



Wiltse Elementary School Newsletter

November/December 2011

640 Wiltse Blvd., Penticton, B. C. V2A 8J2
Phone: (250) 770-7694 Fax: (250) 490-0842

BELL SCHEDULE

8:45	1 ST Bell
8:50	Classes Begin
10:25 – 10:40	Recess
12:10 – 12:25	Lunch
12:25 – 12:55	Students Outside
12:55	Classes Begin
2:35	Dismissal



ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

Last week all students participated in the *Rocks&Rings* School Curling Program in our gym. This program was supported by facilitators from CURL BC and you, the parents of Wiltse Parent Advisory Council (WPAC). From all accounts shared students, teachers and facilitators enjoyed the opportunity and hope to continue the practice next year before Penticton hosts the *Continental Cup*. Thank you WPAC for covering the costs of having CURL BC trainers instruct the program for the students. More information and pictures are included in this newsletter for you to read and view.

Thank you to the parents who joined us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Nov. 10th. This year's theme focused on *How Will You Remember?* Students and staff displayed student artwork and shared presentations at the assembly. Once again, the Royal Canadian Legion gave each student a poppy to wear. Thank you for the donations received for the Poppy Campaign. We were able to add to the donations and send our thanks to the Legion for the poppies.

Ms. Rose has been taking steps in the world of technology. She has added Wiltse Elementary School (WES) to *Twitter* (@WiltseElem) and started an "InStill Life" community page on *Facebook*. If you are able, visit us by clicking the links on Wiltse's webpage. Ms. Rose will be sending out general Wiltse School reminders via Twitter feed. Follow us!

Congratulations to Ms. McPhillamey for her increase in assignment with the School District. Unfortunately for WES Ms. McPhillamey's assignment sends her to Kaleden Elementary School taking over a full-time teaching position in January. We wish you well in your new job. Thank you for your enthusiasm and Fine Arts teaching with primary students. We are currently in the process of filling Ms. McPhillamey's Wednesday morning Fine Arts teaching assignment.

Just a reminder to parent volunteers, if you are helping out in classrooms you need to have a Criminal Records Check. The forms are available in the office and need to be delivered to the R.C.M.P. station in person.

We have had visits from City Engineer and chats with members of the R.C.M.P. regarding the traffic around the school. There is likely to be changes in parking zones around the crosswalk area in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act. Just a friendly reminder that U turns in a school zone are unsafe and a ticket able offense along with not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Thank you for your care when driving around the school.

WILTSE WEAR WEDNESDAY

Wiltse wear is now available. Samples of some clothing are in the office. Please pick up your order form from the office. Orders for Christmas must be in by December 9, 2011 in order to be ready in time. If you are not ordering for Christmas, orders can be placed anytime throughout the year.



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please contact our office at 250-490-0842 to advise us if your child is going to be away or late for school for any reason. Please feel free to leave a message on our answering machine before or after school hours, (During school hours please call the office at 770-7694.). When you leave a message please give your child's name, grade and teacher, and the date of absence. Or if you know your child is going to be away ahead of time please write a note in the planner. We also ask that you do not send your child prior to 8:20 in the morning, when outside supervision begins. All students are expected to leave the school grounds promptly by 2:45 pm unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Thank you for your help with this.



STUDENT PLANNERS

Please use your student's planner to inform your child's teacher of important information regarding your child. If you are picking up your child early for doctor appointments or other activities or have a change in the regular routine or after school plans, we ask that you put a note in the planner. Play dates should be arranged the night before with all parents involved. We discourage student's use of the phone to make play dates from school. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated. Students travelling home with students who catch the school bus need to have a note to bus driver so they are aware of the extra passenger. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

REPORT CARDS

Parents/Guardians rely on report cards as a key source of information on their child's progress. A report card normally provides parents with important information, including who the child's teachers are, what classes their child is enrolled in, the child's attendance and whether or not their child is on track to successfully complete course/grade requirements (marks and comments). This fall's student reporting process is complicated by the teachers' strike and associated Labour Relations Board essential services order, which currently does not require teachers to produce report cards.

Despite teacher job action, the duties of principals and superintendents remain unchanged by the teachers' strike. Section 5 (7)(e) of the School Act states "The principal of a school is responsible for administering and supervising the school including...the program of student evaluation and assessment and reporting to parents" and Section 6(1) states that the superintendent shall carry "out a system of education in conformity with the orders of the minister".

While the strike may interfere with a principal's ability to discharge this responsibility fully, insofar as possible, the expectation is that all efforts need to be made to maintain normal reporting. As such, report cards will be issued as per the school calendar, however if the teacher job action continues, the report cards will not have marks and comments except for those divisions/classes taught by Principals or Vice Principals.

WILTSE VISITORS

We are implementing a new visitor program at Wiltse. If you are volunteering or spending time in our school, please sign in at the office and pick up a visitor badge to wear. Safety rules require that we have knowledge of all persons in our school in the event of an emergency. Thank you for helping us with this.

FARM BAG FUNDRAISER farm bag fundraiser

Our first order with the Farm Bag Fundraiser will be delivered on December 8th, 2011. Please come to Wiltse School Multi-purpose Room between 2:30 and 4:30 pm to pick up your produce. Thank you to the many families who have participated to date. Next dates of delivery include: Jan. 12th, Feb. 9th, Mar. 8th and Apr. 5th.

CANSPELL SPELLING BEE



POSTMEDI/ **Canspell** **WORD of the DAY**
2012 national spelling bee

discriminate
\\diss-KRIM-ih-nayt\\ (verb)

DEFINITION: to see the special features of

One of the important skills for judging a dog show is the ability to discriminate between dozens of breeds.

From Merriam-Webster Online at www.Merriam-Webster.com

WES is registered for this year's CANSPELL Spelling Bee. We will have a School Spelling Bee to determine our entrant into the Okanagan Regional Spelling Bee in January. Following CANSPELL Spelling Bee rules entrants must be 9 years old to participate in this event. Our school spelling bee includes all willing participants. Practices are (most) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:25 pm. So far we have over thirty students who regularly attend the practices. We hope to have the student kits here soon so that students can practice at home as well. There are suggestions for ways to support spelling bee enthusiasts on the CANSPELL Spelling Bee web-site.

WILTSE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (WPAC)

This year's WPAC Executive includes:

Derek Hurst Chair Laura Kuypers Vice-Chair
Morag McMillan Secretary Sandy Acheson and Lea Shortreed Co-Treasurers

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library**. Child minding will be available.

Wiltse PAC is also hosting two parent workshops in the New Year. Both workshops are facilitated by British Columbia Teacher's Federation (BCTF). The first workshop, *Raising Confident Boys and Girls*, will be on **Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room**. The second workshop, *Antibullying*, will be on **Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room**. Ms. Rose will also host a parent night to share background information and processes of Wiltse Elementary School's *Restorative Practices* focus on solving problems.

Wiltse School is eager to implement Class Representatives for the school year 2011-2012. A notice will be sent home to parents asking for volunteers. Class Representatives are a strong communication link with other parents in each class and able to assist the teacher or organize other volunteers with events and activities. If you are interested and would like to support the teachers, the school and your child's classroom please attend the meeting at the school on Tuesday, November 29th, at 7:00 pm. in the library.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

As conditions become cooler, and less predictable, we ask that you ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather – whatever it may be. Students are expected to go outside before the bell in the morning, at recess **AND** at lunch for some fresh air and exercise. Only on the **MOST** inclement of days do we recommend an "inside" day. If a child is not well enough to be outside, please consider keeping them at home.




Additionally, students should not arrive before 8:20 am and not linger after 2:50 pm as supervision is not provided before or after these times.

SLEDDING AT WES

WES has some of the best hills in the area for sledding. We have reminded students that they are to wear appropriate snow gear to slide. This includes snow pants, boots, coats (done up!), a hat and mitts/gloves. WES supply of sliders has been depleted. Students may bring snow sliders to school but they must be able to fit in their locker and it is recommended that they clearly have their names on them. At this time of year, having an extra change of clothes at school is recommended. Student's clothes can change from frozen to soggy in a matter of minutes. Thank you for your help with this.

WINTER CONCERT

 Staff is currently working on the winter concert which will involve the entire school. This year's concert is called; *Our House is a Holiday House*. As our gym has a maximum capacity we will be having two concerts. On Wednesday, December 14th, the primary parents and families are invited to watch the performance at 1:15 pm in the school gym. On Thursday, December 15th, the Intermediate parents and families are invited to watch the performance at 1:15 pm in the school gym. Admission is by donation of food items to the Penticton Alliance Church Food Bank who support Christmas Food Hampers for the community in December and SD#67 *Hand in Hand* Program in January.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

Student individual photos should be here by the end of the week. Real Photography apologizes for the delay as their lab had a major break down. Photos should be out by Monday, November 28th. Any students who had retakes should receive theirs later next week. Sorry for the delay!



ROCKS & RINGS

All students at Wiltse Elementary had the opportunity to learn about the sport of curling through the CurlBC Rocks & Rings program. Students learned terms and some rules and had the chance to sweep, throw rocks, count points in the house and cheer each other on while learning how to curl. A special thanks to Marc Bowles, High Performance Athlete Advisor from Pacific Sport, Dona Cade, coach of the Special Olympic Penticton team and Dailene Sivertson, lead curler from the Kelly Scott Provincial Team who guided our students through the curling process.



PENTICTON CURLING CLUB



The Penticton Curling Club offers two programs for junior curlers. The Community Centre Program will begin on January 8, 2012 and runs for 6 weeks. A minimum of 8 students are needed to run the program. Please contact the City of Penticton to register. The Penticton Curling Club Junior League begins in late October and runs until March. The program runs Thursday after school and includes 1.5 hours of instruction weekly. They have a funspiel with lots of prizes as well as a Christmas and Year End Party for minimal cost. Please contact Gary Stene, club manager, at 250 492 5647 or Chris Jones, Junior Curling Coordinator, at 250 488 1527. Students must be 8 years of age or older and can still register as teams can always be added to the league.

CORRECTION

A correction needs to be made regarding two of our student's placements from October's Naramata Cross Country Run. Emmy Caruso placed 2nd and Mckenna Clarke placed 3rd. Our apologies girls!

BC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

Fruit for Snacks and Desserts

Keep washed fresh fruits and canned fruit cups handy for instant, low-fat snacks.

Research shows that children tend to eat more fruit if it is cut up and peeled for them. So



have a bowl

of prepared fruit pieces in the fridge in easy reach for quick snacking. Some fresh fruits turn brown when exposed to air (e.g. apple and pear slices). You can prevent this by dipping the pieces in lemon juice.

Cut up fresh fruit and combine with canned and frozen fruit to make your own fruit cocktail. Serve with yogurt if desired.

Baked apples make a delicious dessert. So do crisps and cobblers made with a combination of apples and berries.

EAT TOGETHER

In recent studies, researchers have found that students in grade 4 to 6 who ate dinners with their family consumed more vegetables, more fruit and juice and less pop. Also when adults and children eat together

- Children do better in school
- Children have fewer behavior problems
- Communication improves between children and adults
- Meals are more nutritious and healthful (refer to the BC Agriculture in the Classroom website for current research references <http://www.aitc.ca/bc>)
- Pick a variety of local fruits and vegetables
- Wash hands before eating
- Wash fruits and vegetables before eating
- Enjoy the taste of local fruits and vegetables.

Writing has been a school goal at Wiltse Elementary School for three years. Students have many opportunities to practice their writing in school. Here are a couple of opportunities for you to support your child and their writing at home.



RAISE A READER EVENT
AT CHERRYLANE SHOPPING CENTRE
Calling All Creative Young Writers/Readers



The 60 Merchants at Cherry Lane Shopping Centre is hosting a creative writing contest for young writers, who love to read. The contest will benefit the Raise a Reader Program of the South Okanagan.

Raise a Reader is looking for young writers (pre-K to grade 12) to create a short story or poem (a couple of lines or one to two pages long) just show your creativity. Your opening line **How sweet it is** ending with **that's what Christmas means to me!** **Although the writing should be done mainly at home, Mrs. Bowles will offer a couple of lunch time meetings for students to get started and format for the students to follow.**

Bring your creation to the Shopping Centre on December 17, between 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. or on December 18, between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and read it at the Open Mic. Each creative participant receives a new book donated by RAR. Sign up if there is a specific time you want to read and have your family and friends there to cheer you on. Email Yasmin John-Thorpe at yasie1@shaw.ca to save your day and time.

Start creating your very own short story or poem and win a free book!

RAR wishes to thank the Merchants at Cherry Lane Shopping Centre for their RAR fundraising efforts. The RAR Program visits schools with authors, who have written/illustrated books, who makes a presentation on the importance of reading and writing, after the presentation RAR gifts the author's book or books to every student in a class or school plus the school's library.

LETTERS TO SANTA

We have a display with a mailbox for Letters to Santa set up outside the office. Students can write their letters at home and bring them school to post in the mailbox. Santa's address is:

Letters to Santa
North Pole
HOOHO

Santa will write back if you include your home address as the return address. Also, leave enough time for Santa to write back. Children can also post their letters to Santa using the postal service.





WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DECEMBER, 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Hot Lunch Booster Juice	3
4	5	6	7	8 Farm Bag Program Pick Up 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the music room	9 Hot Lunch Mr. Souvlaki	10
11	12	13	14 1:15 PM Primary Winter Concert	15 1:15 PM Intermediate Winter Concert	16 Hot Lunch McDonalds Last day of school Winter break begins!	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Winter Break

Safe Arrival (250)490-0842 before 8:00 am and after 3:30 pm.

Please ask your child to check in with the office once they arrive at school.

Schools Reopen Tuesday, January 3, 2012