

Central Elementary Community School Newsletter

Feb/Mar 2009
Volume 2, Issue 3

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) underway for gr. 4's
- ◆ Ski Trip to Hemlock (gr. 4,5,6): Fri., Feb. 27/09
- ◆ Meal Deal: Thur. Feb. 26/09
- ◆ Second Term Reports Issued: Thurs. Mar. 12/09
- ◆ Spring Break: Fri., Mar. 12 to Sun. Mar. 22/09

Community and School as One

Have you ever noticed the word **community** in our school name and wondered why? The Oxford Dictionary defines community as; the people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities. Our own community school encompasses the downtown core and represents all members of every family. Twelve years ago we had the privilege of placing **Community** in our title and we continue to expand on that ideal. Throughout this newsletter the breadth of community programming will, for some of you, be revealed and for the rest be a reminder of what makes Central unique. Central is one of four School District No. 33 recognized community schools, the others being; Promontory Heights, Cultus Lake and Yarrow. The objective of each school is to provide services and opportunity during and beyond regular hours that enhance the lives of community members. Central has two major aspects that support

this goal. The first, **Central Gateway for Families**, provides daily programming during school hours that focuses on parenting and includes quality child care. The second thrust is **facility rentals** that provide services for families at free or reduced fees. Please visit our website to view a calendar of activities offered by the Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society (CCECSS). Please read over the attached brochure and consider becoming a member of the society and receive special incentives.



Seismic Story

The seismic work is ahead of schedule and we will definitely be in our school for the start of the 2009/10 school year. The construction has had minimal disruptions to the regular operation of the school and we want to thank Unitech Construction for their continued cooperation. This also serves as a reminder to parents, staff and visitors to abide by the parking regulations and to **NOT** enter the construction site at any time. Highlights of the construction include:

- entire inside of the school, including gym and multi purpose room, will be painted

- new boys/girls washrooms by the gym
 - redesigned main floor with community use in mind
 - front entrance way to be redone, including doorway
 - all infrastructure, including foundation replaced to meet seismic standards
- All these and more will provide a safe home for your children!



CENTRAL GATEWAY FOR FAMILIES

The University of the Fraser Valley, in collaboration with Chilliwack Community Services, School District # 33 and the Fraser Health Authority have established a family learning center in an inner-city neighbourhood. Central Gateway for Families serves downtown families with children pre-birth to Grade 6. The center is located in dedicated space in Central Elementary Community School. A range of programs offer integrated support and learning opportunities.

The programs are:

- **Family Literacy Program** (3 mornings a week) including:
 - *Adult Learning Centre* – Adult students are supported by a UFV instructor in a community-based learning centre. Learners may choose to focus on improving their literacy & fundamental English skills, maths, career exploration, personal and interpersonal communication skills, job preparation, journaling, basic computer literacy. Learners may be matched with a UFV trained literacy tutor for additional support.
 - *Pre-school* for 3 and 4 year olds with a strong focus on developing language and emerging literacy skills, within a framework of supporting development in all domains.
 - *Infant – toddler* program
 - *Parent and Child Together (PACT)* time – parents with pre-schoolers and parents with school-aged students in their classes
 - *Parenting* – positive parenting, early brain development, child development, family reading etc.
 - *Mother Goose* pre-literacy program for parents and older babies

- **Summer pro-social recreational programs** for 6 to 12 year olds

Prenatal nutrition program for women with increased challenges for healthy pregnancy

- **Families First** – support and education group for parents with increased challenges in parenting their children (3 series of 8 weeks each, plus home visiting)

All of the above programs provide nutrition breaks; all except Summer Program and Mother Goose provide a meal each program day.

Health Nurses and a Dietitian connect to program participants and visit the center regularly. They respond to families' health questions and provide education and advocacy for their health needs. Families are benefiting from the creation of more spaces for adult as well as child learners. Adults and children both benefit from a positive experience in a school environment. Adult participants are overcoming alienation from school due to historical negative school experiences. Adult and youth volunteers support all aspects of the project – in the classroom, computer lab, kitchen, pre-school, etc. High school and college students, nursing students and others in practicum placements contribute in a multitude of ways, enhancing the support and 'community of care'.



CCECSS Meetings

Please note that the following meetings scheduled for the Society:

March 23rd @ 2:30 pm in Room 102

- This is a regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting
 - review of new Constitution
 - nominations for Board of Directors

April 27th @ 7:00 pm in Room 102

- This is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Chilliwack Central Elementary Community School Society. All members and newcomers welcome.
 - overview of the Society
 - elections for Board of Directors
 - goals for new year



New for 2009/10

The Society is always looking for new initiatives that will enhance programming at our school and for our community. The following new services are presently being reviewed by the Board. We have listened carefully to the pressing needs of the parent and downtown community and have put together an impressive list. These programs are subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

- **Central Community Preschool** - competitive rates - qualified Early Childhood Educators
- **Hummingbird Child Care Centre** - before and after school care at reasonable cost together with qualified staff
- **Second Day** - after school program for eligible families - includes unique activities, academic support and nutritious snacks - this program was run last year as a pilot project with much success - presently we are seeking funders



CCECSS Calendar

There are many things happening at our Community School. Check out our website @ www.centralsharks.ca and follow the CCECSS link. There you find up to date information on gym rentals and space available for your activity. Have a look!

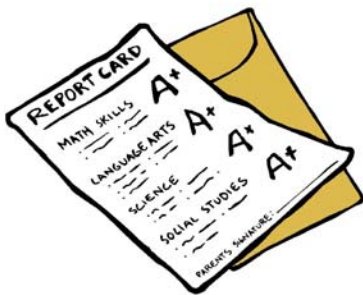
Go SHARKS!

Every Friday we demonstrate our school spirit by wearing GREEN - our school colour. Later in the year we will distribute an order form for t's and hoodies. Stay tuned.



2nd Term Reports

On Wednesday, February 4th we held our Student/Parent/Teacher interviews. Thank you all for a record turn out. At that time your child's teachers discussed academic progress to date and goals for the rest of the term. Well, the term is coming to a close and reports will be issued very soon. On Thursday, March 12th all students will take home their report cards. Please review the material with your child, sign and return to the teacher on Monday, March 23rd. Use Spring Break to review skills and read, read, read.



ATTENTION!

Spring Break begins on Friday, March 13th. There is NO school on this day. Students return to regular classes on Monday, March 23rd.

Parking Rules

Please be aware of the parking restrictions at Central due to ongoing construction. These provisions are for all parents, staff and visitors to our school and are ultimately for the safety of our children:

- park on the school side of College Street - use crosswalks when necessary
- overflow parking is available at the Chilliwack Arts Centre
- do not block the bus drop off and pick up on the roundabout off Victoria Ave.
- under no circumstances do you park or turn around in the school lot during our construction phase

Thank you all for your attention to this matter.



Ski Trip/ Activity Day

On Friday, February 27th the intermediate students will be involved with several activities. The students must meet two criteria before participating in these events:

1. all academic work must be up to date and meet basic standards
2. students must be in good standing and adhere to the SHARK Code of Conduct

Activities include:

- Skiing - open to the first 50 grade 4, 5 and 6 students - we will be traveling to Hemlock by school bus
- Hiking - students will ascend Mt. Thom
- Skating - @ Prospera Centre - helmets mandatory
- Gym Blast - who needs the Olympics - this is more fun!

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2009/10 school year is in full swing. If your child will be five (5) years of age by December 31, 2009 please register by dropping by Central Elementary Community School or calling (604) 792-8537 or the School District Office at (604) 792-1321. If you have neighbours with school age children, including Kindergarten age, encourage them to drop by the school to register. Please remember to bring your child's birth certificate and Care Card Number.

Swimming Lessons

Our intermediate students are currently taking swimming lessons at the YMCA Pool. This 10 week course started the first week back from Winter Holidays and continues until after Spring Break. The lessons are on Fridays. A HUGE thank you to the "Y" and Canadian Tire for sponsoring this life skill.



codeofconduct

Safe
Helpful
Awsomeattitude
Responsible
Kind



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February/March Calendar

We're on the Web!
www.centralsharks.ca

Mark your calendars

Thursday, February 26	P.A.C. Meal Deal Day	
Thursday, February 26	3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Staff / Student Volleyball in the gym	
Friday, February 27	Activity Day – Skiing / Hiking / Skating / Gym Blast – please send in the permission forms asap.	
Tuesday, March 3	3:30 p.m. - P.A.C. Meeting	
Tuesday, March 3	CMS here to visit Grade 6's – in the morning ADR band to perform for the school in the p.m.	
Friday, March 6	Spiffy Day	
Sunday, March 8	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	
Friday, March 13	Pro D Day	
Monday, March 16 – 20	Spring Break	
Friday, March 27	Spirit Day – Green Day P.A.C. Meal Deal Day	
Monday, March 30	9:00 a.m. - Honour Roll Assembly	
Tuesday, March 31	Class Pictures	

Regular scheduled events:

Girls' Basketball practices - Mondays and Wednesdays (2:45 – 3:45 p.m.). Games start March 11th. Sponsored by Miss Bartel and Mrs. Bradwell

Boys' Basketball practices - To Be Announced Sponsored by Mr. Wellingham and Mr. H. Klyne

Skipping Club - Tuesdays (3:00 – 4:00 p.m.)