

PORT GUICHON Elementary School

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

NEWSLETTER

No. 4 – December 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of 2011 means it is time for me to say “Au revoir” to the dear students, staff and parents whom I have come to know at Port Guichon Elementary School. The end of the year promises a new beginning for me – retirement from my work with the Delta School District and new opportunities to continue to grow and learn!

My sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone for making my stay at Port Guichon over the past 5 years and 4 months so positive and so filled with special memories. I have very much appreciated your expressions of caring, respect and friendship. My special thanks to our staff for providing another terrific educational year for our students, both in the areas of curricular and extra-curricular activities. Thank you to our students for getting involved and always taking on different challenges. Thank you to our PAC and our parents who have committed generously of their time and energy to make our school a real community of learners. Many thanks to Mrs. Richman, our school’s Administrative Assistant, for keeping me organized. Thanks to Mr. Umali, our custodian, for keeping our school ship-shape. Finally, thank you to Mr. Douangchanh for his support these last months in making the transition smooth and seamless. He has worked hard in promoting students’ success and belonging. With Mr. Bob Thompson and Mr. Mark Douangchanh at the helm, all things are possible!!

Fund for The “Most Improved Student” Book Award

A few years ago, I launched a “Most Improved Student” Book Award to be presented to a grade 7 student at the Year End Assembly. The intent is to promote the idea of life-long learning and the concept of understanding learning as a self-initiated journey. To continue this tradition, I have personally donated to a trust fund for this award to be continued. Every year, two students (one in grade three and one in grade seven) who have demonstrated significant improvement either in academics or in behaviour, such as **habits of mind** (being focused, showing perseverance), will be eligible to receive this award. The decision will be made by the grade 3 and grade 7 teachers at Port Guichon! Continue your great work students.

DVDS of the Port Guichon Wizard Of Oz Performance

Thanks to Ms. Tan for many hours of editing the videos of our Wizard of Oz performance and many “unsung” helpers for burning the DVDs, we now are ready for the community to place the orders. To make this DVD available to everyone, we will be charging \$5.00 each. Funds raised from the sale of the DVDs (after expenses) will be put towards technology, e.g., an i-pad with free Dragon Dictation – to be used by students who need technology support to write! If you would like to purchase a copy of this DVD, please complete the order form at the end of this newsletter and return it, together with your payment, to the school office.

Wizard Of Oz Fieldtrip

All students should have already brought home the field trip permission form for our upcoming trip to the Carousel Theatre on Granville Island to see their performance of the Wizard of Oz. These permission forms, together with the required \$7.00 payment, are due back at school as soon as possible. Just a quick reminder about the details of this special field trip:

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m. All students should be at school to drop off their backpacks and lunches.

8:45 a.m. The buses will be leaving the school for the Carousel Theatre

10:00 a.m. Curtain Up at the Carousel Theatre

11:45 a.m. Buses will be leaving from Granville Island to return to Port Guichon

Tickets and bus transportation have been arranged for our students and teachers. Parents, if you are thinking of joining us, you must arrange for your own tickets and transportation. Please contact the Carousel Theatre box office directly at 604-685-6217 for any available tickets. Many thanks!

Grace Sproul
Principal

TERM 1 REPORTING

Report cards for Term 1 will be sent home on Friday, December 9th. There are 5 reporting times in the year; 3 formal reports through report cards, and 2 informal reports. Unfortunately, this year's Term 1 report cards do not contain all of the information that you have come to expect due to a legal strike teachers are presently involved in. However, teachers are still carrying out their classroom work such as planning, teaching and assessing student progress. In many cases, parents will already have had the opportunity to speak with teachers regarding your child's progress. We recognize the importance of parent support at home for your child's education and we encourage you to contact your child's teacher at school, 604-946-0321 if you have questions or concerns.



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 5th through Thursday, December 15th.

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




Advance Notice
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Once again, our grade 7 students, together with our parents, will host a Christmas breakfast for all the students and staff in the gym on Friday, December 16th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canned Food Drive For Deltassist December 5 – 15  <i>share, share, share</i>	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.
Wizard of OZ Field Trip Wednesday, December 7 COME TO SCHOOL AT 8:30 AM	Divisions 1-8 will be traveling by bus to the Carousel Theatre on Granville Island to watch a performance of The Wizard of Oz. The buses will leave the school at 8:45 AM. Students should come to school at 8:30 AM to leave their backpacks and lunches in their classrooms. We will return to the school by 12:30 PM to eat lunch and finish the day.
Christmas Project Donations Due Thursday, December 8	The WE Team will be putting together bags of personal toiletry items which will be made available to the homeless and those taking refuge at the Ladner Extreme Weather Shelter. Please see the attached notice for more details.
Farewell to Mrs. Sproul Assembly Tuesday, December 13	1:00 PM Please join us in the gym for this special assembly as we say farewell to Mrs. Sproul and wish her a wonderful retirement.
Jingle Bell Run Wednesday, December 14	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.
Pancake Breakfast Friday, December 16	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.
Last Day of School Friday, December 16	Last day of school before Winter Break. Students dismissed at 3:00 PM
SCHOOL RE-OPENS Tuesday, January 3, 2012	8:45 AM WELCOME TO 2012!
Polar Bear Jog Wednesday, January 11	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.
PAC Meeting Monday, January 16	6:30 pm Please join us at the school for our monthly PAC meeting. All Port Guichon parents are welcome.



ORDER FORM FOR DVD of Port Guichon's Performance of WIZARD OF OZ

Student's Name: _____ Division: _____

I would like to order DVD(s) of the Port Guichon performance of Wizard of Oz
 (We have 2 versions since we had 2 different students playing Dorothy.)

Version 1 - with Matisse as Dorothy – Number of DVDs ordered: _____

Version 2 - with Nicole as Dorothy - Number of DVDs ordered: _____

TOTAL number of DVDs ordered: _____

Total Payment enclosed (# of DVDs x \$5.00 each) _____

**I am enclosing/attaching \$5.00 in payment for each DVD.
 (Please make cheques payable to Port Guichon School.)**

Parent's Signature: _____

Return this form, together with your payment, no later than Friday, December 9, 2011.

Absolutely No Late Orders Will Be Accepted.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The WE Team at Port Guichon has planned a Christmas project to provide comfort for individuals who may not be as fortunate as we are. We are hoping to collect items to make “Goodie Bags” filled with personal essentials (travel-sized shampoos, tissues, lip balm, etc.). As part of our project, the WE Team is planning a visit to the Ladner Extreme Weather Shelter to help us understand the needs of homeless people.

We are asking the students of Port Guichon and their families to support our project by bringing small, new personal hygiene items to school over the next week. The WE Team will begin packaging the items on December 8th, so we would ask you to have your donations delivered to the school by that date.

Some suggestions for items are as follows:

- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- travel-size soap
- travel-size shampoo/conditioner
- Hot Shot hand warmers
- small hairbrush/comb
- packages of tissues
- lip balm
- socks
- warm mittens (may be good/clean used)
- face cloths
- razors/travel-size shaving cream
- travel size hand lotion



If you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. MacLennan or Mrs. Tan at the school.

Sincerely,

Nancy MacLennan and Irene Tan
WE Team Sponsor Teachers

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Delta School District Notices

EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

Parent Information Nights for EARLY French Immersion		
Schools	Dates	Time
Richardson (information session includes Devon Gardens & Sunshine Hills)	Tues., Jan. 24, 2012	6:30 p.m.
Ladner Elementary School	Wed., Jan. 25, 2012	6:30 p.m.
South Park Elementary School	Thurs., Jan. 26, 2012	6:30 p.m.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Last Day for Early French Immersion applications	Friday, February 3, 2012 (4 p.m.)
Last Day for Late (Gr.6) French Immersion applications	Friday, February 10, 2012