



Bert Ambrose Elementary School

(PRN, School District #60)

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STRIVING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR POTENTIAL FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

January 30, 2014

Another month has come and gone. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break with lots of new family memories created. Our weather, as always, is unpredictable and winter seems to be back; please ensure that your child has the clothing they need for any weather changes.

NID tomorrow

A reminder to everyone that tomorrow is a Non-Instructional day and there will be no school for students. Staff will be working on a variety of professional development activities throughout the day.

Protecting Learning Time

Please ensure that your child arrives on time for classes. Missed time in the morning means interruptions to the class and missed opportunities for the morning routines and key learning. Likewise, leaving early at the end of the day may result in missed opportunities and important learning summaries that occur just before dismissal; only our Kindergarten students are dismissed at 2:30. We encourage students to have a few minutes of fresh air and play time (weather permitting) before the warning bell in the morning at 8:45, and classes begin at 8:55. Teachers work hard to plan appropriate activities. Thank you for your help in supporting this and encouraging your child to be part of these important routines.

Parking lot safety

As you are likely aware, our parking lot is very congested during our busy morning drop off and after school pick up times. We would ask that you please be patient and extra vigilant during these times to ensure everyone's safety. The district is aware of concerns at many schools and recently shared some reminders to help in this regard:

1. Have students walk to school, promoting physical activity and healthy living.
2. PAC or parent group(s) organize a model of the 'walking school bus' where screened adults walk small groups of students to and from school in a safe orderly fashion.
3. Where absolutely necessary, car pool to limit the number of vehicles on the road.
4. If driving, drop the student off at least a block away on a less frequently traveled route using a different street would assist in this strategy.
5. If required to pick your child up, designate a meeting location away from the streets directly surrounding the school. This action will assist students having safer access to your vehicle location and allow you to depart quickly and safely.

Your help with this would be greatly appreciated. Further, please be careful not to park in the bus pick up area and near the crosswalk as this limits visibility for the children walking and the drivers.

Flu and Cold Season

We are seeing an increase in absences due to flu and cold season. Please remind your child about proper hand washing procedures as this is one of our best defenses against the spread of illness. Thank you to all who are phoning in to let us know when your child will be away as this saves Mrs. Zoerb time in doing our kid check phone calls in the morning.

Basketball News

Thank you to everyone for stepping up to help out with our basketball coaching. Apologies for any confusion that occurred; we had many more students sign up than we had coaches and then missed some deadlines for entering teams in league play. We now have A and B teams for both boys and girls with the A teams participating in the leagues and the B teams practicing and working towards the tournaments.

Breakfast Program

Thank you to all the helpers with our breakfast program, we are pleased to be able to offer a healthy start to the day. We are still in need of helpers; if you are able to help out, please contact Mrs. Shuster. Students are also enjoying the fruit and vegetables available for snacks in the bowl by the office; any donations for this basket are also appreciated. A huge thank you for the generous donations from Inland Concrete (Mr. Shumaker), and Mrs. Millner.

X-Country Skiing

Thank you to Mrs. Tacey and Mrs. Brown for organizing our x-country skiing club. Weather permitting the group goes to Links on Mondays and Wednesdays. We are hoping that some fresh snow will allow for many fun days ahead.

Recycling

Thanks to the leadership students for all their work in taking care of our recycling programs at the school, it makes a big difference in the amount of material that ends up in the landfill. Special thanks to Michelle Stigners and Joelle Mickey for taking the recycling to the depot and to Shannon Stewart for counting and delivering bottles to the depot. Mrs. Fraser will also be attending a presentation by NEAT with several intermediate students called Destination Conservation on Feb. 6th.

Parent Communications

We work at keeping everyone up to date on what is happening at the school, but at times things get missed. We currently update the school's webpage every week (www.ambrose.prn.bc.ca), and the weekly happenings are linked to the webpage. Also there is an email list for parents that prefer to receive updates sent directly. Weekly happenings as well as newsletters are sent in this way. If you would like to be added to the list please contact Mr. Ritchie at the school, or email with your address to dritchie@prn.bc.ca. If you have other suggestions about how we can keep communications flowing, please let us know.

Jump Rope for Heart

Our Jump Rope for Heart event will take place on the afternoon of Feb. 14th. More information will be coming home next week. Students will be skipping during the afternoon to raise money for the Heart and Stroke foundation.

Important Dates

January 31	Non-instructional day – no school for students
Feb. 5	Spirit Day – wear your Canada colours to kick off the Olympic Spirit.
Feb. 5	Hot Lunch - Dominos
Feb. 6	Destination Conservation – Mrs. Fraser and 8 intermediate students
Feb. 6.	Cultural presentation for grade 5 and 6's – “New Canadian Kid”
Feb. 10	Family Day – no school today
Feb. 12	Hot Lunch - Quiznos
Feb. 14	Jump Rope for Heart
Feb. 19	Hot Lunch – Saigon Noodles
Feb. 19	PAC meeting at 6:30
Feb. 24	Cultural presentation – Apples and Oranges – diversity and anti-Bullying theme
Feb. 26	Hot Lunch – Booster Juice
Feb. 27	Boys basketball tournament
Feb. 28	Non-instructional day – no school for students
Feb. 28	Girls basketball tournament