



Mission Hill Elementary School

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Principal: Ms. M. Yurkowski Vice Principal: Mr. J. Beck

Jolly January!

It looks like the cold weather has finally caught up to us! Please remember to send your child to school with proper winter wear. We had such a fabulous December, the Cultural Fair with our grade 6/7s was amazing with some incredible food, with a free Lunch, wonderful Winter Concert and the unveiling of our new mural.

Cold Weather and Snow- With the snow coming this is just a reminder that students can't bring their sleds, the school does have crazy carpets for kids to use. Reminder that students should be dressed appropriate for the weather, if you need help with winter gear let me know. Please remind your child that there can not be any snowball throwing as this can cause injury to students.

School Supplies – Please pay your school fees. Any fees that are not paid come out of the school budget. Pay what you can when you can.

PAC – Our PAC is always looking for more members and help. Their next meeting is Monday, January 15th, at 7pm in the library at the school. PAC is also providing pizza lunches on Fridays on a regular basis with payments (\$3/slice) due on Tuesday of the week.

Grade 7 Parent Meeting- In preparation for transition to high school I would like to meet with all parents to plan a celebration and possible overnight trip for our grade 7s. Meeting will take place in the Mission Hill Library, Monday, January 17th at 6pm, prior to the PAC meeting.

Basketball Practices	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Grade 6 Boys	Grade 7 Boys	Grade 6 Boys	Grade 7 Boys	Grade 6/7 Girls
Afterschool	Grade 6/7 Girls		BOYS Game Day	GIRLS Game Day	

The schedule for games will be sent home early next week!

End of Day and coming into the school –Reminder that the school days end at 2:30pm. Please be patient when coming to pick up your children, reminder that the last 5-10 minutes of a day

are very precious for student reflection, transmitting information that needs to go home, and finalizing any details of learning. We really appreciate your cooperation with this!

School Focus: This is a reminder that we are working on improving literacy results for all our students this year. Each newsletter will have an idea or two as suggestions to try to help with improving your child's literacy success at home.

Important Dates:

January 11- Late French Immersion Program meeting with grade 5 students

January 15- School Registration and Transfer Day- if you are wanting to transfer it opens at 9:00am, do it as quickly as possible!

January 15- Grade 7 Parent Meeting 6pm

January 15- PAC Meeting 7pm

January 25- MDI Survey Grade 5 Students

January 26- Professional Development Day- no school for students

January 30- Twin Day- you and a friend dress the same.

READ TO AND WITH YOUR KIDS!!!

Preschoolers and elementary school-aged kids have a wide range of reading abilities. It's a good idea to take their lead when it comes to simple versus complex books.

Younger kids (and even some older ones) may still appreciate pictures with little text. That said, you can start introducing stories that have more complex plots in them and books with more words than pictures — even chapter books.

As your child begins reading on their own, you might involve them in the process of reading together by asking them to read words or sentences out loud along the way. This is great practice.

Ask questions as you move through the text, too — you don't have to wait until the end of the book or chapter to check your child's comprehension. Try open-ended questions like "What do you think might happen next?" These will help your child delve deeper, rather than surface questions like "What color is the house?"

Experts recommend engaging in literacy activities (like reading) for around [30 minutes](#) per day. But you can also think outside the book here.

Try reading traffic signs or cereal boxes, singing songs, listening to audiobooks together, or having your child read to you to the best of their ability. It's all good.

You shouldn't stop reading to your child once they learn to read themselves. While independent reading is certainly important, reading out loud to kids as old as age 14 still holds benefits, both academically and emotionally.

At this age, it's about your older child's reading fluency and comprehension. It may be helpful for them to follow along in the book as you read. And consider asking questions about the text to gauge their comprehension.

- **Be consistent.** Whether it's one book per day or 15, try to make reading a part of your regular routine. And while you're at it, you don't have to read different books each time you sit down. Kids love hearing the same stories over and over again — and they learn through this type of repetition.
- **Take your time.** Be sure to leave enough time to read versus sneaking it in or — worse — making it a chore. Of course, you won't have loads of time each day to read, so some quickies are just fine. However, your child should see reading as a dedicated activity and one that you give your full attention to.
- **Make it fun.** Use different voices for characters, pauses, songs, or other dramatics to make the story come to life. Reading with flair will help your child better understand the story. It also provides a good model of expressive and fluent reading for kids who have begun reading by themselves.
- **Point out connections.** Children love applying stories to their own lives. It not only makes the text more meaningful, but it also may help your child cope with different situations they encounter in their everyday experience. Point out those connections to your child. Note where the character was brave about that monster beneath their bed. Applaud the character who used the potty for the first time.
- **Don't stop with books.** Any exchange of words is beneficial to kids. So, if you're uninspired by books one night, turn to telling stories. You can also look at pictures and talk about what you see or ask your child to be the storyteller. Anything that gets language flowing between you and your child is golden.

Some fun pictures from December!





