



JUNIPER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Colleen Wood Vice-Principal: Andrea Mangell Secretary: Stacey Kinney

REACH HIGH ~ SERVE WELL ~ LEARN TOGETHER

December 16, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This school year continues to fly by! Mrs. Powrie and classroom teachers have been busy preparing students for our **Winter Concerts**. Special thanks to many of our Grade 7 students for editing and preparing your child's classroom performance for sharing. Links will be shared by classroom teachers. I'm confident you will enjoy the performances. We look forward to the future when opportunities allow us to enjoy live performances with families again.

We want to acknowledge and thank all of our students, staff and families for continuing to be generous in the giving of items to our Merritt families, and our local food bank. Our 12 Days of Giving concluded yesterday with 7,198 items of food being donated to the food bank. Your kind and generous spirit matches the season! Thank you to Mrs. Waters and her students for organizing this event.



Mrs. Mangell and her many leadership students have organized a variety of activities for students and staff to engage in during the month of December. All doors are decorated and the hallways and classrooms are very festive! We appreciate all that our Leadership Team has done for fostering Holiday & School Spirit! **Tomorrow is Pajama Day at JRES!** Every Friday is wear JRES Swag or our school colors; burgundy and gray! Our Leadership Team is working on special activities for January, February & March; stay tuned for more information

Our Winter Break begins Saturday, December 18, with school resuming on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. I trust you and your family will enjoy the Holidays and create many fond memories as you celebrate with family and friends. Some of you may have **International travel** plans over the holidays. Please be mindful of the following requirements outlined in our [Daily Health Check](#). Fully vaccinated students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption. Students, staff and other adults who are not fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada **CANNOT** attend school for 14 days after arrival, as part of federal requirements.

Our last **Professional Development Day** on December 6th was our third of six professional development days for this school year. The majority of staff attended a zoom workshop with Dr. Jody Carrington. Dr. Carrington is a registered child psychologist from Alberta. Her message was timely and reminded us that the pandemic has created a heightened state of arousal and feelings, at times, of being overwhelmed. It is so important that we acknowledge and allow each other to experience their emotions. At the same time, being kind and compassionate with ourselves and others is still very important. The following Bucket Filling books are a great reinforcement for children: "Have You Filled A Bucket Today?"; "How Full Is Your Bucket?" and "Bucket Filling A to Z."



On behalf of the staff at JRES, I want to take this time to wish you and your family a very safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season.

Season's Greetings!



Mrs. Wood, Principal

INDOOR/OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR

Please plan on having a pair of indoor footwear left at the school for your child to change into each day. Boots are needed for outdoor time, but are not comfortable for indoors. Boots also track snow into the school, making the floors wet and slippery. Labeling your child's personal belongings helps to minimize the mistaking of coats and boots by classmates.



SLEDDING A FAVORITE SNOW ACTIVITY

Sledding is always a favorite snow activity for children. We have crazy carpets available for classes and assigned sledding areas, times and days. This will minimize the number of students sliding on a hill at any given time. If a child is bringing a sled from home, please ensure that it is either a crazy carpet or a foam type sled. Labelling your child's sled will be important, as they are stored outside

classroom doors. Students are reminded of the following sledding expectations: wear outdoor snow gear; only 1 person/sled; slide down and promptly move out of the way at the bottom as another sledder is waiting to come down the hill; walk up the side of the hill and not in the middle of the sliding hill; and have fun! Students are encouraged to do their part and manage their behaviour and talk so that they are: Respectful, Organized, + Attitude, Responsible and Safe during sledding!!

PARENT FEEDBACK BEING SOUGHT

The School District is seeking parent feedback for our [draft mission and vision statements](#). Your input is greatly appreciated.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are enhancements to classroom learning and are predominately organized by individual teachers. Communication of field trip specifics (dates and details) therefore, will be communicated by individual classroom teachers. Please be mindful that all Permission Forms for Field Trips must be signed and returned to the classroom teacher. No verbal consents for children to attend field trips will be accepted.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

Formal progress reports will be sent home with students on **Thursday, January 27**. Informal communication of student progress between the classroom and home should be ongoing. The goal of communicating student learning is for parents to have a clear understanding of how their child is progressing both academically and social emotionally at all times. If at anytime, you have a concern or question about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

SCHOOLMESSENGER

SD73 is enhancing the use of school messenger in January. In January you will receive more information on how to setup text messages as an option for the SchoolMessenger announcements. This enhancement is to provide more choice to parents on how they receive important information from schools.

The benefits of SchoolMessenger include:

- Parents can choose how to be notified (email, phone call, text message (coming in January) Absences are easier to report at 1-844-350-2647 , on [the app](#), or [website](#)
- More timely notification in an emergency
- Schools can respond faster when a student is unexpectedly absent

Please continue to report student absences **before 8:30 am** on the day of the absence (you can report absences in advance as well)

BASKETBALL SEASON

Planning for basketball season has commenced, even though the season doesn't begin until later in January. At this time, we anticipate having 6 teams. Mrs. Grimm organizes our teams, referees and coaches; thank you. Basketball schedules and permission forms, will be sent out in January. Like volleyball, we have strict limitations on how we are able to operate during COVID. Please be aware that: **players may have only 1 spectator at each game.** Spectators, will sign-in, complete a health check, sanitize and have restricted movement within the school. Guests and visiting teams, will enter the school through the community room doors (nearest the gym).



DROP OFF/PICK UP AND IDLING

For safety reasons, we ask that parents refrain from driving into the parking lot to drop off and pick up students. Our parking lot is very tight and there is no opportunity to turn vehicles around. We would also like to remind parents to not idle your vehicles during drop off and pick up. The City of Kamloops adopted a Good Neighbor Bylaw in June 2018, requesting that after 3 minutes, we all refrain from idling our vehicles when not driving.



2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

It doesn't seem possible, but it is time to start planning for the upcoming school year. This always begins with [Kindergarten Registration](#). Children

who are 5 by December 31, 2022 are eligible to begin Kindergarten in September. Please be aware of and share the following important dates with family, neighbors and friends.

Wednesday, January 12 - Information Night Schools of Choice @ 6:30 pm

January 24 - 28: Registration Week for Schools of Choice

Thursday, February 3 - Information Night Kindergarten Round-up @ 6:30 pm

February 7 - 11: Registration Week Neighbourhood Schools

The School District will be providing information for parents/caregivers on how to proceed with **catchment changes**, including Kindergarten registration, to school leaders early in January. Once this information is received at the school level, I will share with our school community and families.



PAC NEWS

Monthly Meeting Details

Time: Jan 10, 2021 06:15 PM Zoom Meeting details to follow.



Fundraisers

All Purdy's orders should have been picked up by Dec 17th. Please contact jrelementarypac@gmail.com if you have any concerns. Thank you to all the parents who submitted orders for our DFS fundraiser, Purdy's and Poinsettias. Thank you for your support, we couldn't do it without you! The three fundraisers brought in \$7000 in profit.

Hot Lunch

The Winter session of hot lunch is **OPEN** for ordering. The first lunch will be Jan 6th so make sure to **get your orders in by Dec 30th, 2021**. Booster juice has been added to the menu this session.

- * **NEW FOR THE 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR**, only paid orders will be processed. Please do not create an order if you are not prepared to pay. After your order(s) are submitted please ensure you proceed to **PAY NOW** and complete your order.
- * All hot lunch orders must be placed 8 days before the lunch.
- * As in the past, should your child be sick or otherwise absent on a day they have ordered lunch, arrangements can be made to pick up the lunch from the school by 11:40. Otherwise, it will be considered a donation.

January Hot Lunches will be:

January 6 (Thursday) - Wendy's

January 13 (Thursday) - Wok Box

January 20 (Thursday) - Colombo

January 27 (Thursday) - Dominos

Orders can be made on Munch A Lunch

NEW parents need to register here:

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/JuniperRidge> **RETURNING parents** can go directly to the login page: <https://munchalunch.com/login>

Thank you for all your support.

DPAC Presents:

Advocacy: Understanding the Appeal Process

Join us to better understand how the School Act provides parents/guardians with the right to appeal any decision they feel significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student. Parents and guardians are their child's natural advocate, making sure their child's rights, needs, and opinions are respected. Advocacy is about working to achieve a successful solution for the benefit of the child. This workshop will provide you with knowledge and tools to successfully handle situations that negatively impact your child's education and to navigate the school district Appeals Process (section 11 of the School Act).

Join us: **January 18, 2022 at 6pm** - zoom details to be provided in January.

Presented by John Gaipman, CEO, BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)

