

February 2020

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It may be cold out there, but February is a month with several events and holidays that warm up your heart to bring you closer to your family and friends. This month our focus is about being **MINDFUL** and how our words and actions affect others. We are encouraging everyone at Central to smile, give compliments, offer help and to just be kind. Please join us as we all do our best to model this way of interacting for our young people.

This caring attitude is reflected in our *Code of Conduct Matrix*, of being **Safe**, **Warm** hearted, having **Integrity** and being **Mindful**. Central Sockkeys **SWIM** to success.

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. Thank you to Mrs. Turner who is visiting our classrooms sharing information about Black History month and helping us learn 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 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 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 soon begin meeting our newest recruits for Kindergarten.

"Even if you stumble, you're still moving forward."

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow." -Mary Anne Radmacher

February Dates to Remember:

- February 7 Gr. 4/5 Floor Hockey League at 2:30pm
- February 10 Art Starts performance 9-10 am
- February 12 The Ned Show 1:15-2:20 pm
Grade 5 Parent Night at ADR Middle at 6:30
(Information on the new Integrated Arts and Tech Cohort as well—grades 6-8)
- February 13 Parent/teacher conferences 2:30-3:30pm
PAC Flower/Chocolate gram sale \$3.00 each
- February 14 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:27 AM.** Valentine's Day ♥
- February 17 Family Day – NO SCHOOL**
- February 19 Parent Café Evening 6-7:30pm
- February 21 Professional Day – NO SCHOOL**
- February 25,27,28 Scholastic Book Fair in the Library
- February 26 **PINK** Shirt Day / Support Anti-Bullying
Jump Rope for Heart
- February 28 Hot Lunch Day – Hot dogs
Super Reader Assembly 1:40pm
Gr. 4/5 Floor Hockey League at 2:30pm

REMINDER

As Central is a busy hub of learning, we do try to honour the learning time and environment for our students. Should you arrive prior to the morning bell or afternoon dismissal, we ask that you wait outside the building and do not walk up to the classrooms. Students will be picked up by their teacher from the morning line up and dismissed from their classroom by their teacher.

If you would like to meet with your child's teacher please call or email to arrange a time that is convenient to talk. It is difficult to have meaningful conversations as teachers are trying to bring their students into the class and get settled in for the day.

If you are arriving late please bring your child to the office where they will receive a welcome slip. Students then can head to their classroom or be met at the office by the EA if they require assistance to their room.

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.

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.

Finally, we ask that unless absolutely necessary you do not pull your children early from class at the end of the day.

If you are here to volunteer or for a meeting, please remember to sign into the office and get a visitor tag so you are clearly identified.

We have the sign in policy in place for several reasons:

1. It helps to ensure that learning time in our classes is not disrupted.
2. It helps maintain the safety of our students while they are at school
3. We simply like to greet all of our guests

We greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

SASQUATCH TRIP RESCHEDULED

As you are aware we were unable to go on our field trip to Sasquatch Mountain to tube and snowshoe due to the rains washing part of the road out. We have been fortunate to be able to reschedule the trip for March 11 and 12th. New permission click forms will be sent home with the new date that your child's class will be going. Your release forms for the mountain that were signed for the rental of the snowshoes will automatically be applied to the new date in March. We are so excited we are able to make this trip available to your children thanks to the generous sponsorship from the Algra Brothers Company that is covering the majority of the cost.

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. Wednesday, February 19th from 6:00–7:30 p.m. You are invited to 'Come Fill Your Cup'! This is an evening for your personal wellness and self-care, filled with encouraging conversation, coffee, healthy snacks, and relaxing yoga with Laura Watson. Treat yourself to an evening out and get to know your Central community. Bring a friend who has not been to a café night and you both win a prize. **Child minding will be provided!** We hope to see you there!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

If you have a child born in 2015, 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 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.

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 or snowing.

WE HAVE HEART

Jump Rope for Heart is underway! On January 24th we had our kick off assembly. Students are spending time skipping in anticipation of the big jump rope event on February 26th. Pledge sheets have been sent home with the students, and any money raised can be brought to the classroom before and including February 26th. You can also donate online at 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

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 Mrs. Waddington 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 26th to support kindness and take a stand against 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 and it is days like this that help reinforce our actions.

STAFFING UPDATE

Welcome to our newest staff member Ms. Mehat who is teaching grade 1. We wish Ms. Schmaltz all the best in her new school.

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 was held on February 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the library. It was the AGM, where our new PAC executive was voted in.

Our current members include:

- President: Vicki McGuffin
- Vice-President: Chelsey McConnell
- Treasurer: Georgina Charlie
- Secretary: Curtis McHale
- DPAC Rep: Samantha Potts



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
- **Check** the School Website <http://central.sd33.bc.ca>

We are Central; where passion meets purpose!

Kindest regards,

Mrs. L. Waddington, Principal