



Happy Holidays



November 30,
2012

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

The festive season is upon us and the Black Mountain School community is getting into the spirit of giving. Our Grade 6 student leaders and resource students under the guidance of our CEA team are organizing our annual Food Hamper Drive for less fortunate families. Our 2 week campaign ends on Friday December 14th. We encourage you to get into the spirit of giving!

Our last day of school before the holiday is December 21st and Mr. Nicol will be organizing our Black Mountain "Ho Down" in the gym. Primary classes will present dances in the morning from 8:45-9:45 and intermediate classes from 10:00-11:00. This foot stomping, action packed event is the culmination of our P.E. dance unit and is becoming a BME tradition. Parents are encouraged to bring their dancing shoes and join in!

At this time I would like to recognize our senior students for taking the leadership challenge and becoming a member of a school leadership/service team. We have many Grade 5/6 students that help regularly at lunch to plan events that make our school a great place to work and learn! From morning announcers, kindergarten PALS, sports leaders, lunch monitors, recycling, patrol, computer lab to library, and kokanee monitors, we appreciate your service. Thank you to the many staff members who volunteer their time to sponsor our students teams.

At this time I would like to thank our PAC for their enthusiasm, energy and support of school programs and special events. To date the fundraising efforts of our PAC have supported special school programs, such as safety patrol, Frieda Wishinsky author visit, new P.E. equipment, classroom incentives, 50% of the cost of the student agenda home communication book, Grade 6 camp and updating audio visual equipment. From hot lunch volunteers, classroom helpers, BC Fruit and Veggie Program volunteers and field trip volunteers, we simply could not offer so many events without your support. Our staff and students appreciate your efforts!

I feel fortunate and very thankful to be part of the BME learning community. Together we are continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of our children on a daily basis.

From all of us at BME, we wish you and your family a holiday season filled with warmth and good cheer!

Mrs. L. Watson



Santa's Holiday Hoe Down

Christmas Concert December 12th: 12:30 pm. and 6:30 pm.

Parents and grandparents are invited to attend

SANTA'S HOLIDAY HOE DOWN!

As seating and gym capacity is limited,

we strongly encourage parents with flexible working

schedules to attend the afternoon performance.

Admission to the concerts will be a food bank donation.



**WIN A CHOCOLATE
SNOWMAN?**

In this edition of the BME newsletter there are snowmen hidden throughout. Once you have found them all, write the number on the newsletter draw slip (found on the calendar) and return it to the office by the due date.



Internet Safety Tips for Parents 2012

Below are resources which may be of interest:

- Media Smarts Canada - Resources for Parents - Cyberbullying
<http://mediasmarts.ca/cyberbullying/resources-parents-cyberbullying> (Canadian stats and info)
<http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/default.html> (multi-age safety tips)
- Cyberbullying.us - Up to date articles on Sexting, Facebook, Smart Phone Use
<http://cyberbullying.us/search.php?>
- Connect Safely.org A Parents' Guide to Facebook (2012)
<http://www.connectsafely.org/pdfs/fbparents.pdf>
- Netsmartz.org - An Extensive Resource for Parents
www.netsmartz.org/netparents.htm
- ConnectED - Questions Elementary Parents Should Ask:
<http://www.reallifeonline.ca/Parents-Guardians/Questions-You-Should-Ask-Yourself.aspx>
- Parents Want 2 Learn.ca - Multi-Source Resources Guide for all age groups
<http://www.2learn.ca/parents/NScyberB.aspx>



Social Media: How Are Our Children Communicating?

Some interesting results!

By Mrs. Watson

Recently, I did an informal survey of our grade four to six students to find out what the preferred choices of 9 to 12 year olds are to communicate with friends and family. Currently, the two most popular methods of communicating for this age group at BME appear to be text messaging and/or using Skype and Face time. It is also noteworthy that many more of our students now have their own cell phones, email accounts and Facebook accounts. Students report that they are knowledgeable of how to post on You Tube and Facebook.

With access, comes responsibility. THINK before you CLICK send is in a word, "wise". Regularly monitoring your child's text messages, posts and internet accounts is advised. As adults we all share the responsibility of educating our youth to use social media tools in a respectful and safe manner. One of Constable Mackinnon's main tips for parents is to collect the devices (Iphones, Ipods and notebooks etc.) before your child goes to bed. In her line of work she often finds that inappropriate messaging happens later in the evening behind closed doors. sleepovers are another prime time for children to experiment with social media.

At BME, we have included the District Social Media Policy in the front of our student agenda under the School Code of Conduct. This Board approved Social Media Policy is also available on line via SD 23 website. www.sd23.bc.ca

Each student and parent in our District is required to sign an Internet Use Agreement which outlines the guidelines for using school networks for educational purposes in a safe and respectful manner. Consequences for misuse follow our School Code of Conduct and may include loss of privileges to suspension and police involvement depending upon severity.

Question: How do you regularly communicate with friends and family members at home?

	Grade Six 38 students	Grade Five 55 students	Grade Four 38 students
Personal Cell Phone	10	19	9
Personal Email Account	30	18	10
Text Messaging	27	30	19
Facebook Account	16	11	2
Twitter	2	4	0
You Tube	14	14	1
Skype/Face Time	25	31	19



BME MALL NIGHT



From the Library

A huge thanks to BME PAC for their generous funding for **library author visits**. All students benefit from meeting authors and hearing about the writing process and the variety of topics they write about. Our PAC has provided a generous amount to help bring four authors to our school this year.

Frieda Wishinsky has already visited BME this November and spoke to our K to grade 3 students, sharing many wonderful stories and anecdotes about writing.

As part of education week, grade 5 and 6 students will partake in the **Eric Walters** author presentation at Kelowna Community Theatre in March.

BME will also be hosting **Margriet Ruurs** in April. She will be speaking to our grade 1-3 students.

Our final author visit for this school year will be with **Robert Cahill** who will speak to our grade 4-6 students. This visit will most likely be in April. Mr. Cahill will discuss two of the following topics: Climate Change, Myths and Legends, and Nunavut.

Please check out our library site on the BME website for pictures and videos of our Frieda Wishinsky author visit.

Happy Reading,
Ms. Manoin
Teacher Librarian



Report Card Time: Celebrate Student Success and Revisit Priorities

First term report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, December 14. Please take this time to congratulate your son/daughter on their accomplishments. Children learn at different rates and have different learning styles, however, every child needs the encouragement and acknowledgement from a parent that they have improved in some aspect of their education. If your child's report card indicates that first term performance

does not match perceived ability perhaps it is time to make some tough decisions as a family and re-evaluate what is important.

Term One Report Cards

Friday December 14th

Setting priorities together, being consistent and celebrating improvement will help to set up your son/daughter for success. Teachers are required to state recommendations on

the report card on ways parents may support student learning at home. If you are not sure of ways to help your child at home please ask the teacher or feel free to give Mrs. Watson a call. Family learning time supports not only intellectual development but teaches children cooperation and caring for others. We appreciate your continued support with student learning!

Winter is here! Dress for the weather, play safe and follow the NO throwing snowballs policy!

Students at BME are regularly reminded by staff and over the PA during morning announcements to dress for winter weather and to follow snow safety rules. Warm jackets, hats, boots and gloves are needed to enjoy outdoor play. Children are encouraged to enjoy the snow, to be creative in building structures and to have fun sliding on our school crazy carpets on our designated hill.

Throwing snowballs is prohibited by School Board policy due to the potential risk of injury. This means throwing snowballs on the school grounds, at bus stops and on the way to and from school is not permitted. We request that parents remind students of school snow safety guidelines.



Looking for Something Your Kids will LOVE doing this Winter?



Kelowna Ski Club is **NOW** accepting new members for our Entry Level programs ages 5-11.

Our classes are built on developing ski **FUND**amentals over a 10 week period. Fully qualified coaches will lead your young skier in a team environment through weekly skill sets resulting in good ski habits and a love for the sport.

Start off with our **Rookie Camp, Dec 22-23 for just \$60**. If after the Rookie Camp you join our regularly scheduled programs in January, the \$60 comes off your registration fee. What could be easier or better bang for your hard earned dollars!

Half Day Program (morning or afternoons) - 10 Weeks for only \$295 and NO HST!!

Full Day Program (5 hrs) - 10 Weeks for only \$495 and NO HST!!

* New this year is our optional hot lunch program.*

Please contact Shelley Torres to register or should you have any questions at shelley@bigwhiteracers.com or check us out at www.bigwhiteracers.com.

Information about Early Registration For September 2013

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23 (CENTRAL OKANAGAN) 2013/2014 INITIAL SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS (INCLUDING FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN AND REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOLS OF CHOICE FOR K - 12)

WHEN TO REGISTER: Registration opens Monday, February 4, 2013 and closes Thursday, March 7, 2013

QUALIFYING AGE: To qualify for school enrollment in September 2013, a child must be five years of age by December 31, 2013.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION: A valid birth certificate and immunization records for the child and two pieces of parent identification, must be provided at the time of registration .

DEFERRED ENROLLMENT: The School Act allows a parent to defer the enrollment of a Kindergarten child for not more than one year.

Parents are encouraged to discuss deferment with the school principal before a decision is made.





December 2012

The December Newsletter is now available on our website @ www.bme.sd23.bc.ca.

If you wish a hard copy to be sent home with your child, please let the office know.

1650 Gallagher Road
Kelowna, BC V1P 1G7
Tel: 250-765-1955
Fax: 250-870-5035

	2 Hot Lunch—Subway	3 Hot Lunch—Subway	4 11:00 Lunching with the Law—Grade 4 12:00 Gymnastics—Grade 2	5 10:00 K's Skating 12:30 Gr 4 Swim 5:00 PAC Mall Night	6 11:00 Nutcracker—Kindergarten & Grade 1 12:00 Gymnastics—Grade 2	8 7 11:00 Nutcracker—Kindergarten & Grade 1 12:00 Gymnastics—Grade 2	1 10:00 K's Skating 12:30 Gr 4 Swim 5:00 PAC Mall Night
9 	10 11:00 Hot Lunch—Freshbox Asian 12:00 Santa Bus/Food Drive Pick-up	11 11:00 Hot Lunch—Freshbox Asian 12:00 Santa Bus/Food Drive Pick-up	12 12:30 & 6:30 pm Christmas Concert	13 12:30 & 6:30 pm Christmas Concert	14 Report Cards Home	15 Report Cards Home	15 Report Cards Home
16 11:00 Hot lunch—Little Caesar's	17 11:00 Hot lunch—Little Caesar's	18 11:00 Library Monitors Lunch Social	19 11:00 Library Monitors Lunch Social	20 11:00 Library Monitors Lunch Social	21 Last day of School "Ho Down" 8:45—Primary 10:00—Intermediate	22 21 Last day of School "Ho Down" 8:45—Primary 10:00—Intermediate	22 21 Last day of School "Ho Down" 8:45—Primary 10:00—Intermediate
23 	24 25 Merry Christmas	25 Merry Christmas	26 Happy New Year	27 Happy New Year	28 Happy New Year	29 Happy New Year	29 Happy New Year
30 	31 Happy New Year	1 Happy New Year	2 Happy New Year	3 Happy New Year	4 Happy New Year	5 Happy New Year	5 Happy New Year

Yes! We have read & discussed the December Newsletter as a family!

Student Name(s) & Grade(s)

Answer:

Please return this coupon to the office by Wednesday, December 12th to enter your name in the

Chocolate Snowman Draw!

