◇ canned or dried soups
- ◇ canned fish and meat
- ◇ canned vegetables
- ◇ pasta
- ◇ fruit juices
- ◇ rice
- ◇ cereals
- ◇ baby food



Due to health regulations, home canned goods cannot be accepted.

Donations will be accepted Monday, December 6th through Thursday, December 16th.
Bring a can to the Christmas Concert!

PUNCTUALITY

It is important for students to arrive at school on time. Late students miss work and interrupt classroom learning. Children entering the building late should report to the office. If you know your child will be absent, please phone the school at 946-0321. If a child is absent and we have not been notified, we will phone home to check. Our answering machine is on 24/7 so you can leave us a message anytime.

LOST AND FOUND

Our **LOST AND FOUND** collection is growing! Please stop by the school and look through the many coats, shirts, hats, shoes, etc. that are on display in the back hallway. We'd like to reunite lost items with their owners. You'll be amazed at the number and variety of lost items. **Unclaimed items will be donated to a worthy cause.**



MESSAGES FROM YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Meal Time Is Family Time



Kids from families who eat together three or more times a week are more likely to do better at school, and less likely to be involved in high risk activities such as smoking, fighting and drugs. Kids are also more likely to eat healthy foods. Suggestions are to:

- Expect the whole family eat dinner together
- Serve dinner at a time when everyone is home
- Turn off the television and don't answer the telephone during dinner
- Encourage conversation. Have family members share one positive thing that happened to them that day.

Winter Sports Safety

How can we be safe when enjoying winter sports?

- Take lessons
- Wear an approved helmet
- Use sunscreen even on a cloudy day
- Always use the buddy system
- Look for hazards, stay in bounds & know your limits

For more information go to www.injuryfreezone.com or call your local health unit



CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Last year, our grade 7 students, together with our parents, hosted a Christmas breakfast for all the students and staff in the gym – a legacy which our current grade 7 students are continuing. To support our grade 7 students' initiative, we will be asking for donations at the door on the day of our Christmas Concert. The money will go towards our Christmas breakfast which will be held on Friday, December 17, 2010. Any extra funds will go to technology for our school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>Canned Food Drive For Deltassist December 6 – 16</p>  <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>share, share, share</i></p>	<p>Once again this year, we will celebrate the spirit of the holiday season by sharing with those in need. Canned goods will be collected in classrooms and donated to Deltassist for their holiday food hamper distribution. Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>PAC Meeting Tuesday, December 7</p>	<p>6:30 pm Please join us at the school for our monthly PAC meeting. All Port Guichon parents are welcome.</p>
<p>Jingle Bell Run Wednesday, December 8</p>	<p>11:30 AM Please join us for our run (weather permitting). If it's raining (or snowing!) we'll be doing our Jingle Bell Run activity in the gym.</p>
<p>Report Cards Sent Home Friday, December 10</p>	<p>Please sign and return the report card envelope by Wednesday, December 15th.</p>
<p>Christmas Concert Thursday, December 16</p>	<p>1:30 pm and 7:00 pm. Please join us in the gym for this holiday celebration. Please bring a contribution for our canned food drive and a donation toward our Pancake Breakfast to be held on December 17th.</p>
<p>Pancake Breakfast Friday, December 17</p>	<p>Our grade 7 students with guidance and assistance from our parent volunteers will serve breakfast to all our students from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. As seating will take place in shifts, please make sure that children have their usual breakfast at home.</p>
<p>Last Day of School Friday, December 17</p>	<p>Last day of school before Winter Break. Students dismissed at 3:00 PM</p>
<p>SCHOOL RE-OPENS Tuesday, January 4, 2011</p>	<p>8:45 AM WELCOME TO 2011!</p>
<p>PAC Meeting Tuesday, January 11</p>	<p>6:30 pm Please join us at the school for our monthly PAC meeting. All Port Guichon parents are welcome.</p>
<p>Polar Bear Jog Wednesday, January 12</p>	<p>11:30 AM Please join us for our run (weather permitting). If it's raining (or snowing!) we'll be doing our Polar Bear Run activity in the gym.</p>

FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Public Notice from Quaker Canada

PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT: QUAKER CANADA ISSUES NATIONAL VOLUNTARY RECALL OF 14 COUNT QUAKER CHEWY GRANOLA BARS VALUE PACKS DUE TO POSSIBLE CARTON MISLABELING

Mississauga, ON (November 24, 2010) - Quaker Canada, a division of PepsiCo Foods Canada, has initiated a voluntary recall of its 14 count Quaker Chewy Granola Bars Value Pack cartons that may have been mislabeled. No other packages of Quaker bars or Quaker products are affected.

Consumers who have purchased 14 count Quaker Chewy Granola Bars Value Pack cartons with a UPC Bar Code 55577 10742 should inspect the contents of the carton to ensure it contains the correct product - Chewy Chocolate Chip and Chewy S'mores bars.

If the carton contains Dipp's Chocolate Chip and Dipp's Caramel Nut bars and a consumer has a peanut or tree nut allergy, they should return it to the retailer where it was purchased for a refund. There is no health risk associated with handling the mislabeled carton for disposal or return, however this product should not be consumed by those who have a peanut or tree nut allergy.

The individually-wrapped bars inside the box are clearly labeled and consumers with allergies are urged to always check the labels of the individual bars before consumption.

The company is taking this voluntary action as a precautionary measure because the outside packaging erroneously states that the boxes should contain Chewy Chocolate Chip and Chewy S'mores bars, both of which are made in a peanut free facility.

Quaker Canada is working closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Anaphylaxis Canada, the Allergy & Asthma Information Association and their network groups to ensure the public is notified.

Consumers with questions may contact Quaker Canada by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-800-267-6287. Information is also available on Quaker's website at www.quakeroats.ca.

Delta School District Notices

HOMESTAY OPPORTUNITY

Delta Families Needed to Host International Students for Short Term and Full Year Study Periods

International students in grades 5 to 12 are registering in short term winter and full year programs in the Delta School District. Families with children/teenagers preferred. Homestay fees are \$800 per student for each month.

International students can arrive at various times during the year.

For more information contact:

North Delta: Kerstin Dashkewtych 604-329-0373 Kdashkewtych@GoDelta.ca

Ladner/Tsawwassen: Teri Gallant 604-319-2575 tgallant@GoDelta.ca

FRENCH IMMERSION

Parent Information Nights for EARLY French Immersion	
Schools	Dates
Richardson (information session includes Devon Gardens & Sunshine Hills)	Tues., Jan. 18, 2011
Ladner	Tues., Jan. 25, 2011
South Park	Thurs., Jan. 27, 2011
Parent Information Nights for LATE French Immersion	
Schools	Dates
Chalmers	Wed., Feb. 2, 2011
Cliff Drive	Thurs., Feb. 3, 2011

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Last Day for Early French Immersion applications	Friday, February 4, 2011 (4pm)
Last Day for Late French Immersion applications	Thursday, February 24, 2011 (4pm)

Promotional CONCERTS for Early French Immersion

Will Stroet

<http://www.willmusic.ca/>

North Delta

Saturday, January 15th, 2011, 1:00 to 2:00pm
Delta Church, 7696 – 112th Street

Ladner

Sunday, January 16th, 2011, 1:00 to 2:00pm
Genesis Theatre @ Delta Secondary School, 4615 – 51 Street

Tickets will be available for purchase on December 1st, 2010, at the following elementary schools:
Ladner, Cliff Drive, Richardson, and Chalmers.

Tickets will also be available at:

- McFrugals Discount Outlet, #103 – 1077 56 Street, Tsawwassen
- Esquires Coffee House, #101 – 6345 120th Street, North Delta