



## LYNN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Pink Shirt Day!**

On Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lynn Valley will be celebrating kindness and wearing pink! There will be a virtual assembly as well as classroom activities and discussions focusing on being inclusive and kind.

The LVE Alphabet Alliance Club is leading the charge in this endeavour. The theme this year is 'Lift Each Other Up'. The Alphabet Alliance Club acknowledges and celebrates ALL cultures, identities and gender expressions with kindness, acceptance and respect.

### **Alphabet Alliance Champions Fund-raising for a 'Buddy Bench'!**

The LVE Alphabet Alliance club has designed a special rainbow button that will be given to all staff and students on Pink Shirt Day. We are hoping to fund-raise for a **Buddy Bench** on our grounds. Please consider donating a Loonie or a Toonie or any amount of your choice to help us raise the money to buy a bench!



### **How does the Buddy Bench work?**

If you are sitting on the bench ... You are looking for a friend. When someone asks you to play, join them! Remember to glance over at the school's Buddy Bench regularly to invite other new friends to join in on the fun.

If you are not sitting on the bench ... Ask your classmate on the buddy bench to play, and make a new friend today!

### **A Message from the Alphabet Alliance**

This year, we are extremely excited to tell you that we are working together to purchase a special bench, called a Buddy Bench, for our playground, and that we will need your help.

The main goal of this bench is to help kids avoid feeling lonely and isolated at school. At recess, many students may feel left out, may be having a difficult day, or are shy. When there's a buddy bench on the playground, those children can sit down and wait for other students to reach out to them. Other schools that have buddy benches have found that more students look out for one another and invite each other to play, and fewer students feel lonely or alone.

As you can see in the photo, the bench is full of many colours and shapes. The Alphabet Alliance would like to explain what these mean. Many of you have seen the rainbow colors before on the pride flags and crosswalks around our city. Red stands for Life, Orange for Healing, Yellow for Sunlight, Green for Nature, Blue for

Harmony and Violet for Spirit. There are now more colours and shapes on the flag. The pink, blue and white horizontal stripes represent transgender people. Two light blue, which is the traditional colour for boys, two pinks for girls, with a white stripe in the centre for those who are transitioning and who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender. Nowadays, people of any gender are brave enough to wear any colour they choose. The colours black and brown were added to represent people of colour. The placement of these colours in an arrow shape is meant to convey that progress and change is still needed.

Our student-led club has had cool buttons made and every student will get one to wear on PINK SHIRT DAY. We will be collecting donations to show our support for diversity and inclusion and kindness at Lynn Valley Elementary. The money raised by these donations will go towards getting a Buddy Bench for our school.

Next week, on Wednesday, February 23, each class will be collecting donations in the classroom. Please bring a Loonie or Toonie so that we can get our Buddy Bench soon, and don't forget to wear PINK.

Parents, if you would like to know more, please check out this link:

[https://www.parents.com/kids/education/why-kids-are-buying-buddy-benches-for-their-schools/?fbclid=IwAR0iTzPUPfT3o\\_nQ3ZS8tXfloM6cwEjUutGT4z8Lu3b1LTTC936afpw5N0M](https://www.parents.com/kids/education/why-kids-are-buying-buddy-benches-for-their-schools/?fbclid=IwAR0iTzPUPfT3o_nQ3ZS8tXfloM6cwEjUutGT4z8Lu3b1LTTC936afpw5N0M)

### **Report Cards**

Reports will be published to MyEdBC on Friday, March 4. For instructions on how to log in click here: [Instructions](#)

### **Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences – Wed., March 9<sup>th</sup>, AND Thurs., March 10, 2022.**

Students will be dismissed early on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in support of Parent-Teacher Interviews.

- Intermediates will be dismissed at 1:45pm
- Primaries will be dismissed at 2pm

Please make arrangements now to ensure that your children are picked up on time.

Interviews will be hosted using Microsoft Teams. Teachers will be reaching out to parents directly to set up a time and explain the process for second term.

### **Emergency Release Drill – Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:15pm.**

Our school will be holding an Emergency Release Drill from 1:15-2:30pm on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Victoria Day Holiday long weekend. Please mark your calendars.

You will have the **option** to be a part of our whole school drill by taking part in a controlled release of students. Students whose families are not able to be a part of the drill will be dismissed at their usual times. More information will come in third term.