

Neilson Grove News



Message From the Principal

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to the shortest term of the school year, with only eleven weeks of school! I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday break and that the students are healthy and looking forward to this term of learning.

This newsletter contains information about our school goal- **Building Resilience**, information about the Basketball season for students in Grades 6 & 7, the two social-emotional surveys (MDI and EDI) for kindergarten and grade 5 students done in partnership with UBC, and information on kindergarten registration coming up in February.

Important Dates

- Jan 8-** School Reopens
- Jan. 13-** PAC Bottle Drive, 10:00-12:00
- Jan 19-** Hot Lunch
- Jan. 25-** PAC Meeting
- Jan. 26-** Pro-D Day
- Jan. 29-** Hot Lunch
- Feb. 1 & 2- Early Dismissal & Student Led conferences**
- Feb. 9-** Hot Lunch
- Feb 16-** Pro-D Day
- Feb 19-** Family Day- **No School**
- Feb 21-23-** In-person Kindergarten Registration
- Feb 22-** PAC Meeting
- Feb. 26-** Hot Lunch
- Feb. 28- Pink Shirt Day**
- March 8-** Hot Lunch
- March 13-** Report Cards
- March 18- April 1st - Spring Break**
- Tuesday, April 2-** School Reopens
- April 5-** Hot Lunch



School Goal- Building Resilience

To get to where students feel they can take risks with their learning and push through the uncomfortable feelings when learning is hard, we know we have to create the right climate in the school.



/rēˈzɪliəns/

noun

1. the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.



Last year, we looked at lots of different pieces of data, including student surveys and determined that, to build resilience, we needed to focus on four foundational areas: Feeling Safe, Feeling Connected, Feeling a sense of Belonging, and students feeling they have supportive friends.

Year One of working on our school goal, we focused on creating the climate where students feel safe- Making our four agreements (S.O.A.R.) part of daily discussions, assemblies and a focus when helping students work through challenging situations. Making restorative practices (*Making it Right*) a routine. Teaching brain science to help kids understand what happens when they feel anxious or upset (Fight-Flight-Freeze & [Flip Your Lid](#))

Now that we're in Year Two, we've been focusing on helping students feel a sense of belonging. A lot of this work happens in classrooms with all of the work Teachers and Education Assistants do with building relationships and creating opportunities for working with peers. School-wide, we continue to have the the Green Team and we've added three other leadership opportunities for students to further create a sense of belonging: Student Council, Playground Pals, and the Film Club with the news show, **Neilson's News**.

STUDENT COUNCIL

They have lots of plans for this year, which started with the first ever *Culture Day*; a way to bring the stories of who we are at Neilson Grove and a way to celebrate our diversity. Student Council also led the Holiday Card project that is being featured on the Delta

PLAYGROUND PALS

What a dedicated group of kids this is! The playground pals go out every recess and lunch. Using SOAR and Making it Right, they help younger students work through conflicts and solve issues.

FILM CLUB

The Film Club crew is made up of some pretty creative kids! They decided they wanted to create a news show. They came up with the stories they wanted to feature, wrote, videoed, directed and produce their first episode and aired it at the last assembly in December.

GREEN TEAM

And another great group of kids lead by Ms. Oakley commit their time to projects big and small that will make a difference to our school, community, and the world. Weekly, they collect refundable from classrooms. They also ran *Sweater Day*, the Bee project, working on the gardens, and will have a few other fun things for the school to participate in, including Earth Day activities in April.

Health & Wellness

Winter and cold & flu still is something we need think about. If your child is sick- has cold-like symptoms or flu, we need you to keep them home. Sending a child to school who is not yet good at wiping their own nose and may cough or sneeze without covering their mouth, can spread viruses which can make others sick, including your child's teacher. Also, if your child has a fever or vomits, please wait 24 hours before sending them to school, even if they seem to feel better.



You can call the school 24 hours a day and leave a message, 604-940-4468.

We greatly appreciate your help with keeping our school and classrooms healthy!

Basketball



The season for students in grade 6 and 7 will start very quickly this term, with practices starting right away for boys. The Boys' coach's name is Yusuf, an international student from Uganda who has a wealth of experience coaching. (I am still looking for a coach for the girls.) Each team will have a sponsor teacher as well. Games start the week of January 22.

For Grade 7 students- Boys games will be on Tuesdays and Girls' games will be on Thursday.

If we have enough students, we might have grade seven teams and grade six teams, but I'm not sure yet. If we do have enough players for both grade levels, Grade 6 games will be on Mondays.

There will be a Basketball Tournament for Grade 7 students at DSS, February 22. (I will share the full schedule when we get it.)

Students will have a range of experience and abilities so it's important to keep in mind the district's philosophy that **games will be focused on teaching and learning the game**. Below are the guidelines put out for all coaches.

Guidelines for coaches:

- ▶ Games are teaching game, where play is stopped for referee to teach rules, etc
- ▶ No zone defence, no pics, half court press, no double teaming
- ▶ Emphasize sportsmanship, no challenging referees, no pushing, shoving, elbowing, etc.
- ▶ Coaches and sponsor teachers will be monitoring for all of the above expectations for behaviour and play
- ▶ Coaches/referee will inform other coach about inappropriate language and behaviours
- ▶ No running up of the score. Score should not be kept after discrepancies of more than 20 points.
- ▶ The goal is to maximize student participation. If a team is short players, work with the opposing coach to find a solution.

Kindergarten Registration

During the week of February 19, Kindergarten registration will start. Feb. 21 to 23, people will be able to register in person at the office, otherwise people are able to register online.

Here is the District's message regarding Kindergarten registration:

*Kindergarten registration for the 2024/2025 school year will be held from February 12-23, 2024. Please register either **ONLINE** or in-person for your catchment area school. Instructions on how to register will be posted here in early February. For verification of your catchment area school, please check the [School Locator](#).*

Please have the following documents ready to upload with your child's registration (all documents must be received for registration to be accepted):

1. *Proof of birth date for the student (birth certificate or passport) (registration will not be accepted until proof of birth date is received).*
2. *Proof of citizenship for both the parent and the student (Canadian birth certificate, citizenship card, passport, landed immigrant document, permanent resident card).*
3. *BC Services Card (please include both sides of this card)*
4. *Proof of Residency (Property Taxes – current receipt, purchase/rental agreement or rental receipt).*

You can also visit the [District website](#) for further information.

MDI & EDI

The MDI or Middle Years Development instrument is a survey that's done every year in the second term, in partnership with UBC. This year, they are asking us to do the survey with Grade 5 students. (In years past it would normally have been with the Grade 4 and 7 students.). Here's a [link](#) to a six minute video that explains the MDI.

What is the EDI?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is a questionnaire for Kindergarten teachers to complete about students in their classroom. It measures five areas of children's development: Physical Health & Well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, Communication Skills & General Knowledge. These areas are important for life-long health, education and well-being.

Kindergarten teachers across British Columbia complete the EDI for students in their classroom in February. They are trained on how to complete the EDI. By February, teachers know their students and your child has had time to get used to school. This ensures that teachers are able to answer the EDI questions knowledgeably. For more information, check out [this link](#)