



Griffins Gazette

Neilson Grove Elementary School Newsletter

May 11, 2017

Spring Fair Enjoyed by All



Weather has been a major story this year, but who would have thought the “Fourth” would be with us on our Spring Fair Day giving us warmth and early sun. Despite a late call for Thunderstorms and eventual rain at evening’s end, many had a great time.

2

Optional Parent Input



We have a lot to consider when creating and staffing the classrooms your child will learn in next year. Parents know their child best and can positively contribute information about their child’s learning needs in a set process. Find out more...

3

Emergency Prep Week



Families should review their own emergency plans together a couple of times a year. In addition, we have some hints regarding schools to review...

4

Considering a New School Next Year?



Inform the Office Please



Lots Happening

But Let’s Focus On School Events and Kids

Budgets, Supreme Court Decision Impacts, Staffing, Layoffs, School Organization, and many more big-picture impacts are occupying the minds of educators. For that reason we “fill our buckets” with the great things our kids have been saying and doing at school over the last few weeks. Can anyone say Chicken Dance? Here is more...

Continued on page 2

Lots Happening...

Our Hockey Day Spirit Day went extremely well. We had up to three simultaneous road hockey games and student NHL teams competed for the Stanley Cup. Winners got the cup and a published photo:



Other happenings at NG: several intermediate students represented

our school at the Regional Heritage Fair. NG students took 9 awards from the event, including Karina B.'s (Cover) Burns Bog Project moving on to Provincials. Thank you Mrs. Canil for giving up a Saturday for this. Reading Link Challenge students competed against other students' novel knowledge in both a school and district competition. Math Celebration students worked on numeracy strategies and then attended a South Zone math problem solving competition. In Div. 5 the class energized the agricultural interests of staff and students alike with the hatching of their incubated chicken egg. "Timmy" the chick is now growing happily back at the farm. Students have been practicing hard for the Regional Track Meet. Although rain cut the Meet short, our spirits were not dampened by the weather. We will report out the District Results after next week. Grade 6/7's have been planning and choosing cabin mates for their camp experience in 2 weeks. Even a simple "In Day" yielded a record pattern counter link chain!



Mr. B (with students) was a great sport, "offering" to dance to the live music of Blue Grass Madness. A primary's request for ACDC "Thunderstruck" was granted via the Banjo. Good choice!

The Force Was With Us at Our Spring Fair

A huge thank you goes out to our PAC and other parents who volunteered their time to organize and run a fantastic community event.

Families contributed amazing baked goods for the Cake Walk and took the time and effort to donate Chips and Chocolate prizes for the Spin the Wheel activity as well. Thank you! Turnout was strong. Concession, Games, and Activity ticket sales, 50/50 draw, and community business donation auctions raised over \$4000 for our school. Most importantly, cotton candy stained smiles, families connecting, and game and ride fun created a festive atmosphere.





Classbuilding is a Rigorous Process: Have Optional Input

We have, for two successive Thursday Notices, put out an Overview and Form explaining some of the considerations for student placement into classes. Parents can elect to participate in this process by articulating their child's educational/learning needs from their perspective. Again, this input is only one of many variables considered for student placement into classrooms. Parents do not get to choose teachers or the students in classes, but we value your choice to offer input. Because of reinstated class size and composition contractual language, it has become even more complex to build classes and configure schools. Moving one child is like moving a card in a card house. Quite potentially, the whole house can come crumbling down. For this reason we are proactive in engaging your thoughts. Reacting to placements after September's final process will not be an option. In addition, please respect that staff, including the principal, do not know our absolute final staffing or school organization until the end of the first week of school. Please don't ask; we (and other parents) don't know. Parental input may only be received at the office by formal letter or set Parent Input Form in order to avoid miscommunication. Building working groups of 20 or more little individual personalities at the same time as considering dozens of relational, cognitive, and structural variables is no easy task. We consider all information to form the best learning situations.

“ To Do’s ” Calendar, Events, & Info

Rescheduled Track Meet
May 16 – SDSS

District Track Meet
May 18 - SDSS

Professional Day (in lieu)
May 19 – No school

Victoria Day
May 22 - No School

Parent Appreciation Tea
May 24 – 2pm

Gr 6/7 Camp
May 24 – 26 – Final Info Next Week

**Parent Input Placement
Forms/Letters Due**
May 26 – To Office

Special Lunch
June 2

PAC Meeting
June 5 - 7 pm
Library – childcare available

Sports Day
June 16

**Year End / Grade 7
Leaving Assembly**
June 28 – Evening Gr 7 Dinner TBA

Year End Slideshow
June 29 - 9:15 All welcome

**Last Day of Classes and
Final Report Cards**
June 29

Emergency Preparedness Week

Some Helpful Hints



Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7-13. Your informed and measured response will help the school manage an emergency effectively and will assist the student release procedures that we have in place. We take this time to remind parents of our response procedures to a disaster or emergency event:

- ✓ Instinct is to call the school or your child's cell phone. Please don't. This ties up valuable lines and kids don't have all the facts. CKNW, the District/School Website, or our Twitter Feed is your answer.
- ✓ Walk to pick up your child. Streets may not allow cars. Respect Police, Fire, or school based safety lines/areas. Follow directions from emergency or school personnel.
- ✓ Talk with your kids about school procedures, what they practice, and what you are prepared to do. The message of preparedness can translate as reassurance to children that they will get through a crisis
- ✓ Note our three release systems:

Regular – Minor Risk (Power Outage example)= As usual release but at a different time of day

Controlled – Medium Risk (Severe Storm or Lockdown example) = Students are individually signed out from classrooms or other parts of the building

Full Scale Emergency – High Risk (Earthquake example) = Students dismissed from in or adjacent to building (field) from classroom teacher directly. **I.D. required as children are not released to anyone who is not listed on their record (Often daycare, family friends, etc aren't on your Emergency Contact Form – Want these people to be allowed to take your child? – update Parent Connect). Eventually a central release station dismissal is organized after most students have been released.** Be prepared to line up, respect defined roped/taped off areas, and above all be patient, discreet, and calm.

- More information about emergency preparedness can be found at:
<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx>

Newsletters will come out at least once a month with Thursday Notices. Some versions may be shortened for clarity of communication. This newsletter and its contents are the sole property of Neilson Grove Elementary School. Should you wish to add anything or provide feedback please contact the school office or Mr. Hope. Thank you for keeping up to date.

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