



Arthur Stevenson Elementary

2890 BANK ROAD
KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6Y7
Principal: Mr. Grant Reilly

TELEPHONE (250) 579-9284
FAX (250) 377-2239
Website astevenson.sd73.bc.ca
Email: greilly@sd73.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Last year, school staff started to think about the qualities or attributes of a successful learner at Arthur Stevenson Elementary. Staff worked in small groups to create their collaborative picture of a successful student. Through this process, staff came up with a number of different attributes and qualities successful learners possess. Several attributes were common among all the groups. Some of these examples are: students who can self-regulate their emotions/feelings, confidence, perseverance, curious, virtuous, accepting, and supportive. To help create a shared vision of a successful learner at Arthur Stevenson, I am asking for parents to engage in this conversation. To do this, I have included a link to a one question survey for parents to give us input on what success for their own child would look like. Please take the time to fill out the survey in the next few days to help us build a cohesive vision of a successful learner at Arthur Stevenson!

Survey Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5UxLu8Q2HUtEqn8dC54z0Q8r-dp7PV5qKbVSSStCp_FJHCSA/vi/ewform

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Reilly", written in a cursive style.

Grant Reilly

Kindergarten Registration 2017-18 School Year

It is already that time for the district to begin thinking about student enrolment for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten registration for students attending Arthur Stevenson will take place at the school during the week of February 14th - 17th. Please remember to bring your child's birth certificate and care card when registering. As well, only students who live in the catchment area of Arthur Stevenson will be registered, so please bring a proof of address when registering. Any families living outside of our school's catchment will need to register at their catchment school and then fill out a transfer form should parents want their child to attend Arthur Stevenson. This transfer form should be brought to Arthur Stevenson during the Kindergarten registration period.

Kindergarten Roundup Event

There will be a meeting for parents of children who are entering Kindergarten in September 2017 at the Henry Grube Centre on Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Information will be shared about Kindergarten, early learning and child care.

PAC News

Book Sale

PAC will be hosting a gently used book sale on Saturday, February 18th at Arthur Stevenson Elementary from 10 am to 1 pm. Look for more information to come from PAC asking families to donate any books in good condition that could be used for the sale.

Curriculum Presentation

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for *Monday, February 6th @ 6:30*. The meeting will start with a presentation on the new curriculum and examples of how this new curriculum is being taught in classrooms. If you have any questions regarding the new curriculum, please do your best to attend this presentation. As always, childminding is available at all PAC meetings.

Winter Clothing Still Applies

We have, once again experienced some cold weather during the last couple of days. During this time we have observed many students showing up to school without heavy winter coats, gloves/mittens and hats. Please ensure your child is adequately dressed for the cold weather so students are prepared to be outside in cold temperatures during their recess and lunch breaks.

Cardboard Design Challenge

Thanks for all your support of the Cardboard Design Challenge that happened last week. All of the students worked to create designs of various sophistication and for a particular purpose. The students proudly shared their creations with other students during a gallery walk on Friday. Below are some pictures of projects as well as an article written about the design challenge by grade 7 student, Becca Porrier.



Cardboard Chaos at Arthur Stevenson Elementary

By Becca Porrier

The Arthur Stevenson cardboard challenge was inspired by Caine, a 9 year old boy who decided he was going to build an arcade out of cardboard. This sounds crazy but Caine did it and he did it well. His first game, a game where the objective was to throw the ball into the hoop at the back of a cardboard box, was amazing. Thinking that a grade 3 or 4 kid could build that is incredible. At the start Caine only had one customer, but his one customer made a huge difference. He posted a picture on a website of things to do in eastern L.A and the lineups were out the door at Caine's Arcade. He sold so many tickets and people were crazy about his arcade. He is now 13 years old. He has retired from the arcade but he now travels around the world talking about his creation. Caine's story inspired the Imagination Foundation. According to their website "The mission of the Imagination Foundation is to find, foster and fund creativity and entrepreneurship in children around the world to raise a new generation of innovators and problem solvers who have the tools they need to build the world they imagine". Caine is an amazing inspiration for so many people of all ages. He is the inspiration for creative learning and play. This is where the cardboard challenge was born.

The cardboard challenge is a challenge where students are given cardboard and scissors and told to let their imagination run wild. It is a worldwide event that has happened every year for the past four years. The teachers are really encouraging creative play among their students. We were instructed to bring in cardboard for the challenge because the teachers could not supply all of it. We were also told that it was optional to bring supplies such as paint, markers, etc., but we had to bring them in ourselves. I went around my school and asked students if they were enjoying themselves and everyone said yes. The classrooms were filled with joy, laughter, collaboration and creativity.

Most of the kindergartens were making pet or doll houses and what looks like just a cardboard box becomes one student's thinking cap when he puts it on his head. Another group made a visually impressive life-size skee ball. They gave out passes for three tries to get it in the holes. I observed that as the grades got higher the ideas were getting more extravagant. Jewelry boxes, cat scratching posts, and even arcade games. Our class is doing a set for the play that we recently wrote. It is a playground and classroom scene. My group is going to build a swing set and a slide out of cardboard. I think that trying to build a swing that will actually sway will be a challenge but that is what this is about. Challenging yourself to do the best you can do to succeed.

With the new curriculum we are encouraged to use our imagination and we are really being pushed to build things as well. Genius hour was another project we did that encouraged us to really use our imagination and learn something new. We got to pick something we were passionate about and we got to learn more about it. Life is all about learning new things and with the new curriculum that is what they are trying to teach us. We are also taught how to create and the cardboard challenge goes with this well. When I went around the school everyone was eager to show me their projects and tell me what they were working on. Collaboration was also something we were working with as it is a very important life skill. My class did not get to pick the groups we were in so we were involuntarily working with people we maybe didn't talk to or particularly like. This meant that we had to collaborate and listen to each others' ideas. Collaboration is key when it comes to building. In my opinion this challenge is amazing because kids are having fun not even realizing that they are learning in the process.

As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much". In my opinion this is a wonderful project and this should be done more than once yearly so all students can experience this tremendous activity multiple times. The cardboard challenge has had over 750, 000 student participants so far. The variety of cardboard structures throughout my school are incredible. Even the creations that look simple are very creative. I feel that this is a wonderful activity because it teaches students so many aspects of learning and it is fun for people for all ages! It is so marvelous that people all around the world have the opportunity to collaborate with others while using their imagination.

Upcoming Events

- February 6 - PAC Meeting @ 6:30
- February 10 - Skating (Dhaliwal/Bertoncini)
- February 10 - Ms. Sorensen's class to the Science Centre
- February 10 - Pizza Day
- February 10 - Tier 1 Boys Tournament @ Brock
- February 13 - Family Day Holiday
- February 17 - Skating (Simpson/Kovacs/Head)
- February 18 - PAC Book Sale @ ASES (10 - 1)
- February 22 - Recognition Assembly @ 8:45
- February 22 - Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day)
- February 22 - Grade 6/7 Chili Dinner
- February 24 - Non-Instructional Day - School Closed for students

Board of Education Notes

From the Board Meeting of: January 16, 2017

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - Adoption of the Mid-Term Inaugural Meeting minutes of December 12, 2016
 - Rural Education Engagement Response
 - BCSSA Thompson-Okanagan Chapter Forum
 - Aboriginal Enrolment Comparison
 - 2017 Committee Appointments
 - Chair's Report
2. The Board received an engaging presentation from District Library Coordinator Andrea Wallin on the Digital Literacy Innovation Project.
3. The Board was pleased to present the OWL Award for Excellence in Public Education to this year's recipient, Mr. Chris Rose. The award was established by School District No. 73 to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has distinguished themselves by providing outstanding service to public education in the Kamloops/Thompson School District.
4. The Board enjoyed a presentation from District Literacy Coordinator Fiona Clare on upcoming events sponsored by Literacy in Kamloops (Link), Interior Savings, and other partner groups. Family Literacy Week runs from January 21-28, 2017 which includes a variety of free Unplug and Play Week Activities.
5. The Board received a presentation from District Early Years Coordinator, Marianne Vande Pol, and Manager Sue Lissel from Make Children First, on the 2016 Early Development Instrument (EDI) results.
6. The Board received a report from Director Smillie on the 2016 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) results.
7. The Board approved two Out-of-Province Field Trip Requests from Brock Middle School and Norkam Senior Secondary School for students in their Core French Program and IB French Program to travel to Papineauville, Quebec in April 2017.
8. The Board defeated the Motion to develop a three-year school calendar beginning in 2017-2018 that incorporates a two-week Spring Break. After a lengthy debate, the Board approved a Motion to ask administration to develop a calendar which reflects a one-week Spring Break.
9. Secretary-Treasurer Stretch provided the Board with a report that provided summary Capital Spending Information by school district.
10. The Board approved Capital Bylaw Projects No. 116953 and No. 127208.
11. The Board approved a 5:30 PM start time for all future In-Camera Meetings.

The next Regular Public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, February 6, 2017 at NorKam Senior Secondary School, 730 – 12th Street, Kamloops, BC.