



# Newsletter

December 2, 2013



## West Royalty School

80 Commonwealth Ave. C1E 2E9

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website: [www.edu.pe.ca/westroyalty](http://www.edu.pe.ca/westroyalty)

Principal: Debi Mais Murphy



*What the mind can conceive  
and the heart can believe  
you can achieve!*

Vice-Principal: Cathy Cameron

**Today is Monday, and it is Day 2**

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 3: Report Cards Issued

Dec 6: Beary Good Cupcake Sale

Dec 9: Home & School Meeting 6:30pm

Dec 10: Christmas Concert

Gr K-1 (1PM) Gr 2-3 (6:30PM)

Dec 11: Storm Date for the concert

Dec 17: K-6 to Movie Theatre (AM)

Dec 20: Last Day of Classes 2013

Jan 2: First School Day 2014

**ALL SCHOOL DOORS (EXCEPT FRONT DOORS) ARE LOCKED @ 8:30A.M. - 2:30P.M. THEREFORE, ANY STUDENTS ENTERING THE SCHOOL AFTER 8:30A.M. MUST USE THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL. ALL VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL ARE ASKED TO REPORT TO THE OFFICE.**

## SCHOOL NEWS

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who reach the age of five years on or before December 31, 2014 are eligible to begin Kindergarten in September 2014. **Please register as soon as possible at the school between the hours of 8:00AM and 3:30PM.** Proof of age is required at the time of registration along with verification of parent's home address.

### LITERACY NOTES

Read Every Day- Children respond well to routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read and to talk with your child, you are showing that this is important and fun to do. Try to read with your child as often as possible. It is the most important thing you can do to help him or her learn at school. It will also allow you to spend high-quality time together and to develop a strong and healthy relationship that is built on sharing of ideas. Here are some ideas: Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child. Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child, where there will be no interruptions. Create a "reading area" there together. Choose many different books. If your child's first language is not English, choose books both in English and in your child's first language. A strong basis in a child's first language makes it easier for him or her to learn a second or third language. Vary the length of reading time depending on your child's age, interest, and grade. For young children, shorter sessions may be better than one long session. Even after your child has learned how to read, keep reading to him or her, by reading stories that will interest your child but are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of sharing books together. Show your child that you are enjoying the book by showing interest and asking some questions. Be patient; allow your child time to figure out tricky words. After about three seconds, you can help with the word. Show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes. Noticing and correcting mistakes is part of learning to read. Make sure that your child selects books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if your child chooses books that are a little easier than the ones he or she reads at school. On the other hand, if your child chooses a book that is slightly above his or her grade level, praise your child for choosing it and be prepared to help where necessary. Encourage your child to "listen" to his or her own reading. Listening will help him or her to hear mistakes and try to fix them. After reading, talk about the story to make sure that your child understood it.

### EARLY CLOSURE INFORMATION

Sometimes, it may be necessary to close individual or families of schools during the day to get children home before weather conditions become too severe. **Schools could be closed during the day due to other circumstances such as loss of electricity, flooding, etc.** In such cases, announcements will be made on all radio stations. **If you do not have access to a radio throughout the day, you must have an emergency contact (such as a neighbor, friend, relative) in place who can notify (contact) you of the early closure of school.** In September we asked you for information to give your child's teacher direction on the plan you have for your son/daughter should we have a mid-day closure. As we approach the winter season and closer to this possibly happening, we ask you to **review the plan with your child** and inform us immediately if you must make changes. **Please remember what address you have provided, we cannot make phone calls for arrangements on that day.**

### IMPORTANT BUSSING INFORMATION

There are a number of our buses that are at capacity for students travelling home from school. Bus #50 is one of those buses and a number of others are quite full. As a result we will have to restrict students from asking for bus passes to go to birthday parties, sleep overs etc. on Bus #50 in the afternoons. If you have any questions please contact Administration. If you are requesting a bus note for a different bus please send in the following information; date, child's name, bus #, and destination.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Parents please send the proper utensils in for your child's lunch as this is not provided by the school.

## MOVIE AT CINEPLEX

We have confirmed our reservation to take all students to see "Frozen" at the Cineplex Charlottetown Cinemas on Tuesday, Dec. 17 in the am. With the financial support of your Home and School, we are able to reduce the cost to \$5.00 per student. A form will be sent home the first week of December with more details.



## MAGAZINE CAMPAIGNE

Magazine Draw - Winners

Reserved Seating/Parking at Christmas Concert- Jamie Lynn Cassidy 2C

Phys Ed Teacher for the day - Jack Howatt 4D

Halloween Dance 2014 MC - Grace Clark 5C

Principal for the day - Tommy Bridges KC

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2013

Please reserve the following time for our Christmas Concerts on December 10<sup>th</sup>:

1:00 pm Kindergarten & Grade 1 Concert; 6:30 pm Grades 2-3 Concert

The students are working hard preparing a special event for you. A goodwill collection at the door will support families in our school community in need of help during this special time of year.

## GRADE 6 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The grade 6 fundraising committee is off to a great start this year! All proceeds go toward covering the cost of year end activities for the grade 6 students. Thank you to the many families who supported our initiative by visiting the Haunted Hallway at the Halloween Dance. We will be holding a fudge and cookie sale at both Christmas concerts on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Fudge will be \$3 per package, and cookies will be \$1 for 2. We will send a notice home to grade 6 parents next week asking for donations of cookies and/or fudge to be dropped at the school on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please note that recipes must be peanut free.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY

A reminder that West Royalty Home & School will be sponsoring a family in our community at Christmas again this year. Our contribution is very much appreciated by our Christmas family. Home & School will be accepting donations at the upcoming Christmas concerts (on December 10th 1:00 pm & 6:30pm) or you are welcome to send in a donation to the school with your child to their home room teacher. An envelope will be sent home the first week of December. Home & School appreciates your enthusiastic support for our Christmas Family.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Many thanks to our lovely parent volunteers - Lisa Fogarty, Karen Younker, Joanne Craig, Shawna Wong, Colleen Henderson and Janette Brake who helped out at our November Scholastic Book Fair. The Fair was a huge success and many wonderful resources for students and teachers will be purchased using the profit from this Fair. Many thanks to parents who thoughtfully purchased a book for their child's classroom library. The teachers really appreciated it and have asked me to extend their thanks. A Book Plate has been placed in the book so that recognition has been given to your family.

There are many wonderful writers in our school and "The A & E Canadian Lives That Make A Difference" Contest is still open until the end of December. Students in grades 5 - 12 may enter by writing an essay based on someone they feel has made the biggest impact on Canadian society in 2013. Two prizes for grade 5 - 8 students and two for students grades 9 - 12 will be awarded. The student prize is \$3000.00 and the Classroom teacher prize is \$1000.00! For official rules and consent forms please go to: [www.lives thatmakeadifference.com](http://www.lives.thatmakeadifference.com). This is certainly something worth looking into so please encourage your child to think about it.

This past month one of our grade four classes was working on **Dictionary Skills** in the library and this month this same class begins working on **Mapping Skills**. Our Grade one students have started their "**Bear**" research so if you have students at either of those grade levels it could generate some great table conversations around the supper table.

A reminder once again that if you are cleaning out book shelves at home, we do accept easy picture books that are in good shape for our Book Buddy bins. These books get a lot of use daily so we go through a lot of books in the run of a year and it certainly saves our permanent collection of books!

Would you please make sure that your child has a zip lock bag in their kit bag to put their library book. So far this year I have lost several books due to leaking water bottles. The expectation when this happens is that you will replace the book but I really do not enjoy asking so let's prevent it from happening by having a bag in your child's kit bag. Many thanks.

*World Literacy Canada* is launching a national writing contest entitled *Write For A Better World 2014*. The contest is open to students *grades 5 - 8*. This activity teams up with *best-selling author Kelley Armstrong* and is asking students to write a *400 word story* based on an original *writing instruction by Ms. Armstrong*. "The aim of the contest is to challenge students to start thinking as global citizens."

This contest engages children in literacy skills development and encourages a sense of pride in their own writing by providing them the opportunity to have their work published.

They have created a *teaching resource* with a suggested classroom activity that teachers can use to introduce global citizenship. This teaching resource and the *entry form* for the contest are available on-line at: [www.worldlit.ca/write2014](http://www.worldlit.ca/write2014). Stories are to be submitted by *April 4, 2014*.

I love to have parents drop by anytime so please do not be a stranger. Don't walk by, walk in and see the many wonderful books that we have in the library. Karen MacKinnon, Teacher Librarian

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report Cards will be going home on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We encourage the students to open those reports in your presence, so a supportive discussion can take place.



## **HOME & SCHOOL UPDATE**

Mark your calendar for the last H&S meeting of 2013 - Monday, December 9th (note the change to Monday night!) at 6:30 pm in the Staff Room. As always, all are welcome to attend.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have given tirelessly of their time and enthusiasm since the beginning of the school year. It is a blessing to have so many caring and dedicated parents in our school community who ensure the success of our many events and programs. We wish everyone a healthy, joyful, and relaxing Holiday Season! See you in 2014! Your 2013/14 Home & School Executive:

Shawna MacDonald-Wong, Secretary - [macdonalds1973@gmail.com](mailto:macdonalds1973@gmail.com); Colleen Henderson, Treasurer - [canddhenderson@eastlink.ca](mailto:canddhenderson@eastlink.ca); Cathy Nabuurs, Vice-President - [mcnabuurs@bellaliant.net](mailto:mcnabuurs@bellaliant.net); Denise Bulger, Co-President - [denisebulger@hotmail.com](mailto:denisebulger@hotmail.com); Janice Murphy, Co-President - [janice@abegweit.com](mailto:janice@abegweit.com).

We have arranged for Jackie Goodwin, English Language School Board, to present a session on Jan 28th at 6:30 entitled "The Various Types of Bullying – What Parents Can Do". Please book this date in your calendar, storm date will be Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pre-registration is required. An information sheet will be sent out shortly.

## **UPEI STUDENT TEACHERS ARRIVE**

We were pleased to welcome student teachers on November 18<sup>th</sup> for a 4 week placement from UPEI and the burst of energy is very much appreciated.

## **GRADE 1 BEARY GOOD CUPCAKE SALE**

The grade 1 classes will be having a Beary Good Cupcake Sale on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Cupcakes are .50 cents each. Proceeds will go to Adopt a Bear in the wild from the World Wild Life Federation and to a local charity. Please send in the exact change. **Just a reminder - Due to a number of students with life threatening food allergies in our school, we are a peanut/nut product restricted school.**

## **COUNSELLOR'S CORNER**

November has been a very busy month. Mrs. Zinck and I would like to congratulate the members of the Peace and Development Club for their very moving presentations at the two Remembrance Day Assemblies. Now, because of the busy school schedule in December leading up to the holidays, the Club will take a hiatus from meeting after school, until the New Year. Our last meeting for 2013 will take place on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Announcements will be made in January 2014 as to when we will resume our 2:30 meetings. The spring will bring a new big project for the club, which will be very exciting.

Six students have signed up to begin Chess Lessons at the school. These began the last week in November and will be held at noontime every Tuesday barring changes to the daily schedule. Students are reminded to listen for morning announcements. Sharing Groups have begun meeting. There are five groups running every cycle with approximately 27 students involved. In February a second round of some groups will be running for those who are currently on wait lists. Parents are invited to call or drop by my office at the school if they have any questions or concerns.

Several bags of very nice clothing (various sizes) have been donated to our school community. In these times of on-going economic instability there are many families in our school who have been struggling with job losses and other serious family challenges, if you feel that it might be helpful to your family to accept a few extra clothing items at this time, please contact me at the school (phone number 368-6790, email [wvgallant@edu.pe.ca](mailto:wvgallant@edu.pe.ca)). We can schedule a convenient time when you can come in for a private look through the items that we have to share. Included in the items are: Women's indoor and outdoor clothing, sizes Medium to Extra Large (Denver Hayes, Jones & Co. Liz Claiborne etc.) Children's clothing, sizes 12 to 24 months. (primarily clothes for little girls)

## **SCIENCE FAIR**

As mentioned in an early notice, there will be an optional Science Fair for those students interested. (Parents and teachers should feel the students can handle the extra activity.) The Science fair will be held in mid to late February. Parents, please send a note/email to your child's teacher if your child is interested in the Science Fair by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. McGuire and Ms. Read will collect the names and have an information meeting for interested students the second week of December. Thank you

## **STUDENT CLOTHING**

With the colder weather here, it is important for students to dress warmly. Please ensure that your child has warm clothing. It is also important that your child's clothing/boots be labeled.

## **LOCK DOWN PRACTICE A SUCCESS!**

CPL. John Flood of the Charlottetown City Police had high words of praise for the students as they released them from our first Lock Down Practice. We thank parents for the supportive discussions that took place in your homes allowing us to smoothly carry out this important practice.

## **CHRISTMAS SELECTION CD**

The school choir is selling a 4-track "Christmas Selections CD." This is the 2nd year the choir has attempted this project and we are pretty excited with the results! We are selling our CD for \$6.00 each and 100% of the profits will go to the school's Christmas Family. If you would like to order a CD please send the **cash only** order with child's name and class into Mr. Gordon the music teacher.