



Canyon Heights E-News

Our actions re **RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE**

May 27, 2011

On Target for May...

Grade 4 - Hali A., Gillian B., Shannon B., Arianna E., Olivia K., Sormeh M., Carson R., Jason T., and Tate W.

Grade 5 - Sarah B., Hazel D., Michelle L., Kayla M., and Shawna N.

Grade 6 - Isaac B., Evan D., James E., Aliya H., Thomas K., Alexander M., Matthew N., and Matthew Y

Grade 7 - Jefferson L., Owen L., Aryanna R., Amy S., Dylan S., and Ryan T.

School Calendar for 2011-2012

Included with this newsletter is a copy of the school calendar for next year. This calendar is also posted on the Canyon Heights website.

The School Act (Sections 77 and 78) sets standard school calendars and hours of instruction whereby each school calendar must specify: the school's opening and closing dates, the number of days the school is in session, the number of days of instruction, the dates of vacations and holidays, the number of days of non-instruction, and the hours of instruction.

Lunch Days Over

Please remember that Hot Lunch Days **are finished for the year** and, for the month of June you will need to send a lunch with your child on Wednesdays.

Thank you to the many volunteer parents who arrive each Wednesday lunch hour to make sure that all the milk, cookies, pizzas and burgers are delivered to classrooms on time!! Students and parents alike enjoy Wednesday Lunch Days.

Think Globally, Walk Locally

Congratulations Canyon Heights—our school-wide fundraising effort raised almost \$1000.00 for each of the following organizations: Children's Hospital, Nicaragua Housing, Haiti Orphanage and Free the Children.

Strings in the Park Concert - June 2

Band Concert – June 6

All Strings Students will perform in the Annual Ice Cream Concert in the Park. Performances start 7:00 PM

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Students should arrive at 6:15PM

Location: Across from Nancy Greene Way and Prospect in Capilano Regional Park on the Grassy Knoll by Cleveland Lake and Dam. Alternate location should the weather not co-operate will be Montroyal School.

Our band students will have their final concert at Canyon Heights on June 6th at 7:00PM

Track and Field

Congratulations to all our students who have enthusiastically participated in Track and Field this year – they have had to participate under less than ideal weather conditions for most of this season. We have 50 students who will move on to the District Track Meet being held on June 7th at Swangard Stadium – good luck everyone!



Ipad 2 pilot: Students in Div. 7 work cooperatively while viewing and reviewing the educational impact of Apps

Staff and Combined Classes

A combined class is when two or more grades are together in one class. The prescribed learning outcomes and all policies on instruction, assessment and reporting are the same for all students in the same grade, whether or not they are in a combined class.

How can parents help support their children in a combined class?

Parents can support their children in the same ways they would if they were in a single grade class. Staying interested and concerned about school work and activities, monitoring a child's homework and thoughts about school, keeping in touch with the teacher and attending the school whenever possible are all ways that parents can support their child's learning. Questions or concerns about your child's progress or well-being at school should be addressed to the teacher. Teachers also want your child's year to be successful and will do their best to answer your questions and address your concerns. If you want more information about curriculum requirements or teaching strategies, or if your child feels overwhelmed or underchallenged, ask to speak to the teacher. Open communication with the teacher is an important aspect of supporting your child at school.

Why do we have combined classes?

The first reason is student enrollment. Elementary schools accept all students who live in the catchment area and who enroll by a certain date each year. A school with 33 grade 2 students and 36 grade 3 students would receive 3 teachers for that number. Since the maximum primary class size is 24, we have the option of creating a grade 2, a 2/3 and a 3 or of having three classes of grades 2/3. The latter option is the most flexible for creating compatible groupings of students, including those with special needs, and for adding new students who may arrive during the year. The second reason schools may choose to create combined classes is to improve the learning experience for specific groups of children. There is good evidence that this can often be the case.

What process is used to assign students to a class?

Typically, a wide range of intellectual and social/emotional characteristics are considered to create balanced classes. It is a good practice for schools to inform parents about this process and also to allow them to contribute information about their children that might have some bearing on the decision. This process is begun in the spring and continues into the first week of September when student enrollments are confirmed.

What are the benefits of a combined class?

There is nothing inherently "right" or "wrong" about single grade classes or combined classes. They are simply ways of organizing children for instruction. Each has its strengths and its limitations. A survey of the literature on combined classes, published in 2001 and available on the internet (ERIC Identifier ED448935) has this to say: Despite inconsistencies in research findings, those studies that report significant achievement outcomes for students in multiage classrooms over those in single-age classes demonstrate gains in both language and mathematics.

Advantages for multiage students have been shown to increase the longer students remain in multiage classrooms. Students in multiage classrooms demonstrate more positive attitudes toward school, greater leadership skills, greater self-esteem, and increased prosocial and fewer aggressive behaviors, compared to peers in traditional graded classrooms.

Statistical analysis demonstrated that students from multiage classrooms achieved greater academic outcomes in relation to their abilities and demonstrated greater increases in academic achievement than students of the same and higher abilities from single-age classrooms when all classrooms employed developmentally appropriate teaching practices.

What are the challenges of a combined class?

Teachers need to be familiar with the curriculum for both grades and the variety of resources available in the school and in the district. Most teachers of a combined class will integrate the majority of the curriculum for the grades rather than teach separate grades within the class. This requires a sophisticated approach to integrating knowledge and skills but it can be done in ways that do not repeat or "miss out" on prescribed curriculum.

What are typical parent concerns about combined classes?

Parents have expressed concerns about their child repeating content in a combined class. This need not be the case if teachers keep each other informed of instructional topics/units that are covered. Some parents are concerned when their child is in the older age of a combined class s/he might be held back in some way. Again, as the research indicates, this need not be the case if appropriate teaching strategies are used. However, if you have any concerns or questions you should speak to the teacher immediately.

Lost and Found ...

is full and overflowing. Please make a point of stopping by to see if that missing pair of shoes, boots, or that nice new jacket which has disappeared might be among the items that we have 'collected' over the past few months. You just never know—it might be there! At the end of the year, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

2011-2012 School Fees

At the May Staff and PAC meetings, the School Fee information for next year was approved. Each year fees must be reviewed and approved at the school level and then at the District level. We will submit the following to the District:

'Other' supplies such as student planners for grades 1 to 7 students will be part of the school supply list. We will continue to offer the pre-order system for our customized Canyon Heights' planners as we have in previous years. The order form has been sent home with students.

Field trips or workshops that enhance or enrich curriculum will be charged on a cost recovery basis. Any special classroom projects that involve finished items students will take home, will be charged on a cost recovery basis as well.

Should costs of these items or any other costs for activities be an issue for parents, please talk to our administration. Inability to fund any activity can be handled at the school level to ensure all students are able participate.

Exact dates of visits are not yet available to us, but during the 2011-2012 school year our school will have scheduled visits to the North Vancouver Outdoor School as follows:

Grade 6 – 5 day Intermediate Environmental Field Studies - \$250.00

Grade 4 - 2 day Bighouse Skw'unc-was program - \$ 95.00

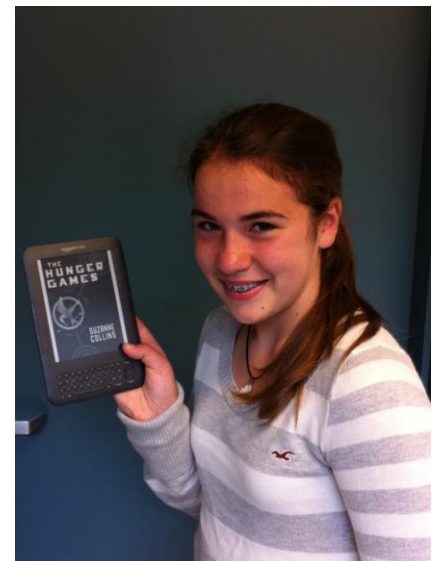
Dates to Remember Please check the Canyon Heights website www.canyonhts.ca for up to date calendar information.

- May 30** - Curriculum Implementation Day – no classes
- May 31** - Target Assembly, 9am start
- June 2** - 7:00PM – Strings Ice Cream Concert
- June 6 – 17** - Tennis BC
- June 6** - 7:00PM – Band Concert
- June 13** - PAC Meeting
- June 20 – 24** - Grade 6 to Outdoor School
- June 27** - 10:20AM Recognition Assembly
- June 28** - 10:30AM Farewell Assembly
- June 29** - Last day of school – report cards issued and classes dismissed at noon

Our Library gets a Kindle

A review by grade 7 student, D.D.

Over the past few weeks I have been given the opportunity to try out the Kindle for our school. During my time using the Kindle I found that I was more engaged and entertained than reading paper pages of a novel because the Kindle uses the type of technology my generation has become most familiar with. I think for me and for upcoming generations, the Kindle technology will become our new book standard used in our every day lives. I think that the intermediate students could benefit from using the Kindles because we could use these in university and high school and even during the rest of our life. The Kindle is extremely light and easy to carry because it allows you to have access to over one hundred books on a single Kindle that would weigh less than one book. Over all, using the Kindle made reading more interesting and fun for me, and I am sure it will do the same for others.





BOARD APPROVED LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011/2012

| DESIGNATION | 2011/2012 |
|---|---|
| Days in session | 193 |
| Minimum number of days of instruction | 186 |
| Maximum number of non-instructional days | 6 |
| Schools open | Tuesday, September 6, 2011 |
| Canyon Heights Pro D Day | September 23, 2011 |
| District-wide Child Abuse Protocols Training Early Dismissal: 1:45PM | October 4, 2011 |
| Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday | Monday, October 10, 2011 |
| Province-wide non-instructional day | Friday, October 21, 2011 |
| Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday | Friday, November 11, 2011 |
| Schools close for Winter vacation | Friday, December 16, 2011 |
| Winter vacation period | December 19, 2011 to January 2, 2012 |
| Schools reopen after Winter vacation | Tuesday, January 3, 2012 |
| District non-instructional day (Curriculum Implementation) | Monday, January 16, 2012 |
| District non-instructional day | Friday, February 24, 2012 |
| Schools close for Spring vacation (<i>includes 5 local calendar days</i>) | Friday, March 9, 2012 |
| Spring vacation period | March 12 to 23, 2012 |
| Schools reopen after Spring vacation | Monday, March 26, 2012 |
| Good Friday Statutory Holiday | Friday, April 6, 2012 |
| Easter Monday Statutory Holiday | Monday, April 9, 2012 |
| District non-instructional day | Friday, May 4, 2012 |
| Victoria Day Statutory Holiday | Monday, May 21, 2012 |
| Canyon Heights Pro D Day | June 28, 2011 |
| Administrative Day | Friday, June 29, 2012 |
| Schools Close for Summer Vacation | Friday, June 29, 2012 |

The Board Approved Local School Calendar 2011/2012 reduces the number of days of instruction by five (5) days. Sufficient minutes will be added to each day of the school year in order to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education.

Canyon Heights PAC News

As the school year draws to a close it is a good time to reflect on the wonderful year just past and all the amazing opportunities that our children have been given at the school. It's important to also review where the money raised through fundraising has been spent over the year to benefit our children. This year's Canyon Heights PAC would like to share all this information with you so please join us.....

Canyon Heights PAC AGM

Monday June 13 2011
7-9PM in the Library

- Voting on a Special Resolution to repeal the current CH PAC Constitution and Bylaws and Adopt a [New Constitution and Bylaws](#)
- Review of the Past Year's Canyon Heights PAC activities with Brief Reports from Executive Officers
- Voting your new committee for 2011-2012

The meeting will be followed by a Wine and Cheese social hour.

All Welcome

Please let the Office know in advance if you require babysitting for your children

Volunteering at Canyon Heights

If you would like to become more involved next year there are lots of volunteer positions no matter how many hours you have available over they year. We have posted a comprehensive list on the School Website www.canyonhts.ca The same information is also displayed on the notice board in the school entrance listing some of the opportunities available.

We will also be looking for Class Representatives in September, once the children start back at school.

Please have a look and see if there is anything that appeals to you. Any of the current PAC Executive would be happy to answer questions or contact myself Wendy Young, Canyon Heights PAC Co-chair - young4@shaw.ca