



FERRIS FLYER

RESPECT OURSELVES, RESPECT OTHERS, RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we head into December, we are looking forward to special activities and events at Ferris School! These include our next Student Family Teams activity (on Monday, December 4), our Winter Concert evenings, our school movie and sing-a-long, and more! Report cards will be going home on Friday, December 15, and our term ends on Friday, December 22.

This has been a busy and productive term, and our **Ferris Inspirational School Helpers** (F.I.S.H. group) have been busy planning activities for the school-- thinking about how we can make a difference in our school and community. Please watch for information about these activities on our website and through Twitter!

This term our **volleyball teams** were able to participate in the Richmond High School tournament as well as play other school teams—thanks to our teacher/coaches for their sponsorship of this after school activity—Mr. Kruk, Ms. Oye, Mr. Chan and Ms. Kishi!

We are continuing to **look at ways to monitor and manage our traffic and parking**—please see more about this in this newsletter, as well as ways you may help. Some people may still be unclear—so we'll try to improve the clarity of our expectations. Thank you so much for the MAJORITY of parents at this very large school who are respectful, cooperative, and help make it safe for our students during drop off and pick up, and thus make our job easier. We appreciate your help every day.

As always, we would like to **thank all of our parent community** for being partners in the education of your children. We would especially like to thank the many parents and guardians who have volunteered throughout the school in so many ways this term; whether it's serving on our school PAC, helping out at the school during hot lunches, fruit and veggie delivery days, movie nights, field trips and more! We appreciate your efforts on behalf of the Ferris Community!

Staff Update: We have welcomed Ms. Unrau (back to Ferris from retirement!)—she is working as part of our Resource/ELL team for three days a week. In addition, we have another part-time staff member, Ms. Pinero, who is one of our Relief/ELL teachers. We are pleased to have them!

Best Wishes for the Season!

Mrs. Steele
Principal

Ms. Bahd
Vice Principal

Upcoming Events



Student Family Teams Activity #2 Monday, December 4

Every year all of our students are put into teams of mixed ages/grades students at the beginning of the year. Periodically, our teams will get together to do activities and to work on something as a team. We had our first Student Family Teams activity in November so students could get to know each other. At the end of the year our Student Family Teams participate in Sports Day. Family teams are one of the opportunities to show H.E.A.R.T= Helpful and Safe, Empathetic, Accountable, Respect and Truly Kind (particularly for our older students who take a leadership role.) We will be working on Snow Globe decorations at our next Family Teams event on Monday, December 4. Look for our decorations at our upcoming winter concerts!

PAC News

**Pot Luck and PAC Meeting
Wednesday, December, 6
Potluck at 6:00 and Meeting at 7:00PM**

Please join us on Wednesday, December 6! As we celebrate the end of a term, the PAC will be having a potluck—bring a dish to share please. Potluck starts at 6:00 pm and the meeting to follow at 7:00 in the Ferris Staffroom. **ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME!** A reminder that students cannot attend this potluck social event on their own, and must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Are you interested in helping out? PAC is looking for a Co-Chair to help our Chair...please contact the PAC for more information: ferrispac@gmail.com



Konstella

Konnect Parents

Stay Connected with PAC News Through the PAC Run *Konstella*

This is a tool built specifically for parent committees to streamline communications and foster close-knit parent communities. It is a private service and only registered Ferris users can access it. In addition to a very helpful calendar with email alerts on important dates for the school, *Konstella* is also used for sign ups and tracking volunteers. We ask all parents to join *Konstella* (it's free) so as not to miss out on any important information.

Please see the Ferris website under PAC for more information.

D.A.R.E.

Celebrating our D.A.R.E. Program Grad for our Grade 5 Students Thursday, December 7 9:15 AM in the Gym

D.A.R.E. BC Society is a Canadian registered charity whose purpose is to empower the children of British Columbia with the critical thinking and life skills necessary to choose a drug-free life. The Society's primary mission is to support the RCMP's delivery of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Keeping It REAL (KIR) program to BC school children in grade 5 to enable them to become safe and responsible citizens. This term, we have been fortunate to have Constable Kandola deliver this program to all of our grade 5 students, and this will be a wonderful opportunity to recognize their learning on this special morning.



WINTER CONCERT WEEK

Tuesday, December 12, *Dress Rehearsal* at school—please refer to notices already sent home to help prepare what your child needs to wear. Dress Rehearsal during the day is for students only.

Wednesday December 13 Concert Evening #1

For Parents of students in:
Div. 1,4,5,6,10,11,15,16,21,22 and Lunch Hour Band. Doors open at 5:00 pm; concert starts at 5:30 pm.

Thursday, December 14 Concert Evening #2

For Parents of students in:
Div. 2,3,7,8,9,12,13,14,17,18,19,20, and Lunch Hour Band. Doors open at 5:00 pm; concert starts at 5:30 pm.



Report Cards Going Home Friday, December 15

Each term the report card is sent home—one of the ways classroom teachers communicate student learning. They also communicate in other ways including some or many of these: e-portfolio (for some classes), homework, agendas, class notices, feedback on student work, conversations, etc. Thank you for supporting your child by encouraging their continued efforts.



Comfy/PJ Day and School-Wide Movie Wednesday, December 20

Our Spirit FISH group would like to invite all the students to wear pajamas for Comfy/PJ day. Because we will be watching a movie in the gym, students are also invited to bring something to sit on (like a pillow or a blanket). A reminder that students will still be going outside for recess and lunch outdoor play so must still come dressed for the weather (i.e. coats, runners/boots, etc.).

Lost and Found



Please come and check our lost and found items to see if anything belongs to your children! It's helpful if you have labels in your child's clothing—as it is then possible to get items/clothing to the rightful owner. However, most clothing is not labelled. We will be having any unclaimed items picked up for good will on Thursday, December 21. **Please make sure you claim any lost and found items by Wednesday, December 20.**

Last Day of School before Winter Break, Friday, December 22

Student Sing-a-Long in the Gym (time to be determined)

Monday, January 8, 2018 - First day back at school.

Friday, January 26 – Half Day Pro-D, Early Dismissal, 11:25 AM

Ongoing Events

Our School Story—Ferris H.E.A.R.T.

Our focus this school year is in the Core Competency of Social Responsibility—most particularly helping our students to build more personal connections among students and adults in the school, to help our students develop a stronger internal motivation, and to build their understanding of our HEART Matrix.

Our children learn so many important values from home, and we add to that our school values through **H.E.A.R.T.—Helpful & Safe, Empathetic, Accountable, Respectful and Truly Kind**. When our students make a mistake, hurt someone, or make a poor choice, together with parents, we work together to help them learn from what happened so they can make better choices in the future. We believe in our students and we are committed to helping them:

- 1) Solve problems in peaceful ways
- 2) Value diversity
- 3) Build relationships

H.E.A.R.T. helps guide our actions at school.

Some Things to Know....

Visitor Check-in at the Office

Parents: During the school day (after the morning start up and including recess and lunch)

please check in at the office when you come to the school. Whether you are dropping off something for your child, or need us to call them down for an appointment, we are happy to help. It is important for us to know who is in our school. We appreciate your continued assistance.

Staff: Staff visitors always check in at the office as well, and get a visitor badge so students can see that visiting staff are wearing ID badges.

We ask all of our staff to check with anyone in the school without a badge—with the polite question - “May I help you?”...in this way, we ensure the safety of all children. Perhaps you need assistance, or perhaps you were unaware of this “All Visitors to Check In at the Office” practice. You are most welcome at the school—and our office staff is here to assist!

Thank you,
Mrs. Steele

The Coca Cola Machine: is being removed as the company no longer finds it profitable enough at Ferris. They had only been providing juice and water. Water is available for free—juice can be brought from home if desired.

Parking—expectations and plan to be discussed briefly at the next PAC Meeting

Thank you so much to the majority of parents who:

...are using the drop off zone as it is meant to be used...drop and GO! (no parking and waiting) You are helping things run smoothly in the morning.

... are walking in to the school to drop off and pick up their children (Benefits are: great bonding, an opportunity for exercise, and your children are always dressed for the weather)

...are patient and respectful at all times

...follow the rules and stay out of the staff parking lot

...shut off your engines when waiting (THANK YOU on behalf of all the little lungs)

Some issues we are still working on:

...use of staff parking lot by parents, jaywalking by parents, parking and/or stopping and waiting in the drop off zone, disrespect, impatience, etc.

More information about parking changes coming soon.....

