



Arthur Stevenson Elementary

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Principal: Mr. Grant Reilly

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Principal's Message

A main focus of the new curriculum is providing opportunities for students to develop creative and critical thinking skills throughout all subject areas. To work toward this, teachers at Arthur Stevenson have started to work together to think about how to create lessons in math that encourage more critical thinking from students. While still keeping an emphasis on the importance of students' developing competent number and computation skills, teachers are revising some of their lessons to allow for opportunities for students to construct their understanding of concepts and explain their thinking. For example, rather than repeatedly answering questions like $23 + 53$, students might be asked to think of three other questions that have the same answer found in the question $23 + 53$. In this latter example, students get the opportunity to explore equality and value of numbers by taking numbers apart and putting them back together to come up with a solution, as well as practicing their addition skills. I have been fortunate to see many exciting examples of this change in teaching math in our classrooms already. As always, if you have any questions please be sure to connect with your child's teacher or drop in to see me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Reilly".

Grant Reilly

PAC News

Most of us have heard of the saying, "Many hands make light work," referring of course to the notion that the more people helping with a task the easier the task is to complete. Presently, I would describe our PAC as, "Few hands doing heavy lifting." Our PAC members are amazing and work tirelessly to support all the students in many ways (field trips, class budgets, hot lunch/milk/fruit and veggie programs, and countless fundraising tasks, that most recently, went towards purchasing much needed new stereo equipment for presentations and assemblies). Having said this, we need more parents to help with the work of PAC. PAC is actively looking for volunteers, so please look for more information coming home from PAC in the coming weeks and consider helping this amazing group!

Welcome Back BBQ

Many thank yous to our wonderful PAC for organizing a successful Welcome Back BBQ! It was great to see so many families come out and enjoy the warm weather and fun events.

PAC Craft Fair

The PAC sponsored Craft Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 12th this year. The Craft Fair starts at 9 am this year and runs until 2 pm. Last year all the tables were sold out, so if you are interested in securing a table, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Cobra Clothing

Once again, Amanda Yaseniuk of PAC is organizing the Cobra Clothing Order this Fall. All students should have received a clothing order form. The last day to return clothing order forms is Monday, October 17th. If you need another form, please contact the school.

Staffing Update

Thankfully all of our staffing for the year has been finalized. We are happy to welcome Ms. Brandy Simpson back to Arthur Stevenson this year. Ms. Simpson will be teaching grade 5 this year. As well, Ms. Huffman is returning to us as a Certified Education Assistant (CEA) after spending the last 5 months of last year's school year at ASES. Finally, we would like to welcome Mrs. Brandy Wood, a CEA, who is new to our school.

Picture Day

This year's picture day is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27th**. With over 300 kids, individual student pictures take a great deal of time and the photographers get started right after announcements. Generally, students in kindergarten are the first to get their pictures done (so that we can get their pictures done before they are covered in dirt from recess).

Come Read With Me

Our school's Come Read With Me event takes place on Tuesday, October 25th from 8:15 to 10:00 am. This event is open to **parents of grade one students**. Early next week, parents of grade one students will receive an invitation to attend this event. We hope to see many of you there!

Upcoming Events

- October 7 - Earth Rangers Presentation @ 10:45 am
- October 7 - Mother Goose starts at ASES (9:30 - 10:30)
- October 10 - Thanksgiving Holiday - School Closed
- October 14 - PAC organized Pizza Day
- October 19 - ArtStarts Performance (Story Theatre Company) @ 1:15 pm
- October 21 - Non-Instructional Day / School Closed for Students
- October 25 - Come Read With Me @ 8:15 - 10:00 am
- October 27 - Picture Day
- October 28 - PAC Halloween Dance (6:30 - 8:30)
- November 7 - PAC Meeting @ 6:30

Mother Goose at Arthur Stevenson

Arthur Stevenson will host the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program on Fridays this fall. The first session is this Friday, October 7th running from 9:30 to 10:30. The Program runs until December 9th.

Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: October 3, 2016

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal McKenna and Vice Principal Kobayashi of Vavenby Elementary: "Why Salmon Make a Good Inquiry-Based Learning Project."
2. The Board received information regarding Ministry funding grant opportunities in the areas of Computational Thinking and Coding Support, Skills Training and Access Grants, and Skills Training Support Agreements.
3. The Board received a report on the District's School Immunization Program.
4. The Board received information regarding a new District Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) District Coordinator position.
5. The Board received a report on the Youth Homelessness Count surveys to be administered in our District.
6. The Board received information regarding the District's preliminary 1701 Enrolment Report.
7. The Board approved the Rotary Club of Kamloops' request to continue with the Family Dinner Program at NorKam Senior Secondary School for the 2016-2017 school year.
8. The Board recognized the School District's receipt of the United Way Quantum Leap Award in recognition of the District doubling its fundraising contributions in 2016.
9. The Board adopted the following revised policies:
 - Policy 200.1 Board Meetings
 - Policy 203.1 Trustee Remuneration
 - Policy 506.5 Graduated Adults: Course Fees
 - Policy 912.1 Principals and Vice-Principals: Mobility
 - Policy 912.2 Principals and Vice-Principals: Process for Appointment
 - Policy 1136.1 Travel: Expenses and Insurance

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.