



# RANDERSON RIDGE SCHOOL

January 28, 2019 - Newsletter #5

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hello all:

It hasn't been that long since the last newsletter. In December, I did a summary of many of the great things that have happened in the first few months. This newsletter will be about looking forward.

Your child(ren) and staff have returned from their break refreshed and ready for the learning opportunities that lie ahead. As January has unfolded, it has been a perfect opportunity to re-establish routines and regular habits to support your child(ren's) school life. Here are six ways you can assist in this regard:

1. Regular bedtimes with time for brushing teeth, bathing and quiet reading time helps to calm active children and enable them to sleep well each night.
2. Consistent wakeup times, healthy breakfasts and sufficient time to dress and gather school books enables children to begin the school day on time and in a calm way.
3. Regular daily homework time (with parental support as needed) is essential to help children feel competent and confident in class.
4. Ensure there is a balance between active play and television or computer time. Time with friends and family is essential to developing positive social skills and a sense of belonging.
5. Computers should be in a highly visible area of the house. A child's computer time must be monitored and should follow specific safety guidelines regarding site and program access.
6. Share a caring conversation and a smile with your child each day.

We are also at that time of the year when we are accepting registration for new, in catchment, students for September **including new kindergarten students**. If you know of a family with a child who should be entering Kindergarten in September in our neighborhood, please encourage the family to register their child immediately. **This process is done on line and the information is in this newsletter** and has been emailed out several times already.

I would like to thank our PAC for their strong leadership and for all their hard work this school year! They have spent countless hours behind the scenes working on various projects and activities that make Randerson Ridge a very special place for our students and their families. We have many dedicated parents who help out with classroom and/or school related activities. Remember that the PAC includes all parents of the school. Please attend meetings and become active with the PAC.

Finally, we again have lots of new initiatives starting this spring- read through the newsletter to see just some of what makes Randerson such a busy, happy school.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Brick

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY- ALL OF FEBRUARY IS KINDNESS MONTH! W.I.T.S. and THE WITS BLITZ**

Wits is a University of Victoria program that teaches elementary students how to deal with peer victimization and unkind behavior. It teaches children how to deal with problems by:

**Walking Away**

**Ignoring**

**Talking it out/Telling them to stop**

**Seeking Help**

This is an important pillar of our Positive Behavior Intervention System and will hopefully become a permanent part of our Randerson Ridge culture. The program and language can and should be used at home as well, as the power of common language and strategies will help children learn that they are not powerless in social situations.

Here is the website: <https://witsprogram.ca/>

At our school, we are going to introduce the program with a cross-grade reading and art activity on the morning of Friday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and then following up with an R-Note blitz the week of Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, where we “catch” the kids using their WITS. Please feel free to start asking the kids about their WITS in February and hopefully we can get this solidly in our school by June. Thank you.

## **REAL ACTS of CARING**

In the second week of February, we will be taking part in a new British Columbia initiative – RAC- or Real Acts of Caring. This will be an initiative of our School Spirit Committee. Watch for more information coming in the near future.

## **ANTI-BULLYING/PINK T-SHIRT DAY**

Our pink t-shirt day will be Wednesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. On that day, we will be encouraging all to wear pink, have an anti-bullying assembly, pink cupcake sale from our Me to WE group and a lockdown practice for school safety.

## **NANAIMO CLIPPERS GAME ON FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup>**

And to kick the month off, we have an opportunity the last week of January to start us thinking about kindness. If you and your children have an interest in free tickets to the Feb. 9th hockey game, and you are willing to wear pink and decorate a poster t-shirt- we have 80 free tickets to give away to students and families. Students can pick up the t-shirts to color and write their promise on the back- we start collecting Tuesday morning, Jan. 29th- first come first served.

## **WE ARE SILENT**

In early February, our grade 7's will take part in our third annual WE are silent initiative to give voice to the voiceless children in the world.

## **ERASE BULLYING WEBSITE**

ERASE WEBSITE has been greatly updated. Topics include bullying, online safety, substance use, mental health, gender issues etc. . The information is for parents, youth etc... The website link is: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>



## IMPORTANT DATES/TIMES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

The **Randerson Ridge** on-line calendar of events is always up-to-date and is easily accessible by logging in to our school web site at: <http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/randerson/>

January 30	Bantam Boys Volleyball Final Four Tourney
January 31	Bantam Girls Volleyball Final Four Tourney
January 31	Swim to Survive – Grade 3’s pool session
February 1	Fire Drill #4
February 1	Hot Lunch- Subway
February 1	WITS Blitz
February 4	Basketball practices begin
February 7	Swim to Survive – Grade 3’s pool session
February 8	Report cards go home
February 13	Basketball games begin
February 13	Kindergarten Vision, Hearing and Dental Screening – 9:00am
February 15	Hot Lunch – Pizza Hut
<b>February 18</b>	<b>BC Family Day – No School for Students</b>
February 20	Anti Bully/Pink T-shirt Day
February 20	Anti Bullying Assembly – 9:00am
February 20	Cupcake sale at lunch to support Anti Bullying
February 20	Lockdown #2
<b>February 25</b>	<b>District Pro D – No School for Students</b>
<b>February 26</b>	<b>School Pro D Day – No school for students</b>
March 5	Reading Link School Challenge- 1:00 pm
March 7	Preschool Pizza Party @ Frank Ney 5:00-7:00pm (ages 3-5, must preregister)

## NEW REGISTRATION FOR 2019/2020

Please note the full information about school registration was sent out on our school list serve email on December 4<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup>

Below are a few pieces of information:

To register your child in Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools, the online, centralized **registration began on January 9, 2019**. The following information will help determine if this process will apply to you.

**Take a moment and ask yourself the following questions:**

1. Is my child new to Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools?
2. Do I have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 31, 2019 that will be entering Kindergarten? **Applications must be received by June 15, 2019 to ensure a placement in your child’s catchment-area school.**
3. Do I want to register my child in Late French Immersion? **(see list serve for more detailed information)**
4. Do I want to register my child in Early French Immersion? **Applications will be received until January 31, 2019, at which time student selection will be determined by lottery. Parents will be notified in early February 2019. Late French Immersion Students are placed as space permits.**
5. Do I want to register my child in secondary academies? **(see list serve for more detailed information)** **Applications will be received until March 15, 2019, at which time student selection will be determined either by lottery or tryout/audition. Parents will be notified in May 2019.**
6. Do I want to apply for a school transfer request (out-of-catchment)? **Applications are due March 31, 2019**

For more information please visit, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca) or email [ereg@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:ereg@sd68.bc.ca)



## SNOW CLOSURES

It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice.

If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca), and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations. Finally, there is the SD 68 APP that you can sign up for off of the school district website- it would give you up to date messages.

**We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighborhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.**

## D.E.A.R CELEBRATION/ CIRCUS ASSEMBLY/RECESS GUARDIANS



## SAFE SCHOOL TRAVEL

### New Year – New Routes to Success!

For many of us, a new year is an opportunity change old habits into new, positive ones. Research shows that, year after year, the top four resolutions are to:

1. Eat healthier
2. Get more exercise
3. Spend less / save more
4. Focus on self-care

What if I told you there was a way for your family to accomplish most of these resolutions in one go, without having to buy anything, sign up for a membership, or download a new app?

By walking to school, even part of the way, you'll be closer to getting the 10,000 steps and 30 minutes of activity recommended for healthy living. Walking is also a great time to connect with each other as a family, with nature, and with our community.

Start small to build to a big change: take advantage of the odd clear day this winter to get in a morning walk. If you live too far to walk or cycle the whole way, look for a Drive-to-Five Plus spot to park at and walk from. Use our school's Best Routes Map (**attached**) to plan your trip to school.

For more inspiration, check out the 'Getting to School' page on our school website.

## CHINESE/KOREAN SPRING FESTIVAL AT RANDERSON

In a bid to be more inclusive and to honor all our students, we are proud to announce that we are going to have our first ever Chinese/Korean Spring Festival, which coincides with Lunar New Year's celebrations. On Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, students of this heritage are going to invite one friend each to a banquet put on by the families and school. In the afternoon, those same students will then share their culture (including some food) with all students in the school. The students have really been working hard at this for weeks. Thank you to Mr. Olsen and Mr. Rogers for organizing. Really looking forward to this event!

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

### **Volleyball**

Congratulations to both our Bantam Girls Teams and our Bantam Boys teams as they are all in the final 8 bracket of playoffs. The final tournaments for volleyball are both held at Randerson on Jan. 30 (boys) and Jan 31 (girls). Good luck to Ms. Hepples and the boys and Ms. Adelborg and the girls.

### **Basketball**

Basketball practices will start the week of Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and games will start the week of Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Pee Wee girls coached by Ms. Adelborg and Mr. Brick; Pee Wee boys coached by Ms. East and Mr. Rogers. Bantam girls coached by Ms. Needham and Ms. Kelly and Bantam Boys by Ms. Rounis and Mr. Seaman. Schedules and permission forms will be going out in the next couple of weeks.

### **Homework Club, Tech Club, Games Club and Reading Club**

Don't often talk about these clubs, but we are regularly getting 40+ kids out for Tech Club, Games Club and Homework Club, plus slightly less for Reading Club. Popular activities. Thank you to Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Needham, Ms. Evans and Ms. Kuffler for these weekly activities!

### **Reading Link Challenge**

The date for our school challenge has just been set by the city librarians. They are going to visit our school on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Time for our grade 4's and 5's to pick up their reading!