



## Baldonnel Elementary School Newsletter

### November 2017 Phone: 250-789-3396

#### Principal Message

Each year, we take time to pause, remember and honour the people who have made it possible for us to live in freedom in Canada. There will be an assembly in the gym on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am to honour and remember our members in service, peacekeepers and Veterans. Mrs. Stregger and her class have been working very hard to organize our Remembrance Day Assembly. The notions of respect, peace, freedom and gratitude are being showcased. This is a serious and formal assembly. Students do not applaud after the presentation as a way of showing deep respect. You are welcome to join us.

#### Important Dates to Remember

**PAC Meeting:** November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

**Remembrance Day:** Monday November 13<sup>th</sup>. No school.

**Spirit Dress Up Day: Moustache Day** Friday November 17<sup>th</sup>. Come to school with a moustache!

**Early Dismissal Days:** Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>. School out at 1:47 pm

**Non-Instructional Day:** Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>. No school for students.

#### Christmas Concert

The Baldonnel Christmas concert will be held in the gym on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 pm. Students will go to their classrooms getting ready to perform. Student auditions for the Concert MC will happen mid November.

#### Dress for the Weather

A reminder that we do send children outside in the cold weather. It is important that our students come to school with all the proper winter gear: warm jacket, snow pants, warm boots, gloves/mittens, hat, and scarf. Please remind your children they must wear their winter gear when going outside to play and zip up everything properly.

#### November Website of interest: School Connectedness in Action

##### Healthy Schools BC Website:

<http://healthyschoolsbc.ca/key-focus-areas/school-connectedness/>

School connectedness is about creating a school community where everyone feels safe, seen, heard, supported, significant, and cared for. The focus in school connectedness is on building strong, positive relationships: among students, between students and school staff, between school staff, families and the larger community. The presence of caring relationships in schools—the heart of school connectedness—is increasingly recognized as a vital component of successful schools. The research is strong and consistent; students who feel connected to better academically and are healthier.

All students have participated in a school-developed survey about school connectedness. We will share the data in December's newsletter.

#### Behaviour Matrix

At Baldonnel we value the virtues of kindness, respect, responsibility and safety. Our behaviour matrix teaches us about:

- Caring for others
- Considering other people's thoughts and feelings
- How to problem solve
- How to work together as a team.

It is not always easy to remember to be considerate of others in the eager excitement to get outside, see some friends or head off to an after school activity. Being thoughtful takes time. It takes practice.

### **Baldonnel Multi-Age House Groups**

Students have been placed in one of three house groups. In October we had a Bronco Day to decide on the house name and cheer.

Our three house groups this year are:

#### **The Smarties:**

When you are a Smartie, you never want to be last.

We wave to the others, as we go flying past.  
When you are a Smartie, you always have a BLAST!!!

#### **The Mighty Mustangs:**

Mighty Mustangs riding free  
Through the wind as fast as can be!  
Mighty Mustangs will not rest  
We are proven to be the best!  
Mustang, Mustang, we will cheer!  
Mighty, Mighty Mustangs!!!!

#### **The Pink Panthers:**

Here we come  
We're fun  
Pink Panthers  
We are always number one!

### **Being Prepared for School**

All students should arrive at school by 8:50 prepared to start learning for the day!  
We all run late sometimes. For your child, arriving late to school occasionally won't cause major disruption. Inevitably, children who feel sick or tired some mornings, or other situations like an appointment will prevent them from being on time. But chronic lateness eventually takes its toll on a child's overall educational experience. Missing just 10% of the school year in the early grades causes many students to struggle in primary school, and lateness in later grades is associated with increased failure. When students are late to class it disrupts the flow of learning, distracts the teacher and other students and impedes learning! If left unchecked, lateness can become chronic. Part of your child's education is learning to be responsible. The school experience teaches children how to meet expectations. They learn to follow schedules, learn rules and routines, complete assignments and keep track of materials. Attendance is one of the ways children show they can meet obligations.

### **Here are some ideas to help encourage kindness and thoughtfulness towards others:**

- \*Encourage children to reach out to offer help when possible.
- \*Teach children what being helpful at school could look like.
- \*Continue to expect manners! Remind children to say please and thank-you, and make time to model this.
- \*Guide children into developing good systems to care for belongings, to take care of classroom materials, and to carry out various classroom jobs.
- \*Encourage students to show respect for others.
- \*Help children take the perspective of someone else.
- \*Remind children to walk through the halls and exit doors in a safe manner. Thank people who are holding the door for you. We went over the hallway behaviour part of the matrix in one of our October assemblies.
- \*Get to know members of the classroom and the school. Greet staff members by name.

Meik Wiking spoke on the CBC radio this week regarding "The Happiness Research Institute" and the work they are doing in Denmark on quality of life and the impact it has on health, success, and livability within a community. Rick Cluff asked him what he would suggest for British Columbia. His answer was to build stronger community connections, to get to know one another, and to create communities that are safe, caring places to live. What a great message for our school as well. At Baldonnel, we will be working on just that, building school connectedness.

### **Monthly Virtues**

The virtue for October was Compassion. I would like to thank Mr. Filmer and the grade 4 and 5 class for putting on an excellent assembly about Compassion. The class sang three different songs and put on a skit. The class did an exceptional job and should be commended. We are all very proud of them!!

The Virtue focus for November is Perseverance. Mrs. Stregger's class will be putting on a Remembrance Day Assembly with a focus on Perseverance.

Parents can teach their children organizational techniques that will help them get out of the house faster, such as packing their school bags and laying out their clothes the night before school.

### **Questions**

Don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions. It is important for our children to know that home and school, work together, for our children! If you have questions or concerns please come in to the school, e-mail, or call to arrange a meeting.

### **Thank you!**

Christine Todd

Principal

Baldonnel Elementary School

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### **Volleyball**

Thank you to Ms. Vanderbeck for coaching the grade 4/5 mixed B team and Mr. Wuthrich for coaching the 5/6 mixed A team. An email has been sent out with a few make up games and practices. The teams have been working hard and are doing a great job of representing Baldonnel school.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards will come home on Monday November 28<sup>th</sup>. Early Dismissal days and the non-instructional day are an opportunity for you to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss academic progress.

### **LUNCHES**

If your child needs a spoon for their lunch please make sure they have one, as the school can't provide cutlery. It is also helpful to have apples and oranges cut up if your child has trouble with this.