



Dear Families,

January has been an eventful month, full of rain and snow as well as many opportunities for our students to extend their learning. Term two is a time to engage in learning new concepts as well as reinforce and develop previous experiences while focusing on core competencies. The students have been working on the personal social competency through our Dance PL3y program we have had in the school this past week. So inspiring to see the students take risks and be creative while building their team work skills. We have a full agenda for the following weeks leading up to Spring Break. Triple Ball is in full swing for our grade 6 and 7 students, some grade 6 and 7 students will also be enjoying the ski program at Mt. Seymour beginning next Friday. We are also excited for two performance groups joining us this month for our whole school's enjoyment.

In an attempt to make signing up for parent-teacher conferences more accessible we launched the online sign-up system last week. We hope this has helped you access the time slots that work for you and give you the opportunity to meet with teachers about your child's progress in Term 2. Please remember that we are dismissing at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, February 11th and Thursday, February, 13th.

Thank you to all staff and parents for their continued commitment to the children at Blueridge.

Sincerely,

Susan Teegen    Principal

Bridget O'Brien-Kopacek    Vice-Principal

## **School Plan Update**

We are excited to inform you that you will be able to monitor our school plan via the Blueridge website. You are able to access the school plan by going to the **About Us** tab and then clicking on **School Plan**. We continue to focus on our first goal - *To foster the social emotional competency in our school community*. We are now formulating and developing strategies around our second goal - *To increase School-wide reading engagement and excellence through building students' essential literacy skills*.

## **Second Step Update**

This month, our school-wide theme is emotion management. In our morning announcements we'll be prompting students to notice their own feelings by paying attention to clues in their bodies, and we'll be reminding them to use their *Second Step* skills to calm down:

Stop—Use your signal

Name your feeling

Calm down: Breathe, count, use positive self-talk

These skills help students calm down strong emotions when faced with learning and social challenges, which helps them succeed academically and get along well with others.

*Second Step* lessons specifically teach about calming down strong emotions such as anger, disappointment, frustration, and anxiety. You'll be receiving Home Links that describe why managing strong emotions is important and include fun activities to do with your child to help him or her identify strong feelings and calm down. We hope the Home Links will give you tools to use together when your child is upset.

# DANCEPL3Y

The students have been involved in a school wide dance program which has focused on physical literacy with three rules: *Be positive, Be fun, Be yourself*. The students have embraced the challenge and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to try something new. They have been exposed to a variety of genres of music as well as developed their literacy and communication skills. What a great way to develop a sense of belonging!!

## **Triple ball**

The Triple Ball season is underway with 8 teams participating. The energy and sportsmanship demonstrated by our intermediate students is contagious. We appreciate all the support provided by teacher and parent coaches that allow this program to happen. Mrs. Bates, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Colangelo, Mrs. Madill, Mrs. White, Mr. Davis, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Gibson.

## **Social Justice Club**

Blueridge is embarking on giving students an opportunity to make a difference by engaging in topics that evoke deep thinking and action. The club will focus on raising student awareness about issues and providing advocacy and aid opportunities to empower the students to effect change. They met for the first time this week, stay tuned for action updates from your Blueridge Social Justice Club.

## **BPAC**

The BPAC continues to support our community with many fundraising initiatives and community building activities. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the parents who volunteer to make Blueridge a great place. In particular our hot lunch parents who go above and beyond to make sure the children are fed and happy. A big thank you for BPAC support of table tennis, our upcoming performance and the First Aid program for the grade 6's. Come out to BPAC meetings, the last Thursday of

the month, to hear about continuous growth in our school plan, parent initiatives and fundraisers.

**Upcoming Dates:**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Wed. Feb. 5th   | Windsor Counsellors to visit grade 7's                     |
| Thurs. Feb. 6th | Ice Skating Div. 1, 2, 3<br>Innovative Juggler performance |
| Fri. Feb. 7th   | Pro - D - Day - students not in attendance                 |
| Feb. 11, 12, 13 | Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences                 |
| Fri. Feb. 14th  | Skiing Program - grade 6/7                                 |
| Wed. Feb. 19th  | Windsor Band performance                                   |
| Fri. Feb. 21st  | Skiing Program - grade 6/7                                 |
| Wed. Feb. 26th  | Pink Shirt Day - Ryan Laird Performance                    |
| Fri. Feb. 28th  | Bighouse - grade 3<br>Skiing Program - grade 6/7           |