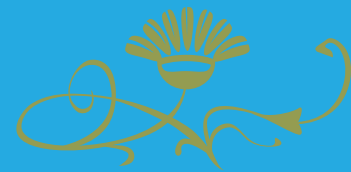


The History of January is named after Janus (Ianuarius), the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) January is the door to the year.



For the February 14, 2011 Board of Education Meeting

SUCCESS STORIES



Recognition of Student/School Success

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

Columbia Elementary

Students at Columbia Elementary hosted a giant Birthday party last week for the school! January 21st marked the 40th Anniversary of Columbia Elementary's opening, and to celebrate staff and student alumni were invited to share stories from the past (and enjoy a piece of cake!) One former student was able to introduce his mother, who used to teach at the school, and then point out his daughters, who now attend Columbia! Attending guests included Alton Dennis, the first Principal of the school in 1971, and Charles Tyndall, the School District's Chair at the time of the opening.





SUCCESS STORIES

January

Kaleden Elementary

Let's READ!

On Friday Jan. 21st Kaleden Elementary held their Annual PJ and Buddy Read day to celebrate literacy. After a morning of literacy focused activities, students kicked off the afternoon with *a buddy read* all around the school.

Older students were partnered with younger students to share literature.



Annual PJ & Buddy Read



Jan Volezenik Visits Kaleden

Jan Volezenik Visits KES

Midway Atoll, one of the remotest islands on earth, is a kaleidoscope of geography, culture, human history, and natural wonder. It also serves as a lens into one of the biggest environmental tragedies of our time: the deaths by starvation of thousands of albatrosses who mistake floating plastic trash for food.

Those are the words of Jan Volezenik, cinematographer and photographer. He visited the school on Jan. 28th and shared his story. As the school begins to make plans for Earth day, Jan gave the students an idea of how small wastes can cause large problems.



SUCCESS STORIES

January

McNicoll Park Middle

McNicoll Park Middle School students were able to collect enough money and food to support a family through the Salvation Army's "Adopt-A-Family" program.

We are very proud as McNicoll Park leadership students continue to run high energy, engaging assemblies for the school.

Parkway Elementary

- The Breakfast Club met twice in January. The School had a huge number of students in for a bite to eat – it was a terrific turn out!
- Monday's Sing-a-Long was a great success. The students sang their favorite songs and ended with the 'Parkway' school song.
- The grade 4/5 basketball team held two practices and had a great game with Kaleden Elementary. The students played super and the fan support was outstanding!
- The school choir rehearsed during the week and then the district choir met at the school for practice after school. The choir has also been invited to sing at the Children's Festival.
- Play on the sports court has been great and it certainly is getting a lot of great use!
- Movie night was another big hit with over 90 people out to see *Open Season Three*.
- A Cyber-bullying parent meeting was recently held in the library and the information given was just excellent.
- Parkway held an Earthquake drill. Everyone practiced how to Drop, Take Cover and Hold On!
- The Multicultural Club recently met in January. Once again the turn out was excellent. They completed some wonderful activities!
- Parkway thanked the One to One volunteer readers this week by having a pizza thank you luncheon for them. They are doing a great job!!!
- Friday was Winter Games day and the entire school had a great time. The games and the sportsmanship were both wonderful!
- On Friday afternoon the primary aboriginal students were able to take part in a great craft activity in the music portable. They had a super time!



SUCCESS STORIES

January

Naramata Elementary

Scottish Country Dancing: During the month of January, the students from Divisions 1 & 2 have had the opportunity to learn Scottish Country Dancing from local instructor, Kristi Lind. The students met twice weekly to practice a number of dances in preparation for their own Robbie Burns Celebration on January 24th. The Robbie Burns celebration included dancing, singing, poetry, and a shortbread treat (Sorry, no haggis). A huge thanks to **Kristi Lind** and all her helpers for the expert teaching and to **Bob Moss** for his performance at Naramata's little celebration.





SUCCESS STORIES

January

On Wednesday, January 12th, four members from the Penticton Vees visited Naramata School as part of the Read & Succeed program. The students enjoyed their time with the Vees, especially the grade 4 & 5 students as they played a spirited & competitive floor hockey game against the Vees in front of the entire school.



Penticton Secondary

On January 16th, Pen High Leadership students hosted a Skating Party at the SOEC in support of John Pierce, a grade 11 student who has been battling Lyme Disease for the last 3.5 years. The only treatment available to John is in the U.S. which leads to medical bills of over \$2000 a month for his family. While John was able to attend for most of his grade 10 year, his health has deteriorated and he has not been able to attend classes this year.

As a follow-up to the Skating Party fundraiser – PSS would like to thank everyone for their incredible support for John Pierce and his family. Over \$3000 was raised and so many people showed up, they had to limit the number of people on ice... so amazing! It really is truly remarkable what happens when a group of young people with a passion for helping others set their minds to something.



SUCCESS STORIES

January

Skaha Lake Middle

- Jan 7-8 SLMS hosted a very successful 16 team grade 8 boy's and girl's basketball tournament. The boy's team won in the final and the girl's team lost by one point in overtime in the semi-final game. The team that beat them went on to win the tournament. Thanks to Tony Orioli, a teacher at SLMS for organizing this tournament.
- Jan 12 Darryl Tenisci, a grade 8 teacher at SLMS presented on "Tiered Instruction" at the Personalized Learning workshop to teachers and administrators at KVR Middle School.
- Jan 17 The SLMS Aboriginal Education Inquiry group met to continue discussions related to the question of increasing the sense of belonging for the Aboriginal students. After putting in place many physical plant changes, the staff has taken a more curricular focus in their work this year.
- Jan 20 DARE Graduation for the grade 6 students.
- Jan 24-28 "No Name Calling Week" at Skaha Lake. The grade 8 leadership students are sponsoring this event that includes PSA's (word of the day and bullying stats) on the morning announcements, posters, stories read in class about bullying and pledges students will sign. We are also going to survey the students about their perceptions of bullying at school.
- Jan 26 Term 2 Interim Reports are going home for students "at-risk" academically or behaviourally. This will be followed up with parent teacher interviews scheduled for the following week.



DARE Graduation



SUCCESS STORIES

January

Skaha Lake Middle



DARE Graduation ~ Superintendent of Schools, Wendy Hyer





SUCCESS STORIES

January

Summerland Secondary



Best Science Teacher in Canada Contest

Raja Gupta is a finalist in the Discovery Canada Channel's Iron Science Teacher competition!

<http://ironscience.discoverychannel.ca/mediadetail/3464853-Mr.-Gupta---LIVE-Teacher>

Raja (and a support team) will be heading to Vancouver to take part in the competition on Thursday and Friday, February 10th and 11th!

Senior Girl Rockets - Honourable Mention in Provincial Rankings

Summerland Secondary Senior Girls and Senior boys basketball teams both won home tournaments this month.

The girls have won their last two tournaments - at Summerland Secondary and in Mission last weekend. They are now an honourable mention in the Provincial Rankings surpassing (and surprising) South Okanagan Secondary!





SUCCESS STORIES

January

Uplands Elementary

Highlights at Uplands Elementary:

- **SMARTLearning demonstration lessons** by Susan Close at Uplands on Jan. 19th (Susan Close developed the program and is an author)
- **Restorative Practices** workshops with Judith King and Susan Johnston presenting for Uplands' Staff on Jan. 10th and the District on Jan. 20th
- **"Friends"** Pro-D for primary teachers
- **Assembly on Jan. 14th** – to celebrate students' achievements
- **Aboriginal Education Cultural Activities** on Friday, Jan. 21st
- **Accelerated Readers' Recognition** (students awarded with T-Shirts for earning over 100 points)
- **Hot Lunches and Fruit and Veggies program**
- **Restorative Practices and SMARTLearning Inquiries in Action** throughout the school
- **Grade 5 Basketball Team practices and games with other schools** - focusing on skill development, teamwork and sportsmanship
- **Lakers' Hockey Team visit and Basketball Game with the grade 5 team**
- **Earthquake drill on Jan. 26th** (with sound effects)
- **Family Literacy and Pyjamas Day on Jan. 27th** (parents came to read with their children)
- **Run, Jump, Throw Professional Development for primary reps. on Jan. 27th**
- **Classroom Spelling Bees**
- **School Spelling Bee and Spellathon start up assembly – Jan. 28th**
- **Yoga for Kids**
- **Everyday learning in *action***
- **Buddy Classes working together**



Uplands' vs Lakers Hockey Team Basketball Game on Jan. 25th



SUCCESS STORIES

January

Uplands Elementary



Family Literacy Day



Mrs. Brome's grade 3/4 class have senior buddies at "Village by the Station". Last visit they interviewed their buddies, brought the information back to school to make posters of each of the senior's life story and then presented it to them at a follow up visit. It was so special and meaningful. True friendships and connections are happening between the students and their buddies. Many thanks go out to grade 3/4 teacher, Mrs. Brome, CEA, Mrs. Schimmer, and all the students in the class for the thoughtfulness and cheer they are bringing to seniors in our community.



SUCCESS STORIES

January

West Bench Elementary

West Bench prides itself on its connections to the community. Many extra-curricular activities are supported by parents who offer their expertise to coach athletic teams. This year we have an exciting new approach to parent involvement to share with you!

Grade 4 and 5 students are once again fortunate to have the opportunity to “learn from the pros” by participating in a Guitar Club. West Bench has a long history of guitar clubs and once again it has redefined itself as a result of changes with staff at the school. This year, Mr. Brad Gibson and Mr. Mike Barron, two parents from West Bench (as well as secondary educators in our district) have combined their passion for music with a desire to be actively involved with Elementary students.

The club meets every Thursday in the Library. The sessions are lively ones with more than 35 students participating. Students are excited of being part of this large ensemble and that energy oozes out of the door in the form of strumming, chording and singing.

This ensemble will debut its’ hard work as part of the “For the Love of Art” fundraiser on Friday, February 11.

