

Happy Weekend Families,

I have so many wonderful things to tell you about this week that I will hit the highlights and hope that your children will fill in the rest. Today we had a very special delivery of our new washer and drier! It is still in the box in the foyer waiting to be installed but now we can dream about reducing some of our paper use, bringing textiles back into our classrooms and drying out mittens on snowy days. Another awesome delivery is the gift of 10 Indigenous drums from the Indigenous Education department of the school district. We also have the privilege of going through the process of making the drums ourselves with the guidance of our cultural presenter, Heather Royal Brant. We have begun sanding the frames and putting our good energy into the instruments. I am excited to share our drumming with you when they are complete.

We have a busy last two weeks before the Winter break with many fun activities planned. I have added the details here as well as sent home a permission slip for the field trip today. There are many opportunities for families to participate in the school activities so I hope you will be able to clear your schedule and come share the excitement and celebration.

Salad Bar – Thank-you to all the volunteers who have helped out over the past couple months, we couldn't have done it without you. The salad bar has been so successful, and the students really look forward to Thursdays. I hope you are enjoying the break in packing lunches too. Every week we have a hot soup and a full salad bar including veggies, grains, proteins and fruits. Last week we had delicious chili. This week it was a lovely veggie and rice soup and next week it will be roasted pumpkin soup. On Dec 16th we will be having a special Turkey Dinner style lunch with all the fixings. As usual, there will be vegetarian and vegan options. I am happy to report that we have a grant to pay for a new professional level dish washer (\$6000) unfortunately, it probably won't be here and installed for quite a while. Until we get the dish washer, it is super helpful for students to bring their own dishes and utensils on Thursdays.

Field Trip – On Tuesday Dec 14th all the students will be heading into town for a skating and museum field trip. There will be no classes at the school that day. Please see the permission slip that went home today for more details. Please contact the school if you have questions or need to make special arrangements. The arena has some helmets to lend if needed as well.

We have another staffing announcement as a change is coming in the new year. Haydn Lloyd our Library Clerk, is changing schools to work at Aspen and we are welcoming Melissa Purcha. It has been so lovely to have Haydn around as our resident library expert and he will be missed. Melissa is new to the valley from Kamloops and has worked in the public library system. She also loves directing and performing in theatre and being outside with her family. I know she will be a great fit for our school.

Entrepreneur Fair – On Wednesday, the grade 5/6/7 students are hosting their first Entrepreneur Fair. The students have learned the process of developing a business and making a product to sell. A percentage of their profits will be donated to their chosen charity. Their products range in price from \$1 to \$20 and will be for sale on Wednesday. All students will be

able to purchase products in the morning, **families are invited to the sale from 12-2pm** and the sale is open to the community from 1-2pm. We hope you will be able to come and support the students with this great educational and creative event.

Family Pancakes and Pajamas Breakfast – Friday Dec 17th is the last day of school before the winter break and it is also our first Pancakes and Pajamas Family Breakfast. All families are invited to come and enjoy pancakes, fruit, and their choice of protein (PJs optional). The school will be open at 8:40am and families will be invited to a table in the gym. There will be 18 tables with 6 seats at each. The teachers have been working on a couple fun little performances and the students will be making some table decorations. It will be a fun time for all. I hope to send a survey home (by email) to get an idea of numbers and dietary needs. Please complete it as soon as possible.

The PAC would like to remind you of their upcoming fundraiser at the recycle depot. Please either keep your bottles until the fundraiser date and we will help you take care of them or donate them to the School Field Trips bin at the depot. We will also accept donations at the school. Also, please see the information below about a DPAC speaker series coming up on Thursday Dec 9.

Have a great week!

Yolanda Lehton, Vice-Principal

The SD71 DPAC Speaker Series is hosting another Parent education session. We would appreciate it if you could forward the below information to your school community and add this information to your school calendar or website. Thank you so much for your help with reaching as many parents as possible.

"Peers, Parents and Pressure: Looking at the tensions in the lives of teens. This evening we will take a biopsychosocial look at the contributing factors of teen anxiety and tools to help."

TIME AND LOCATION:

7pm December 9th, on Zoom. Preregistration not required.

SD71 DPAC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: DPAC Speaker Series: Peers, Parents & Pressure - with Amy Kelly of Mamatoto

Time: Dec 9, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://comoxvalleyschools-ca.zoom.us/j/9189750968...>

Meeting ID: 918 975 0968

SPEAKER INFO:

Amy Kelly is a registered clinical counsellor in the Comox Valley. From Amy website: "My goal is to ensure parents get the support they need from the beginning. Processing our trauma, mental health issues, birth trauma, and helping ourselves enables us to be better parents. However, challenging times occur throughout the life of a family, not just at the threshold of parenthood." <https://mamatotocounselling.ca/about/>

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Thank you to the volunteers that make these presentations for families happen. To get in touch about a Speaker or to recommend, please email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca