



Wiltse Elementary School Newsletter

New Year, 2012

640 Wiltse Blvd., Penticton, B. C. V2A 8J2
Phone: (250) 770-7694 Fax: (250) 490-0842
Website: www.sd67.bc.ca/wiltse.asp

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



WILTSE SPELLING BEE

Wiltse's Spelling Bee Club members are busy getting ready for Wiltse's Spelling Bee on Monday, January 16, 2012. We will have a short assembly at 9:00 am followed by the spelling bee. Parents are welcome to attend all assemblies and we are hopeful that parents of students participating in the spelling bee will be able to attend and support the spellers. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

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**.

FARM BAG FUNDRAISER

Our second order with the Farm Bag Fundraiser will be delivered on January 12th, 2012. 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: Feb. 9th, Mar. 8th and Apr. 5th. Please see the website for order due dates <http://farmbag.littlegreenbook.ca>.

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.

LICE

Please be aware lice can occur at anytime. With the winter weather we ask children not to share hats, toques, scarves, combs or brushes. Check family members on a **weekly** basis and treat as necessary. For further information please call Interior Health or visit their website www.interiorhealth.ca.



School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children born in 2007 are eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2012. Parents, who feel their child is not yet ready for kindergarten, may defer enrollment for one year. Please contact Wendy Hyer (770-7700) at the School Board Office for information on this.

Placement in your neighborhood school kindergarten is based on your address and registration date. The earlier you register, the more likely your child will attend a school close to your home.

Register at your neighborhood school during regular school hours. **A birth certificate, care card as well as proof of address will be required.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TRANSFER INFORMATION



From: School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

The deadlines for students requesting transfers from their catchment area school to another school in School District No. 67 for the September 2012/2013 school year are **8:00 am, February 1st, 2012 to 4:00 pm, April 15, 2012.** Transfer requests received prior to February 1st will be date/time stamped as "February 1st, 2012, 8:00 a.m." and transfer requests received after April 15th may not be considered until September 2012. Siblings attendance at a school should not be assumed if you live outside the school catchment area. You still need to complete a transfer request. If you are unsure, please check with your school secretary.



FRENCH IMMERSION

Registration for 2012/2012

For Parents of current Grade 5 students:

Information sessions for parents of Grade 5 students regarding registration for September 2012, Grade 6 Late French Immersion classes will be held as follows:

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 @ 7:00 pm. at KVR Middle School

Thursday, January 26, 2012 @ 7:00 pm. at Summerland Middle School

A letter, along with an application form, regarding next September's grade 6 French Immersion classes will be sent home January 16, 2012 with all grade 5 students. This letter will outline the program and the application process. Application forms will be available January 16, 2012 at all elementary school office, the Okanagan Skaha School District No. 67 Board Office (425 Jermyn Ave, Penticton), or on the district website at www.sd67.bc.ca.

Deadline for Applications is 4:00 pm. Friday, February 3rd, 2012

The program is available to all students residing in the Okanagan Skaha School District entering grade six in September of 2012. Students outside the district are permitted to enroll on a space-available basis (ie., after Okanagan Skaha School District students have been accommodated).

Please note: These will be the only information meetings scheduled regarding French Immersion

FSA Information for Parents of Grade 4 Students (or Grade 7 students)

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. The FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills tested are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial performance standards.

The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in public and provincially funded independent schools.

FSA Requirements

Parents do not have the right to exclude their children from participating in the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA).

The Student Learning Assessment Order (Ministerial Order 60/94 as amended) (the "Order") requires school boards to ensure that the FSA tests are administered to and completed by students in accordance with the assessment protocols, instructions, and invigilation procedures established by the Ministry of Education. The following is an excerpt from the Ministry's 2011 "Instructions for Principals and Teachers/Invigilators" about participation guidelines:

Who Should Write the Assessment?

All students write FSA including:

- *All students enrolled in Grade 4 or Grade 7, including students enrolled in a distributed learning program, home-schooled students as well as students enrolled in French Immersion or Programme francophone.*
- *All students enrolled in non-graded programs who were born in:*
 - *2002 write Grade 4 level*
 - *1999 write Grade 7 level*
- *English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students.*
- *Students with special needs who require adaptations, as documented in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).*
- *Students receiving learning assistance services.*

Exceptions include:

- *students who have previously written the FSA. Students write the FSA for a specific grade once only. If a student is retained, s/he does not write a second time,*
- *students who have IEPs documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing, or numeracy and who cannot meaningfully participate in all or part of the assessment, even with adaptations,*
- *students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations or who would need such extended periods of time as to create a hardship for the individual students, or*
- *those students who are reported and funded as receiving ESL support who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses to the reading or writing or numeracy sections of the FSA.*

Principals identify which students, if any, are excused from one, two or all three components of the FSA. Principals must notify a parent or guardian if they intend to excuse a student from participating in one or more components of the FSA. Such notification should be made prior to the administration date by letter or telephone call.

Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances. Principals of public schools are to send a list of excused students to their superintendent.

Thank you.

Don MacIntyre
Director of Instruction

Hello,

WWF-Canada is thrilled to invite you to participate in two events launching early 2012: National Sweater Day and Earth Hour. These events aim to engage Canadians in a fun and celebratory way while raising awareness about climate change and encouraging individual behaviour change.

On February 9th, 2012, for National Sweater Day, turn down your heat and turn up your sweater! We are calling on Canadians to turn down their thermostats and wear a fun sweater to symbolize their commitment to the environment.

On March 31st, 2012 between 8:30 – 9:30 pm, turn off your lights for Earth Hour. Year over year Canada has remained a leading country in terms of participation. For us the moment of Earth Hour is a bit like an environmental New Year, providing a chance to reflect on how our planet is fairing and what new or renewed commitments we can make to help.

There are a multitude of things that divide people: gender, nationality, race, political and religious beliefs to name a few. But when it comes to fighting climate change, it doesn't matter who we are or where we're from – we're all on the same team. This is our opportunity to ignite change and ensure that Canada is on the right path for future generations, our economy and the planet.

Pledge your commitment and support for WWF's National Sweater Day and Earth Hour and make sure these dates are in your calendar for 2012.

- **Help us communicate with the schools that you represent in your district, and ask them to participate in these important campaigns. Schools can host an Earth Hour assembly, or celebrate National Sweater Day in every classroom with students wearing fun sweaters. We need your support!**

I can be reached by e-mail at: ayee@wwfcanada.org or by phone: 1-800-267-2632 ext. 7244.

For a living planet,

Alisha Yee
Marketing Coordinator, WWF-Canada
wwf.ca

PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES

Date: Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Location: McNicoll Park Middle School

McNicoll Park Middle School is hosting a series of parent workshops for all parents in the district. All of these sessions are sponsored by DPAC. Please join us for this exciting session:

ETHICS AND PARENTING

Being a parent brings with it boundless joy, infinite patience and a lot of hard work. Along the way, you are suddenly faced with startling situations. Your 4 year old is old enough to know to tell the truth and is obviously lying; your 10 year old is desperate to be included in a birthday party but you are not certain that you want your child associating with some of the children you know will be at the party; your 14 year old is shutting you out and you are very worried about the emotional changes you are witnessing but you also have told your child repeatedly that you trust her. What do you do?

Based on Dr. Rushworth Kidder's book, ***Good Kids, Tough Choices: How Parents Can Help Their Children Do the Right Thing***, this two hour interactive workshop is designed for parents and educators who want to:

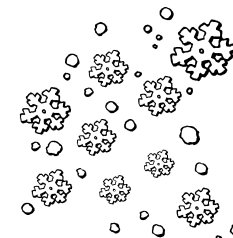
- Strengthen integrity and character in young people;
- Provide parents with frameworks for thinking about ethical issues; and,
- Build stronger collaborations between parents and schools around one of the 21st century's most urgent topics


Participants will define shared core values, identify ethical dilemmas with children that arise when these values compete with one another, and explore various ways that an ethical decision making framework and a shared common language will assist in difficult conversations.



WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JANUARY, 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 SCHOOLS REOPEN Students are back in class! 	4	5	6 Hot Lunch DOMINOS	7
8	9 Assembly 9:00 AM	10	11	12 Farm Bag Program Pick Up 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the music room!	13 Hot Lunch Taco Time	14
15	16 French Immersion Registration forms available Assembly and Wiltse Spelling Bee 9:00 am.	17	18 WPAC meeting 6:30 PM in the Library	19 Raising Confident Boys and Girls 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Multipurpose room	20 Hot Lunch Subway	21
22	23	24	25 French Immersion Parent (Gr. 5) Information Meeting at KVR; 7:00 pm	26 French Immersion Parent (Gr. 5) Information Meeting at Summerland Middle School; 7:00 pm	27 Hot Lunch Pizza Hut	28
29	30	31 Ethics & Parenting @ McNicoll Park 6 – 8 PM				

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.**



WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY, 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Grade 3 Swimming	2	3 Hot Lunch Booster Juice Applications for French Immersion Grade 6, Sept. 2012 due at School Board Office	4
5	6	7	8 Final Day for Grade 3 swimming	9 Farm Bag Program Pick Up 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the music room! National Sweater Day: Turn down the heat; Wear a sweater!	10 Hot Lunch Edo Japan	11
12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 WPAC meeting 6:30 PM in the Library	16	17 Hot Lunch Dominos	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Hot Lunch TBA	25
26	27	28	29			

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