



# Parkland Elementary School December 2014 Newsletter

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**School Mission:** To engage each learner; thereby, increasing achievement  
**GOAL** Integrate personalized learning in each classroom  
**Objective 1:** Focus and engage our students & staff in project-based learning  
**Objective 2:** Develop and practice 21st Century skills

## Parent Advisory Council

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 3rd at 6 pm.

## Country Christmas Evening

Tuesday, December 16th from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm is our annual Christmas evening. We will have food, songs, sleigh rides and fireworks! The students have been practicing Christmas songs and our band has too!

*We have decided to make it a potluck this year so we are asking each family to bring a main dish enough to feed your family plus one as well as either a dessert or a salad.*

We are looking for someone to organize our bonfire. We can get firewood here but need someone to organize putting out the long benches, making a fire pit of some sort, and starting and tending the fire. Please call Kim at the office if you can do this.

Invitations have been sent out with this newsletter. Please RSVP by December 11th so we can plan. Thanks!

## Volleyball Season

Our volleyball season wrapped up with a tournament last Saturday. What a great time we had! It was a packed house at Notre Dame School. Our Parkland Polars had some tough, close games! We were the most enthusiastic team with many other coaches and parents commenting on our team spirit. Abby Germain was picked as MVP but the whole team worked extremely hard and gave each other a ton of support. We also cleaned up on the door prizes! I want to thank all the parents for supporting our team and the kids for working so hard and, of course, Mrs. Wolff for being a wonderful co-coach with me. I am looking forward to next year! Basketball begins in January!

Mr. Eichelberger

## Christmas Special Lunch and Class Christmas Parties

Our Christmas Special lunch day is Friday, December 19th. There will not be any hot dogs that day. There will be a letter coming home from each class teacher to explain how the Christmas Special Lunch will be organized. Please watch for the letter.

## Special Lunch this Friday Dec. 5

Since we did not get to have our month end special lunch in Nov. We will be offering chicken noodle soup and a bun this Friday. It will cost one spot on the lunch card. There will be milk and treats as well but NO hot dogs. Please send lunch if your child does not want the soup.

## Classroom Champions

Classroom Champions is a program which connects Olympic athletes to classrooms around Canada. Mrs. Frederickson has brought the program here to Parkland. Our athlete is Brittany Webster. She is a cross-country and biathlon athlete. She has been talking with classes and the students have been asking her questions and learning about her life and work. Here's the link for more information: [ClassroomChampions.org](http://ClassroomChampions.org)

## Important Dates to Note

- Next PAC meeting Wed. Dec. 3rd at 6pm
- Country Xmas RSVPs back by Dec 11th
- Country Xmas Evening - Tue. Dec. 16th 5:30 - 8 pm
- Pancake breakfast for students Dec. 18 8:30 am
- Christmas special lunch day and last day of school before the break is Friday, Dec. 19th
- School begins again Monday, Jan. 5th

## Spirit Week - Dec. 15 - 19

Student Council has come up with some fun activities for our last weeks of school before the break.

Dec 10 - start of the door decorating contest - all classes  
Dec 10 - start of food collection for Food Bank  
Dec 15 - wear fuzzy socks to school  
Dec 16 - wear something Christmassy to school  
Dec 17 - door decorating winners decided  
Dec 18 - pancake breakfast for the whole school  
Dec 18 - last day for Food Bank donations!  
Dec 19 - special lunch and class events. See letter sent from your children's teacher

For the month of December we are asking folks to send in food donations for our donation box. On Dec. 18 all the food will be taken to the Salvation Army food bank. The night of our Country Christmas Evening would be a great time to bring the donations in! If you bring in a donation your name will be entered in a draw!

The Student Council will have a raffle table at our Christmas Evening, tickets will be \$1 each. Prize is a basket of assorted goodies!

## 21st Century Learning

Our Parkland teachers have been working with helping teachers, Karen Frederickson, Jackie Klein, Paula Weninger, and Laura Craig to plan some new 21st Century Skills projects for the new year. Laura Craig has a trades focus in her work with teachers and students and will be coming in to help the children with an indoor garden box project. She will be at the school next Monday Dec. 10th to help kick off this building and growing project. As well, there are many plans in the works for exciting and integrated classroom activities.

## Primary Literacy Project

Both Mrs. Weingart's and Mr. Eichelberger's /Mrs. Frederickson's have signed on for the district's primary literacy project this year. Classroom teachers agree to meet with fellow teachers once per month to discuss techniques, strategies and outcomes for students. In these meetings, teachers give and get ideas and feedback. As well, Sharlene Weingart is studying to become a Reading Recovery teacher. She has a half an hour a day to dedicate to lessons with students and also is attending monthly training sessions. The focus on early year's reading is a key focus in both the primary literacy project and Reading Recovery.

