

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
RECOGNITION OF STUDENT/SCHOOL SUCCESS
October 5, 2009



School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) extends congratulations to the following students/groups for these outstanding examples of success in September:

CARMI ELEMENTARY

- Welcome Strong Start! What a great place to welcome Pre-school age children and their caregivers. This opportunity is so wonderful for Carmi Elementary.



- Students creatively working on maps of places made from clay. This group is learning about mapping and communities.



- The soccer team has been out practicing and playing games with students from other schools. Carmi students are very pleased to have great soccer coaches working with the team this year.



- The students are learning about patterns. This is an example of an AB pattern. This group of students explained that there are patterns all around us.



COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Students at Columbia Elementary were recently invited to 'change the world' by visiting guest speaker, NikosTheodosakis. During the 2009-10 school year, students at all grade levels will be looking at the importance of water, both locally and globally. This invitation was the first step for students towards learning how they can make a difference in the world, no matter what their ages!



- Columbia Elementary grade 5 students were treated to a wonderful presentation by a group of performers from Japan. These presentations introduced students to Japanese cultural traditions. Students were given the opportunity to try many of the activities, including origami, music, and dance. A special thanks to Lester and Atsuko Patrick, parents of Columbia students, for arranging this wonderful opportunity.



KALEDEN ELEMENTARY

- The first “fun” assembly of the year focused on school culture. At KES they have multi-aged family groupings instead of house teams. The families made banners that represented each team. At



Kaleden they encouraged the older students to act as leaders of the families to ensure that all students got involved in the variety of activities.



- Members of the S’Cool Life Fund team arrived at Kaleden Elementary to officially present students and staff with their \$2000.00 S’Cool Life Fund grant. Kaleden Elementary will be using the funds to create a wood mural along the fence line. Students will appreciate the help of professional artists for this project – an initiative that is sure to stimulate the creativity of students and ultimately make learning more enjoyable!

McNICOLL PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

- McNicoll Park Middle School held "Be the Change" workshops for all the grade 8 classes (full day) and grade 7 classes (half day) during September. Other grade 6 workshops will run in early October.
- Everyone was involved in the Terry Fox Run on September 25, 2009 - raising close to their school goal of \$1000.00!
- Amazing Race afternoon - 72 cross grade teams competed in an activity based scavenger hunt – it was a great success!
- The McNicoll Park Middle School Open House Barbeque PAC Meeting which was held on Sept 24 was well attended.

PARKWAY ELEMENTARY

A few events that took place at Parkway in September:

- The School Wide Run started and they experienced two very successful runs.
- A wonderful student led Assembly took place and many parents attended.
- The grade 4/5 soccer team started practicing in September – students have been encouraging lots of people to come out to watch the exciting games.
- The first fire drill of the year ran smoothly – the students were extremely well behaved and quiet throughout the drill.
- Rugby has started for the grade 3-5 students.
- Parenting Wisely Classes will start again this fall. The classes are very informative and best of all they are free!

PENTICTON SECONDARY SCHOOL

- On September 17th, 44 leadership students from Penticton Secondary and Summerland Secondary participated in the SD67 Leadership Summit held at Penticton Secondary. Students participated in workshops from Santa Clara University professor and actor, Aldo Billingsly as well as retired master teacher, Linda Beaven. Students were treated to a wonderful presentation by motivational speaker Philly D who presented at numerous schools throughout the district over a two day period.

Students were engaged, inspired and thoughtful at this conference. They learned about and developed their own personal leadership skills, connected to students in another school and were inspired to strive for great things this year.

- **'We Day'** - 28 students from Penticton Secondary and Summerland Secondary participated in 'We Day' at GM Place in Vancouver. Students heard amazing messages from the Dali Lama, Jane Goodall-Craig and Marc Keilberger as well as music by Sarah McLachlan and Jason Mraz. Students were inspired, challenged and committed to work on improving their schools, communities and global environment.
- **Tokyo, Japan** - Many students and chaperones are experiencing an incredible time in Tokyo for the last two & a half days. Vice Principal, Jeff Guy reported to Tom Schimmer (District Principal) about the trip:

"I think we are all on sensory overload with the sights, sounds, aromas and even the feel of this vibrant city. Needless to say we had some very long but exciting days. Too many highlights to list. But... in Tokyo we visited the Imperial Palace, did a river cruise in Tokyo, visited the electronic district, Akihabara - where students bought lots of stuff, went to a huge Buddhist temple and a Shinto shrine and later to the fashion district called Shibuya, where the kids bought even more stuff! I went to a sushi bar and ate raw tuna, salmon & shrimps for lunch! Tomorrow we are off to Mt. Fuji - should again be spectacular. We had another long day today - a bus ride to Mt. Fuji - it was very rainy and foggy, but very beautiful. We also had a ride on a beautiful lake - Akan - very much like BC. We did more shopping. The students and chaperones have seen so many amazing sights. We are all tired from the jet lag and the hectic days, but I do know that we are all looking so forward to seeing all of our friends in Ikeda later today."

SKAHA LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- On September 8th, the First day of school, the grade 6 students learned the "Shark Dance" in a "Welcome to the Shark Tank" assembly.



- On September 11th – The first School-Wide Assembly, at the end of Principal, Mr. Brunelle’s “White Hat Black Hat” talk (school rules and expectations) there was an all school “Shark Dance” for the first time ever!



Shark Dance at Skaha Lake Middle School



- On September 22nd - Four team leaders and administration attended a "Facilitating a Teacher Inquiry (Professional Learning Group) Workshop" facilitated by Bev Krieger, a provincially trained teacher from Giant's Head School. This was sponsored by the BCTF.
- On September 30th - The traditional "Grade 8 Pancake Breakfast" was held in front of the school and in the common area.

SUMMERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Students had a wonderful trip to Bamfield in September. This was reported:

We chartered three separate boat trips (12 kids per trip). Group One - saw 5 different Humpback whales, more than I have seen on all other trips combined! Group Two - saw one whale, but observed it up close and it even did a demo of bubble net feeding, coming out of the water with its mouth wide open. The students' commented - "What terrible breath!" Group Three - didn't see whales, but had a 2 or 3 minute up close visit with a sea otter - the first one I'd ever seen at Bamfield, and only the second one they (the boat crew) had seen all year!

The 20 kilometre hike on the west coast trail was great, no rain. All students made it the whole way out to the lighthouse. On the way back they stopped at a lookout at flat-top rocks to observe up close a haul-out of 500 sea lions! There were only 10 there last year. The Tuna boat came in while the students were there, so I bought a Tuna, and gave an impromptu lesson on adaptations to an open ocean environment, (stream-lining, high aspect ratio tail, fin slots, etc.). Overall, a highly successful trip for everyone involved.

UPLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- A group of 8 teachers from K-5 worked together on a SMART Learning project and will be doing demonstration lessons at Uplands in October.
- Judy Street and MaryAnn McLean will be doing a presentation at a SMART learning conference with Susan Close in Vancouver on Oct. 2nd and 3rd.
- OPEN HOUSE was a huge success and very well attended. Uplands families enjoyed "Meet the Teacher", a pizza supper and a "Shakewood Annie" Family Dance on Sept. 23rd.
- "Shakewood Annie" taught both primary and intermediate students some cool dance steps in the afternoon on Sept. 23rd.
- Uplands Terry Fox Assembly was very meaningful on Sept. 25th. Many thanks to Mrs. Kantz's class and grade 5 student leaders for leading the assembly. The assembly was followed by the run and the whole school participated. Close to \$400.00 was raised for cancer research.
- Weekly assemblies are off to a positive start on Monday afternoons! Students from each class are doing class announcements and teachers are giving students "Student of the Week" awards for making a positive difference in their school community in a variety of ways and also to recognize their accomplishments. Students continue to earn SOAR tickets every day for doing so many wonderful actions to help make Uplands Elementary School SOAR!!



- SOCCER AND CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING events are well underway at Uplands. As part of the daily physical activity, grades 1-5 students are involved in cross-country every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS...Uplands T-Shirt Friday - School Spirit Days are every *Friday* at Uplands. Students wear their school clothes of black or red to show their school spirit.

WEST BENCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- The school staff and students participated in the annual Terry Fox Run on September 25th. It was Terry's dream to have every Canadian donate a toonie or a loonie to the Cancer Society and once again everyone helped out by donating \$320.75 to this worthwhile cause.
- Mr. Philpotts attended the excellent, world class Penticton Leadership Conference and enjoyed it very much.
- Primary teachers attended an excellent presentation on Itchy's Alphabet.
- Teachers attended District Pro D, worked on action research questions and met on school planning day to focus on student achievement, particularly as it relates to writing across the grades.
- Students have been busy with school wide assessment this month. The assessments have been in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Staff will be marking and planning collaboratively. These assessments are used by the teachers to drive their instruction so that their focus is on each child's needs.
- The soccer team students were wonderful ambassadors for the school as they demonstrated and played a tight game with Parkway Elementary. Fortunately, the Wildcats have two parents who have been helping with coaching for the team.
- The first PAC meeting of the year was held on September 15. Mrs. Heather Allen is the new PAC Chair. Many parents attended the informative meeting.
- The Leaping Lizards morning and afternoon day care is up and running. It has been very successful and parents have commented on how beneficial it is to have such a program available to them in their neighbourhood.
- The second annual 'Picnic on the Playground' event was held which this year, included a Book Fair. The evening was very successful with parents, students, staff and families commenting on how much they enjoyed visiting with each other and getting a chance to participate in the fair.

- Richard Armstrong from the En'owken Centre helped to celebrate the new planting circle. A planting circle filled with indigenous plants from the Okanagan has been designed. Mr. Armstrong led us in an Okanagan Prayer and song. He then told the students, staff, parents and guests about the importance of indigenous plants to the Okanagan and peoples of the Okanagan. After his presentation the students sang "Each of us is a Flower", "Voices of Nature" and "Leave the World Just a Little Bit Better". While the students were singing, big buddies and little buddies from all the classes helped assist Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Heather Allen plant additional plants in the circle. The planting circle is unique to West Bench and will be enjoyed for many years to come by students, staff, parents, families and friends. Everyone at West Bench Elementary thanked Mrs. Allen for her leadership, the PAC for their financial support and help, the Penticton Indian Band for their advice and financial support, School District No. 67 for their financial support and the excellent School District No. 67 maintenance and grounds crews for their hard work to make the circle a reality.



Mrs. Heather Allen and Mr. Armstrong plant additional plant material in the circle with the children.



Ms. Balfour and students planting flowers *(Above)* & Terry Fox Run *(Below)*.



WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Staff and students participated in the Terry Fox Run on September 25th. A video of the "Life Story of Terry Fox" was viewed at the Monday's assembly and on Friday before the run everyone watched a motivating Terry Fox video called "One Step at a Time".

