

**Stuart Wood Elementary**  
245 St. Paul Street  
Kamloops, BC  
(250)374-1755

Principal: Mr. Blair Lloyd  
[www.stuart-wood.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.stuart-wood.sd73.bc.ca)

**“Working together as a school community in an atmosphere of success and belonging, we have as our goal the development of each student's fullest potential as a lifelong learner in a changing world”**

December 2015

### **Principal's Message**

December is already upon us! As I read through each student's progress report I reflected on all the hard work and commitment to learning at Stuart Wood. When reports come home this week (December 4<sup>th</sup>) I encourage parents to spend time discussing with your child his/her next steps for future growth as well as recognizing and celebrating areas of success. As the winter break approaches and we come to the end of 2015, I want to thank our parents for supporting their child(ren) and the staff each and every day. I hope that you enjoy the presentations that the school has worked hard to put together. I wish all our Stuart Wood families a safe and healthy holiday!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Lloyd".

Mr. B. Lloyd  
Principal

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The School Board recently announced 2 in-service dates for this school year. Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 will be non instructional dates and there will be no school on those days.

### **Foundation Skills Assessment**

Gr. 4 and Gr. 7

Our Grade 4 and 7 students will be taking part in the FSA between January 11<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. There are specific schedules for administering FSA's for each class. This is a Ministry initiative and we ask that our students be well rested and in a state of mind to try their best on the assessments. There are three parts to the assessment: Numeracy, Writing and Reading. The Student Learning Assessment Order (School Act Section 81 and 168) provides the legislative authority to mandate the administration of the FSA to all Gr. 4 and 7 students. As such, all students are expected to write the exams. Principals and

teachers do not have the authority to excuse students from participation unless the student meets specific criteria (modified IEP, medical disability). The FSA's take approximately 270 minutes to complete and the students will write in both written booklets and electronic exams in the computer lab. Once the booklets have been marked, parents will receive them back with a snapshot of their child's performance. Parents can expect to know the results in early March. While students can not 'study' for these exams, parents are encouraged to have their child visit the Ministry of Education website to familiarize themselves with the types of questions on the exams. The exam results are also used as a snapshot to see how students are doing in our school and in our district compared to the rest of the province. The results are not used in any way for teachers to use for classroom data for reporting; however, the ITEM TEST ANALYSIS is a very useful document in seeing what strands of the curriculum our students need

support with. It would be most appreciated by myself, as the Principal, if you could send your children to school ON TIME each day. Making up the exams if students have been absent will be a huge undertaking and I need parents' cooperation to ensure all grade 4 and 7 students are at school during the writing sessions. Parents can visit the Ministry Website themselves to see sample questions and have their child practice some of the online sample questions at:

<https://www.awinfosys.com/eassessments/fsa.htm>

Thank you to parents of grade 4 and 7 students. If parents have questions or queries they can call me at the school (250-374-1755).

### **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)**

A BIG thank you to the PAC for organizing so many fundraisers for our school this year. The staff and students appreciate all your hard work! All parents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved at the school - PAC meetings happen at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Babysitting is available upon request. The class with the most parent representation receives a prize each month so come on out and support the school!

The PAC is actively seeking volunteers to help with fundraising/events. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the PAC/School Facebook page to get updates.

### **REPORT CARDS**

A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concerns, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for you to communicate with your children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social-emotional growth.

#### **Focus on the Positive**

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on positive aspects of the report. This is not always an easy task. For some, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or citizenship grade, or praising an academic accomplishment or a perfect attendance record. Starting on a positive note

shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

### **Ask the Right Questions**

Be careful not to overreact to low grades, or grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Instead, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned:

- Was the work too difficult?
- Could the pace of the class be inappropriate (too fast, so that your child feels "lost," or too slow, causing your child to feel "bored")?
- Does your child complete all homework and ask questions when problems arise?

The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home all materials necessary to complete them. Does your child have a specific nightly homework time (Sunday through Thursday) when he cannot be disturbed? If not, this would be a great time to establish one! If so, is it long enough? Does your child have a specific place to study where resources (including someone to answer questions) are available and distractions are minimized? Is your child completing all homework on a nightly basis, or are assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

### **The Next Step**

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not. Type the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder, and forward another to his/her teacher. Involving your child gives him/her ownership and importance in this process, and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child. As parents and teachers, we want the best for children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of A's and B's

brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that he/she can. Encourage him/her to succeed, and measure his/her progress in realistic terms, letting him/her know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure his/her growth, and the most advanced child can monitor his/her progress. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success.

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### **HEAD LICE**

With the colder weather and holidays, students are 'bundling' up, wearing hats, keeping inside and in close contact with friends and family. This makes it easier for our pesky friends the head lice to spread. It is recommended to parents that you check your children at home at least once a week! If you find any, please treat them immediately and report it to the school so that we can take steps to keep them under control. The school handles any reported cases confidentially. More information about head lice and how to control them can be found on our school website. Thank you in advance for helping with this. Vigilance by the home is the best way to control the spread of head lice. Remember, it isn't enough to just use the shampoo. Some lice are immune - so removal of all the nits (eggs) from the hair after treatment is necessary or they can hatch and re-infest. It only takes one live louse to lay hundreds of eggs.

### **DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER**

Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. The weather can change drastically during the day. This also affects our footwear. Students should have separate inside and outside footwear. When entrances are marked by orange cones, this is an indicator that students should be removing their outside footwear at the door to keep our hallways and classroom clean. A reminder that students are expected to be outside during breaks unless the temperature is colder than -15 Celsius. Please have your children dress accordingly.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

We believe strongly in the safety of our children, therefore, please make sure you are aware of parking and traffic routines at our school. Students and parents are reminded to follow road safety at all times. Stuart Wood Elementary parking lot is not available for parent parking/pickup. Parents are asked to park on either St. Paul or Battle Street. Bylaw and RCMP regularly monitor the area for infractions.

### **MORNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL**

Please be aware that for safety and liability the school is not open to the public, parents or students without an appointment, or unless it is a cold weather day (below -15 degrees) until the first bell at 8:20 am. If you need to be in the school prior to that time, please let the office know so arrangements can be made. If you are in the building, unless it is for pick up at the end of the day or drop off after the first bell, you are required to sign in at the office. This will be in accordance to school district safety protocols. Thank you for your attention and understanding.

### **BASKETBALL SEASON**

The Basketball season is ready to begin this year. League play will begin on January 18<sup>th</sup> and will end on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Playoffs will follow. Tier 2 boys (grade 6/7) will play on Wednesdays and girls tier 2 (grade 6/7) on Thursdays. Tier 3 (grade 4/5) boys and girls will play on Wednesdays.

### **MARY POPPINS**

Students from grade 4-7 (Ms. Goertzen's grade 3's also invited) will enjoy this performance on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Primary students will have the opportunity to see a live performance of the Velveteen Rabbit at the Pavilion in the spring.

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Similar to last year, due to the size of our gym and limited seating capacity, each student will be limited to 2 tickets for family members for primary or intermediate evening performances. Parents may pick up their tickets ahead of time from the office or pick up their 2 tickets at the door. There are no limits to matinee performances. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation! A reminder that there will be a bake sale at the event!

**Primary Performance- The Mice Before Christmas**

McDaniel, Lewis, deJardin, Bymoen  
Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
1:45- Primary Parent Matinee  
6:30- Primary Parent Evening Show (LIMITED ENTRY: 2 tickets per student)

**Intermediate Performance- Surfin' Santa**

Wium/Goertzen, Piva, Charron, Morgan  
December 10<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 Intermediate Parent Matinee  
6:30 Intermediate Parent Evening Show (LIMITED ENTRY: 2 tickets per student)

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone at Stuart Wood for making this year's Scholastic Book Fair a huge success. Thanks to all your support \$700 was raised in book tokens so that Ms. Dolson can add more books to our collection in the library. My thanks to Ms. Dolson, Ms. Sabyan, Ms. Hunter and Ms. Grant and all of the students who supported the initiative!

**BEING ON TIME**

A reminder that school begins at 8:30 am, and the entrance bell rings at 8:20 am. Teachers have noticed that students who arrive late find it extremely difficult transitioning into the classroom once teaching has begun. Our timetable is structured so that every instructional minute counts. When your child arrives late it compromises their learning time.

**LOST AND FOUND**

Our lost and found will be displayed once again before the Christmas break. Parents please have a look and see if you see something familiar.

**Found4Kids**

This is a program for recycled clothing (left over in District school lost & found bins) that one of the parents in the school district has coordinated for all students in School District #73. The actual store is located in the Thompson Park Mall and is amazingly clean and clothing is well displayed. There is an abundance of clean clothing available in all sizes for both elementary and high school students. You can visit the store by contacting found4kids@gmail.com and take along a coupon you can pick up from the office. If you need a coupon for the Found4Kids store for admittance at any time, please see Mr. Lloyd the office.

**LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS**

Stuart Wood is actively seeking paid lunchtime supervisors to help with supervision of our students during the lunch hour. If you would like to help, please contact Mr. Lloyd at the office.

**PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM**

Tuesdays, January 12<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> at Stuart Wood Elementary (6:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

*Lynne Lummel*  
*Linda Bymoen*  
*Ashley Goertzen*  
*Cathy Pura*  
*Wendy Sabyan*



*B. Lloyd*  
*Sue McDaniel*  
*Judy Hunter*  
*Wendy Sabyan*  
*Charron*

*Janet Lewis*  
*Carlin Dolson*  
*Wendy Sabyan*  
*Beth Morgan*  
*Kim Underwood*  
*Jerraine Brookes*  
*Mara Cardine*  
*Carmen Anne Schubert*

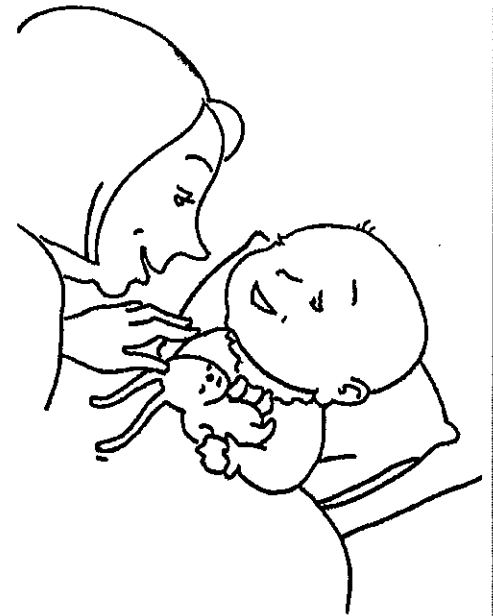
FROM THE STAFF OF  
STUART WOOD ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL!

**Kamloops Early Language and Literacy Initiative  
and School District 73**

present

**Parent-Child Mother Goose  
Program<sup>®</sup>**

- Enjoy an hour of rhymes, songs, and stories with your babies and young children
- Learn ways to encourage language and social development
- Meet other parents
- Learn about community resources



**When & Where:**

Tuesdays at 6:00 - 7:00 PM

January 12 - March 1 @ Stuart  
Wood Elementary

**Registration via:**

[www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) starting Dec  
10<sup>th</sup> @ 9am

**Cost: Free!!** Sponsored by the  
Ministry of Education  
Ready Set Learn Initiative



# Board Notes

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## *From the Board Meeting of: NOVEMBER 23, 2015*

1. The Board enjoyed the presentation by two students from Valleyview Secondary School who are enrolled in the Secwempemcsin Language Class. The students were accompanied by their teacher Ted Gottfriedson, Principal Kirschner, and District Principal Sebastian.
2. The Board received a report from Assistant Superintendent Sidow on the new Trades Industrial Sampler Program being developed and offered at NorKam Trades and Technology Centre.
3. The Board approved a revision to the School Calendar for 2015/2016 to provide two additional non-instructional days for the Curriculum Implementation Plan.
4. The Board received an update from Secretary-Treasurer Stretch on the Economic Stability Dividend.
5. The Board approved the following Routine Capital Project Bylaws:
  - a. Project No. 127024
  - b. Project No. 127025
6. Superintendent deBruijn provided a response to the KTTA's presentation made at a Public Board Meeting on November 9, 2015.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Education will occur on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the School Board Office.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, December 7, 2015 at the School Board Office.

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**PLEASE POST ON ALL BULLETIN BOARDS**