



November 2017 | Shawna Petersen, Principal | Tel 604.795.3553 Fax 604.795.3553 | <http://robertson.sd33.bc.ca>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe we are already in November! Our students are working diligently in their classrooms and this month our teachers are undertaking a variety of assessments in order to promote student learning. Robertson students are showing growth in terms of demonstrating strong character and powerful thinking and when I visit our classrooms, I notice students making strong decisions and demonstrating powerful listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. I continue to be impressed with the hard work and dedication both by our staff, students and our parents that takes place each day in our building.

We have shared our school growth plan on the school website. Our priorities with this growth plan are:

- Improving student achievement and well-being through high quality instruction
- Strengthening meaningful relationships within and across schools, district and community to support success for students
- Enhancing the culture, climate and learning environment to promote a sense of belonging, diversity, well-being and safety

For specific goals and strategies, please review our [growth plan](#) on the Robertson website.

*Mrs. Petersen*

### Upcoming Calendar Dates to Remember

Fri, Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30am
Mon, Nov 13	Remembrance Day Stat Holiday (School Closed)
Wed, Nov 15	Photo Retakes
Thurs, Nov 16	Robertson Hot Dog Day
Fri, Nov 17	SOAR Assembly 11:15am Spirit Day: Twin Day PAC Meeting 9:00am
Fri, Nov 24	District Pro-D Day (School Closed)
Nov 28-Nov 3	Scholastic Book Fair
Mon, Dec 4	Term One Report Cards Issued
Thurs, Dec 14	Christmas Concert 6:30pm
Fri, Dec 22	Last Day of School Before Break
Dec 23 – Jan 7	Christmas Break (school Closed)
Mon, Jan 8	First Day Back After Break

## STAFFING UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Kristin Sward has joined us as our temporary Vice-Principal. Mrs. Sward was previously the Vice-Principal at Fraser Valley Distance Education Centre and also brings with her over 12 years of elementary teaching experience.

Although we will dearly miss him, we congratulate Mr. Kasper on his new custodial position at Mount Slesse Middle School. Mr. Kasper has been the custodian at Robertson for nine years and is a highly-valued member of our school community. We have been fortunate to have one of the cleanest schools in our district because of this dedicated, hard-working man. Good luck, Mr. Kasper!

Mrs. Remple will be leaving on maternity leave this Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We wish her well with the arrival of her baby boy and hope to meet him soon.

Mrs. Trichard has accepted a Child and Youth Care Worker position at Watson Elementary. We have appreciated her dedication to students and support to staff. We will miss her sense of humour and wish her well in her new position.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Our Remembrance Day Assembly will take place on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in our gym. We would like to invite parents, grandparents and relatives to join us on this day to remember the sacrifices made by the men and women in our armed forces. We will be distributing poppies to our students on Friday. Donations for poppies can be made at the classroom and all contributions will go toward the veterans in Chilliwack.

A reminder that due to the Statutory Holiday, Remembrance Day, **all schools will be closed on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## SAFETY PROCEDURES

In the months of September/October, we completed 3 fire drills with speedy evacuations! In October, our school took part with over 890,000 British Columbians in the "Great BC Shakeout". Our teachers also reviewed our lock down and hold and secure drills. As we all want to ensure that our school is a safe environment, we are eliciting the support of our parent community. Given that the staff is not necessarily familiar with every adult that comes into our school, **we**

**remind our parents/guardians/visitors that when visiting our school to sign in at the Office.** We also remind parents to not go directly to your child’s classroom when class is in session, please come to the office and we will deliver the items or call them down to the office if required.

During arrival and dismissal times, frequently parents/visitors come in through the back and front doors and wait in the halls. Again, our staff is not familiar with all of the adults who come into the building. We want to be mindful that during peak times, an opportunity could be presented for strangers (non-parents) to easily access the building. If we all make an effort to reduce traffic in the school, it makes it far easier to be aware of strangers in the school, **that is why we ask that all parents wait for their children outside at the beginning and end of the day, rather than entering the building. Additionally, in the event of an unforeseen emergency, having additional adults in the building may compromise our safety procedures and protocols and may deflect our focus from the students.**

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining a safe learning environment for the students and ask that you review the purpose of drills and safety protocols with your child. Thank you.

### DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

As we enter the month of November, the weather will become considerably cooler and wet! **Please ensure that your child is prepared for all the quick weather changes and dressed appropriately for all outside days.** As there are many positive learning results when children have the opportunity to run, play and get fresh air; students will be going outside when there is a light rain or a slight chill in the air.

A reminder that if your child comes to school without a Robertson t-shirt on (Monday-Thursday), they must exchange their shirt in to the office for a Robertson loaner shirt. At the end of the day students will be reminded over the announcements to come and exchanged their shirts with Mrs. Wodtke at the office. Thank you for your support and understanding with this matter.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Although it is only November, we need to start planning for our Christmas giving. If your family could benefit from some support over the Christmas season, please let us know. We have a number of generous organizations in our community who donate Christmas Hampers and individual stockings for students and families in need in our school. Please contact the school by emailing Mrs. Petersen by December 1<sup>st</sup> if you

would like to be added to a list of possible recipients. Names will be drawn and recipients will be contacted prior to Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please email Mrs. Petersen at [shawna\\_petersen@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:shawna_petersen@sd33.bc.ca) if you want to be added to the draw.

### COMMUNICATION WITH CLASSROOM TEACHERS

As valuable partners in learning, parents are encouraged to keep up to date with their child’s progress and to maintain regular contact with their child’s teacher. Active parental involvement in a child’s schooling is a key contributing factor to a child’s success at school. Please take the time to touch base with your child’s teacher and to establish a preferred means of communication (planner messages, email, meetings, etc.) to hear how they are doing academically, socially and to discuss and problem-solve any concerns that may have arisen. We also request that you contact the classroom teacher regarding classroom academic/social/emotional concerns before contacting the office. All of Robertson’s teacher’s emails are located on the [Staff Page](#) of our website.

### STUDENT ABSENCES

Recently, it has been more challenging confirming student absences in a timely manner. You can help with this concern by **contacting the office before school** if your child will be late or is staying home. You can either call and report to the office at 604.795.5312 and **leaving a message on the answering machine** or by using the new [Safe Arrival Link](#) on our school website. Our Secretary, Mrs. Wodtke, will continue to phone home for unexplained absences and part of [Robertson’s Safe Arrival Program](#).

### PARKING LOT REMINDERS

In order to continue to ensure safety in our parking lot we ask that all drivers are mindful of the following reminders and requests:

-  Remember to **slow down** in the parking lot;
-  Refrain from parking in the thru lane;
-  The lane marked **“drop off”** is simply a **“Drop and Go” lane**. **If you intend to park, wait or leave your vehicle, please park in a designated parking area or on the street;**
-  As we have over 30 staff, most parking spaces are used by staff;
-  Please adhere to the **entrance only** on the gym side of the parking lot and the **exit only** on the playground side of the school;
-  Please turn off your vehicle when waiting. The Chilliwack School District has an anti-idling policy.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Super Reader**

Congratulations to those students who have read 50 nights and have already received their prize! Remember to track your 15 minutes of at-home reading in your planner. Once you have achieved a milestone (50 nights is the first one), bring the signed planner to Mrs. Derhousoff to receive your prize! A big shout out to Ms. Holliday's and Mrs. White's classes for having the most students read 50 nights so far! Maybe this is the year the Intermediates have more Super Readers than the Primaries!

**Library Tech Helpers**

There is a great team of students who have committed to train and help in the Library during morning book exchange and Mondays at lunch. These students rotate on a monthly basis, so please remember to check the schedule for November!

**Scholastic Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Robertson Elementary November 28 – 30!! The Fair is open to parent and student shoppers during lunch and after school until 3:00.

Parents, take advantage of a special **PARENTS ONLY** shopping opportunity on Thursday from 12:45 – 2:15. This is a fantastic opportunity to get a bit of Christmas shopping done without your child, or to simply enjoy a quieter shopping experience. Students will get a chance to browse the Fair during their scheduled Library time throughout the week and make purchases at lunch or after school. Last year we exceeded our \$2250 goal, which meant we were able to purchase many books and resources for the Library and for your child's classroom.

Last year, classroom teachers created book wish lists for their classrooms. These books make an excellent Christmas gift and students get to enjoy the book in their classroom the rest of the year! So make sure you check out the Teacher Wish List poster before you leave the Book Fair!

An event like the Book Fair runs much smoother if there are volunteers available to help! We are fortunate to have a great group of Intermediate students who volunteer their time every year. However, the times we have had an extra adult volunteer at the Fair has made a big difference! So if there are any parent volunteers (with a completed Police Record Check) who are willing to give up a half hour of their time at lunch or after school, please let Mrs. Wodtke or Mrs. Derhousoff know as soon as possible! Thank you!

Thank you, Mrs. Derhousoff

## PAC NEWS

**Neufeld Farms**

Just a reminder that Neufeld Farm orders are due Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. No late orders will be accepted. Pick up for orders will be Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:15pm outside at the front of the school, in front of the soup room. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP** on this date. Any unclaimed orders will not be held due to space restrictions and will be sent back to Neufeld Farms.

**Purdy's Fundraiser**

Just a reminder that Purdy's orders are due Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. No late orders will be accepted. Pick up for orders will be Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP** on this date. Any unclaimed orders will not be held due to space restrictions and will be sent back to Neufeld Farms.

**PAC Meeting**

The next PAC meeting will be held on November 17th at 9:00am. All parents are members of our PAC and are encouraged to attend meetings. PAC meetings provide parents with information about our school, a chance to ask questions and of course, a chance to become involved with our school.

**Trying to Contact PAC?**

To keep up to date with the news and happenings at Robertson Elementary School, you can join the PAC's Facebook group by doing a search for Robertson PAC. You can also reach the PAC by email at [robertson-pac@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:robertson-pac@sd33.bc.ca)

## Community Corner

**Annual Rotary Christmas Light Parade**

This year the Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30.

**Getting Enough Sleep?**

A Canadian study released last year identified that 33% of children aged 5-13 have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. You can help your child with their sleep patterns by establishing a regular bedtime routine and ensuring that screen time ends at least an hour before going to sleep.