

Principal's Report to PAC January 23rd, 2012

We have had a productive January so far, students settled in fairly well after coming back from their Christmas break.

- Welcome to Family Literacy week – we sent an email home to all parents outlining a variety of family literacy activities and events that are going on in Sechelt and Gibsons – lots of things happening at the public libraries so be sure to check things out.
- Two exciting projects our teachers are involved in – Mr. Lussier and Mr. Allen's classes are involved in an IPAD project with their students – we have had the good fortune of receiving 15 IPADS from the district. The goal of the project is to see how the IPADS work in a class situation as we are the first school to receive this many. These two teachers are working with their students to learn proper protocol in using the IPADS, as well as using the technology to communicate, and to share their culture and learning with a school in North Bay Ontario that is very much like Kinnikinnick. The iPads have had a number of APPS put on them to help with the diverse needs of our students and we are trying these out. Once these classes have familiarized themselves with the technology we will then be able to train other classes on them as well. Which.... Brings me to a question... at the last PAC meeting you kindly told me I could go ahead and order two new laptops. In light of this project and having 15 iPads – I was hoping I could have your permission to use the money to purchase 3 iPads and bring our total up to 18. It would be nice to have a class set of something.
- Mr. Bisset, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Allen and myself are involved in an inquiry project through support from the BCTF and the school district. We are examining student writing and looking at ways that we can support our students to become better writers and we are also looking at the way technology can help in this area. We have had one meeting so far, our second one was cancelled because there were no TOC's available.
- This Friday the primary students and Grade 4/5 students are going to be involved in a Tropical Day. Students will be grouped by multiage and rotate through a number of station activities.
- Feb 10 – The one hundredth day of school.
- We are in the process of organizing a number of PALS sessions for our K-1 parents – we hope to do some sessions during the day and some in the evening for those who can not make it during the day.

- Foundation Skills Assessments are happening until Spring Break for all of our Grade 4 and 7 students. Students are being assessed in their reading, writing and numeracy skills. The assessments are mandated by the Ministry of Education. Students with special needs who need a reader or a scribe to help in the assessment will be given that support.
- Kindergarten Registration Week for 2012-13 is the week of February 20th – 24th. Cross boundary applications must be completed and handed in by March 31st if families want to change the school their children go to.
- In talking with Ashley Taylor our RCMP Liason officer, she wanted me to ask how parents would feel about Grade 6/7 students and their parents attending a special session at Chatelech on Internet safety. They will be looking at a number of topics – posting photos on the internet and how they stay their for life, sexting, which is becoming an issue on the coast and how predators take only seconds to be able to locate kids who are engaging on the internet with them. This will be a very worthwhile workshop for kids and parents to participate in. They have also been presenting this session to the students of Chat and since our kids will be going very soon we thought it would be worthwhile for them to. She is hoping to present sometime in February or early March.
- This last week I went around and had some frank discussions with all of our students from Grades 4 through 7 about general behaviour on the playground and in classrooms. Teachers and supervisors have told me they are noticing an improvement so that is good. Most of the talk was around disrespect towards adults and students and equipment, and physicality and inappropriate language.
- February 17th is the District wide Professional Development Day
- Thank you for the funds to buy some playground equipment. We have put an order in but it has not arrived yet.

Fast Forward.