



Parkland Elementary School

January 2017 Newsletter

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Happy New Year to all our families!

Important Dates to Note

- PAC Meeting Monday Jan 9 at 6 pm
- NID Friday Jan. 30 - no school for students
- Friday Jan. 27 Special lunch - no hot dogs. Special lunch will be Tacos for one lunch spot on the cards.
- Monday, Feb 13 is Family Day. Schools are closed.
- Jump Rope for Heart & Friendship day is Tuesday, Feb 14.
- Early dismissal for report card meetings Feb 22 & 23.

Parent Advisory Council

Next meeting is Monday, January 9 at 6 pm. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Grade Seven Leaving Plans

Parkland has a tradition of making memory albums for our Grade 7's as they leave us to head to Grade 8. The previous parents have left a nice collection of scrapbooking materials for working with. We also usually arrange for a hoodie or sweatshirt for each student as a leaving gift. These things are usually done by parents of Grade 6 or 7 students. To make it happen we need parents who are willing to work on the albums and one parent willing to work with the students as to what they want on their hoodies and arrange ordering them. Please talk to Mrs. Lazinchuk if you can help with any of this. Thanks!

Country Christmas Evening

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and for all the help to make the event fun for everyone!

Basketball Season

If your student is playing and you might be driving other students to games, please check with Kim at the office to see if your driver's abstract is up to date. Everyone on the team should have received a schedule of games. Thanks!



Trades, Careers and Science

Save the date! Parkland will be having a Exhibition of Learning during the week of March 6 - 10th. The main day will be Friday, March 10th but feel free to drop in whenever you can make it that week to view students work. Students who have been working on science projects will have theirs on display then as well. We are inviting all parents to join us to view the projects on March 10th.

Jump Rope For Heart Event:

Friendship and JR4H event will be on Tuesday February 14th. We will be dividing the school up into 5 multi-age colour teams and travelling through the stations on the afternoon that day. We will have several highly active stations, a nutrition station, and some information-oriented stations. Please, let us know if you would like to join us as a helper at one of the stations or assist with one of the teams. More information will be coming home as the day approaches.

Foundation Skills Assessment

Each year around this time in the school year, students in grades 4, 7, and 10 complete the Foundation Skills Assessment tests. Some of the testing is done on the computer and some of it is written in booklets which are collected and sent to be marked. Please see info below. This year, these tests will be done by February 17. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Dueck at the school.

DC Recycling support for Barkerville Trip:

Thank you to Jeremy at DC Recycling for supporting the Barkerville trip! He has said that if people bring refundables to the depot-sorted and with the lids off- and ask that the refund go to the Parkland Barkerville trip, he will put that in an account for the class. Please, encourage friends and family to drop of refundables in care of the trip.

WHAT IS FSA?

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a set of reading, writing and numeracy tests administered each winter to B.C. students in grades 4 and 7.

FSA does not measure students' ability to memorize specific facts; it measures reading, writing and math problem-solving skills that students have gained during several years of learning. Some of the questions are easy and some are more challenging. Students answer the multiple choice questions on the computer and do their written work in a booklet that goes home to parents by March 31, along with the student's overall assessment results. FSA results do not count toward student grades.

PURPOSE

FSA provides a "snapshot" of how well B.C. students are doing. Results help answer important questions, such as:

- Are all students learning vital skills they will need in school and in life?
- Is student achievement improving over time?
- Are there any trends in student performance at the school, district or provincial levels?
- How are specific groups of students doing?

VALUE FOR PARENTS

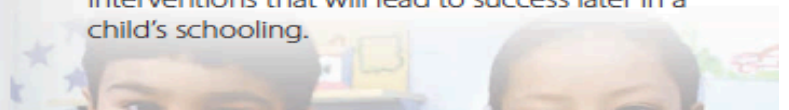
FSA is meant to complement – not replace – classroom learning. Along with classroom assessment and report card information, FSA provides valuable information to parents on how their child is performing in reading, writing and numeracy.

VALUE FOR EDUCATORS

Schools get information on how groups of students did on specific types of FSA questions. Using information from FSA, the Ministry of Education works with school districts to provide support for students and to improve teaching and learning for the coming school year.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

FSA results also show where individual students excel and where they struggle. FSA reading scores, for example, are a reliable predictor of a student's likelihood of completing school on time. Paying attention to individual student results allows parents and educators to make early interventions that will lead to success later in a child's schooling.



PREPARATION

Because they already cover reading, writing and numeracy in their regular classroom activities, teachers and students do not need to take time away from classroom learning to study for FSA.

Students will be able to do their best if they are comfortable with the FSA format, which means knowing the type of questions, how to answer multiple choice questions on the computer section, and how long answers should be on the written questions.

TIME

The entire assessment takes about four and a half hours to complete, and most schools spread them over the course of two or three days. That's less than 10 hours in total of provincial assessment from Kindergarten through Grade 9.

FSA FACTS

There is a strong correlation between FSA scores and eventual school completion.

For students who met or exceeded expectations in Grade 7 reading achievement, the completion rates are 90 per cent and 100 per cent respectively. These results have been consistent over the past four years.

Over the same period, among Grade 7 students who did not meet expectations in reading achievement, fewer than 67 per cent completed high school within the six-year time frame.

The same correlation can be seen at the grade 4 level.

COSTS

FSA is not expensive. It costs about \$20 for each student in Grade 4 and Grade 7, or an average of \$2 a year over a student's first 10 years of schooling.

SCHOOL RANKING

The Ministry of Education does not support the rating or ranking of schools based on FSA results. However, the Ministry does support making school, district and provincial level results available to the public.

FSA provides valuable information on student learning, but is only one measure of student performance. School rankings based solely on FSA ignore other important measures of student achievement and fail to account for factors such as demographics, location, school programming as well as some of the various features that characterize individual schools and school populations.

SAMPLE VS. CENSUS

FSA is about more than the overall performance of the provincial school system. All Grade 4 and Grade 7 students are expected to write the FSA because information about every child is important to parents and to schools. A sample of students would not provide information at the school or district level about specific groups of learners who may need extra help, nor would it provide information about individual children.

January 2017

2	3	4	5	6 hotdogs	7	8
9 Pizza PAC mtg 6 pm	10 StrongStart	11	12 StrongStart	13 Hotdogs	14	15
16 Pizza	17 StrongStart	18	19 StrongStart	20 Hotdogs	21	22
23 Pizza	24 StrongStart	25	26 StrongStart	27 Special lunch: Tacos	28	29
30 NID - Students do not attend	31 StrongStart	1	2 StrongStart	3 hotdogs	4	5
February 2017						