

**February 2019**

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Last year I wrote this and thought I would say it again because I think it is so true.

I was thinking about how the gemstone Opal is beautiful because of its imperfections and cracks that allow the light to shine through. This is similar to us as people, it is our flaws and cracks in our being that make us who we are. We are people who try our best daily to come together to create a caring community. Our staff and students enter the doors of Central each morning bringing the best they have in order to learn, work, play, and grow together. It is our hope that collectively through mistake making and risk taking we leave a little bit better than when we came. It is with optimism, support, humility, and a respectful manner that we build a healthy community by encouraging each other through positive interactions and conversations. We ask that as parents you give us your patience and understanding as we endeavor each day to make a great experience for your child at Central Community School. Please join us with this attitude reflected in our *Code of Conduct Matrix*, of being **Safe**, **Warm** hearted, having **Integrity** and being **Mindful**. SWIM

Central is stepping into February with a flurry of activities. This month we are jumping rope for the *Heart and Stroke Foundation*, undertaking 'Kindness', wearing pink to represent anti-bullying, and working hard this month! Check out our Kindness tree! Thank you to Mrs. Turner who has visited our classrooms sharing information about Black History month and learning to embrace differences and all people.

We are mid-way through term two and this is prime learning time between now and Spring Break. This is a good point to check up on your child's progress, as we are halfway through the school year. Soon we will begin our transition meetings with the middle school to prepare our grade 5 students for next year. I also look forward to starting my recess "Tea for Three" time as I chat and sip tea with a few Grade 5 students each day. I am always so impressed with these students and encouraged by our

### February Dates to Remember:

February 5	7:00 p.m. PAC Meeting – AGM (Library)
February 8	School wide skate
February 14	Jump Rope for Heart! ❤️
February 13	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Ready, Set, Learn
February 16	PALS for Kindergarten parents 11:15am
<b>February 18</b>	<b>Family Day – NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Professional Day – NO SCHOOL</b>
February 25	Assembly 1:40 pm / Spirit Day—Twin day
February 26	Parent Café Night 6:00 pm
February 27	<b>PINK</b> Shirt Day / Support Anti-Bullying
February 28	Hot Lunch Day – Hot dogs

conversations that they are ready for the next upcoming challenge of middle school. While we savor the last bit of time with our eldest students, we begin meeting our newest recruits this month at our *Ready, Set, Learn* day which is happening on Wednesday February 13, 2019.

We really appreciate that people are checking in directly to the office when entering the building. Just a friendly reminder if you are coming in to the school for a school activity, please use the front doors. If you are here at Central for a community program downstairs, please enter and sign in at the community school office.

Families are always welcome to the school, but we do ask that everyone wait outside the building until the children have been dismissed at the bell. This will keep our halls open for staff and students throughout the school day.

*"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people"*

-Eleanor Roosevelt-

## MONTHLY FOCUS

**MINDFUL** : I am aware of my body and words and how they affect others.

**Smile, Give Compliments, Offer to Help and Be Kind**

## CENTRAL CAFÉ EVENING

**Save the date!** Central is hosting our second Central Café evening for parents this year. Tuesday, February 26th from 6:00–7:00 p.m. Come out for an evening of conversation, coffee, light snacks, and learning. Our guest speaker for this session will be Mallorie Wrightly and she will be speaking about “Screen time” is any time spent in front of the T.V, IPad, tablets and phones. Too much of the wrong type of screen time can be harmful to learning. Come out to Café Night on February 26<sup>th</sup> to learn strategies for helping our kids learn healthy screen time habits.

Treat yourself to an evening out and get to know your Central community. **Child minding will be provided! Prizes.** We hope to see you there!

## READY, SET, LEARN

Central Elementary will be hosting an open house for our neighbourhood preschoolers and their parents on Wednesday February 13th from 9-10 a.m. in the library. All parents of children turning 4 or 5 this year are welcome to attend. If you know of friends or neighbours who are planning to send their children to Central for Kindergarten, please let them know about this fun and essential event. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out what Central has to offer and meet some of our staff. During the open house, parents will learn about early development and school readiness skills. Thanks to Mrs. Wall, Ms. Hay, Mrs. Lofthouse, Mrs. Holm and Ms. Charlie for organizing and hosting this event.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

If you have a child born in 2014, it is time to register him/her for Kindergarten. Please register early to ensure your child has a space here at Central, as classes are filled on a first come first serve basis. Registration is now done online. Please visit the Chilliwack School District Website

for the link and information on how to register your child. Please pass this information on to your neighbours should they have kindergarten age children.

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

As Central is a busy hub of learning, we do try to honour the learning time and environment for our students. If you need to drop off items for your child during class time, please leave them with Mrs. Gudjonson at the front office. She will call into the classroom (at the least disruptive time) and make sure your child receives their lunch, messages, etc.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please go to the office and Mrs. Gudjonson will call the classroom. Giving the office a heads up prior to arrival is also very helpful.

If you are picking your child up over the lunch hour, please let the front office know prior to lunch so we can avoid any confusion in finding your child during lunch time.

Finally, we ask that unless absolutely necessary you do not pull your children early from class at the end of the day. Should you arrive 10 or 15 minutes prior to the 2:30 p.m. dismissal, please wait outside the building until the bell has rang and the students are dismissed from their classroom by their teacher.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

## WEATHER AND WEAR

Please make sure your child has an appropriate jacket and boots, as we will continue to play outside for recess and lunch if it is raining lightly.

## WE HAVE HEART

*Jump Rope for Heart* is underway! On January 29th we had our kick off assembly. Students are spending time skipping in anticipation of the big jump rope event on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Pledge sheets have been sent home with the students, and any money raised can be brought to the classroom before and including February 14<sup>th</sup>. You can also donate online at [www.jumpropeforheart.ca](http://www.jumpropeforheart.ca) or at the front office.

All proceeds benefit the *Heart & Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon*.

Our goal is to have every child return their envelope or go on-line and make a small donation. Please help your child as he/she strives to support this worthy cause.

## SPORTS

Volleyball season is ending. It has been a great season of play by our Sockeyes, who demonstrated good sportsmanship.

Congratulations students!

Thank you very much to our coaches Mrs. Parmar, Mrs. Graham, Ms. Loura and Mrs. Mann. We greatly appreciate all the effort put into making this a fun and memorable season for our students.

Basketball season will be starting soon.

On Fridays, we have a floor hockey league that plays after school. All grade 4, 5 students are welcome to play if they have a signed permission form. See Mr. Curson for more information. Always feel free to come cheer on our Sockeyes!

## PINK SHIRT DAY

We are asking our students to **wear pink on Wednesday February 27th to support anti-bullying.** *Pink Shirt Day* originated in Nova Scotia when two students stood up to bullying in their high school. A new student was being bullied, and was harassed even more when he showed up at school wearing a pink shirt. In support, these two young men went to a discount store and purchased 50 pink t-shirts. They enlisted fellow male students to wear pink shirts to support the new student who was being bullied. We continue to work towards keeping our school community a safe and caring environment for all.



## PETS AT SCHOOL

Pets are important members of many families. This is very obvious by noting the number of families who walk their pets (dogs) to/from school every day. When bringing your pets, please be mindful of the nature of your pet, the proximity your pet has to children, the crowded nature of

morning and afternoon pick up, and the potential anxiety your pet, or children/adults somewhat anxious around dogs, may experience.

When bringing your dog to school please ensure the following:

- The pet is on a leash and under control. Being on a short leash is most advisable
- Although children are tempted to pet dogs, it is best that you follow a 'hands off' approach as children in numbers may startle, or overwhelm your pet
- Always clean up after your pet
- Be very aware of your pet's proximity to other dogs to ensure that their behaviour does not become aggressive or unruly in a crowded situation

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING DOGS INTO THE BUILDING, UNLESS IT'S FOR SHOW AND TELL AND IT HAS BEEN PRE-ARRANGED WITH THE CLASSROOM TEACHER, OR A TRAINED/LICENSED SERVICE DOG.**

We appreciate your cooperation regarding this matter.

## PAC NEWS

This month's PAC meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library. It will be the AGM, so please come out and vote in your PAC executives.

Our current members include:

- President: Vicki McGuffin
- Vice-President: Robyn Morrison
- Treasurer: Chelsey McConnell
- Secretary: Bree Wilson
- DPAC Rep: Sharon Proulx

If you have questions or comments, feel free to do the following:

- **Visit** the school office
- **Call** the school office at (604) 792-8537
- **Email** the school at [central@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:central@sd33.bc.ca)
- **Check** the School Website <http://central.sd33.bc.ca>

We are Central; where passion meets purpose!

Kindest regards,

Mrs. L. Waddington, Principal