



Bert Ambrose Elementary School

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STRIVING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR POTENTIAL FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

December 2, 2013

Welcome to December! We are looking forward to an exciting month leading up to our Christmas break. Thank you to all the parents for participating in interviews last week to discuss how your children are doing – we appreciate your support in the learning process. If you were unable to attend last week, please contact the teacher to arrange a suitable alternate time.

Generous Donations

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas shoebox campaign this year; we had 75 boxes returned. What a great way to start this special season of giving to others.

Playground Behaviour

With are warmer temperatures (last week), students are enjoying break times outside again. We would like to remind students that there is no snowballs or throwing of snow, and we ask that students respect the structures that others have built on the playground. If a structure is built on the playground, it is important to remember that it is available for everyone to enjoy; no one owns it!

On Time for Learning

Please ensure that your children are on time for school in the morning. Students who arrive late may miss out on important learning opportunities, and my also be a disruption when they arrive to class after the lessons have started. The warning bell rings at 8:45 and classes begin at 8:55. Students also benefit from some playtime and fresh air before beginning their day. Thank you for your help in getting our days off to a great start.

Breakfast Program

Please see the end of the newsletter for some information regarding a breakfast program Mrs. Shuster would like to start.

Surprise Healthy Snack Challenge

There will be a one day “Surprise Healthy Snack Challenge” during the second week of December. We will come around and count how many people in each class are eating healthy snacks on one of the days during the week. However, nobody will know which day we will select so students should make sure that they bring healthy snacks all week!. The winning primary and intermediate classes will receive a box of Christmas oranges.

Christmas Concert

Staff and students are working on their parts for our Christmas concert, The Xmas Files. Our Christmas concert will take place on Dec. 17th. There will be an afternoon performance at 1 pm and an evening repeat performance at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Special thanks to Mrs. Harrack for working with the leadership classes to create the set, and to Mrs. Stigners and Mrs. Zabinsky for putting together the cast costumes. Many thanks also to all the other parents who are helping to put together costumes for the class songs. Students should arrive for the evening performance at 6:45 pm.

Foster Child Fundraiser

Mrs. Shuster/Mrs. Lee’s grade 5 class will be hosting a pajama day/coin drive fundraiser to raise money for our foster child, Rena Marcela. If you have some spare change, please bring it along with your P.J’s on Friday, December 6th.

Book Fair Items

If you have not yet picked up your items that you ordered at the book fair, please see Mrs. Ollenberger.

Milk Sales

It is wonderful to see a growing number of students purchasing milk on days when we don't have hot lunches. We started this as a trial, and due to the interest this will continue. Milk is available for \$.75.

Important Dates

December 4	Hot Lunch – Quiznos
December 6	Pajama day/Foster Child fundraiser
December 9 – 13	Surprise Healthy Snack Challenge this week
December 11	Hot Lunch – Saigon Noodles
December 17	Christmas Concert – 1 pm and 7 pm
December 18	Hot Lunch – Booster Juice
December 18	PAC meeting – 6:30 pm
December 20	Last day of classes before Christmas break
January 6	School opens after Christmas break

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mrs. Shuster is working to establish a program to provide nutritional breakfast/recess choices for students. Not every student in our building has had breakfast before arriving at school. For some this is a regular occurrence; for others it happens only occasionally. In addition, some students forget or are not able to bring a nutritional recess snack. The goal is to make sure all of our students are nutritionally prepared to start their day, ready to take advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities provided at our school.

The following excerpt was taken from an article entitled, “Why Breakfast Is The Most Important Meal Of The Day”.

Kids Need Their Morning Meal

While adults need to eat breakfast each day to perform their best, kids need it even more. Their growing bodies and developing brains rely heavily on the regular intake of food. When kids skip breakfast, they can end up going for long periods of time without food and this period of semi-starvation can create a lot of physical, intellectual, and behavioral problems for them. Interestingly, studies show that kids who skip breakfast are tardy and absent from school more often than children who eat breakfast on a regular basis.

If you are able to provide donations of food items, monetary support, or your time to allow us to run this program, please contact Mrs. Shuster at the school. Thank you for continuing to make Bert Ambrose a safe, healthy place for students. ☺