

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 18th - Last Day of School Before Christmas Break

January 4th - First Day of School After Christmas Break

January 5th - Swim Club (3:30 p.m. at Crystal Pool)

January 11th - Provincial New Curriculum Professional Development Day - No School in Session

SCHOOL UPDATES:

Principal Message

Merry Christmas to everyone! We wish staff members who are leaving us at Christmas time the very best: Mrs. Jacqueline Tanner moved to Oaklands school last Friday for a continuing position. We say goodbye to Mrs. Tammy DeMings in the office who is returning to Margaret Jenkins. Thank you for helping us out! We wish the very best as well to Mr. Brian Williams who has been our Aboriginal Educational Assistant since April. Thank you for helping our school community in countless ways! Best Wishes!

We are so very proud of our Christmas concert production! What a production it was! Thank you to our directors: Mrs. Fiona Jones and Mrs. Karen Grigolato. We thank you to our team: DJ Mr. Gartly on sound; Mrs. Glover on lights, Mrs. Bird as our classroom runner, and Mrs. Carolyn Thompson backstage. We thank Mrs. Sue Harris who helped in the classrooms. To all the rest of our supporters thank you Mrs. Haywood and Ms. DeMings for ticket sales, programs and general coordination. We could not have done this without our teachers who helped with lines, verses, props and costumes and of course stayed in classrooms in the evening while waiting their turn. Well done Grade 5's on your acting, singing and strings performance. Thank you to Associate Superintendent, Mrs. Deb Whitten and School Board Trustee, Tom Ferris for joining our audience this year. Congratulations one and all!

We welcome Mrs. Bretteny Howard, student teacher, in Mrs. Liddell's Grade 4 classroom to our staff for the winter term. Welcome Ms. Mino Marftechuk, a new EAG in the Grade 3 classrooms.

Naden Band - Thank you to the Salvation Army who help sponsor the live performance of the Naden Band at the Royal Theatre. Our Grade 1, 2 and 3 students enjoyed the show on Tuesday afternoon.

Special Guest Visit - on Thursday, December 17th, our new Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Piet Langstraat visited our school. He toured most classrooms, had recess with the staff, musical performances and met with PAC Executive. He mentioned how he enjoyed his visit to our school and wishes us all a wonderful holiday!

From all of us here, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and all the best for 2016!

Having Trouble Selecting Gifts for Your Children

There is a new idea that has been brought to light this year about gift giving for children. We encourage our families to consider this new idea of gift giving. Something you want, something you need, something to wear, and something to read.

Food Donations

A huge thank you to all the families that donated food to The Mustard Seed Food Bank at our Christmas Concerts. We dropped it all off at Thrifty Foods this

morning. Click here to see the Twitter post of the store manager, Daryl, depositing our items into the truck! <https://cloverdale.public.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/63/2015/10/Food-Donations.pdf>

Are You Returning in September 2016?

We don't want to lose you, but if your family is moving away please call the school office at 250-382-7231 to let us know. This helps our school make configuration preparations for September 2016. We will begin our Kindergarten placement process in January 2016 and have a lengthy waitlist.

Consider an International Student

Open your home to students from other cultures and help them adapt to the Canadian lifestyle. Students come here from around the world to study in schools throughout the Greater Victoria School District in a safe environment. Host families are the backbone of Victoria International High School Programs. By inviting a student into their lives, hosts experience new and exciting family dynamics. They also learn about other cultures and traditions. Hosting often leads to the development of long-term relationships, with the host family visiting their student in their home country. See the following link for more information or to apply to be a host family: <http://www.studyinvictoria.com/homestay/>

Please Add Us To Your "Safe Senders" List

In the past couple weeks we have had many parents inform us that they have not been receiving our emails. Due to a change with the service provider that we use to send our emails, many email accounts are not recognizing the address we use as a "safe" email address. To ensure that you are always receiving our emails please add notifications@schoolconnectsweb.com to your safe senders list

Basketball

Basketball will run for 1 month (Wednesdays and Fridays in January) for any interested grade 5 students with esteemed coach and athlete Mr. Garty! Shoot some hoops over the holidays to get ready! The Basketball Jamboree will be on February 4th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Middle School.

"Want To Help Your Child Learn Math? There Are Apps for That!"

Dr. Tim Pelton, Associate Professor, Mathematics Education, UVIC

Date: January 25, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: [Braefoot School](#)

RSVP: sduvall@sd61.bc.ca

Dr. Pelton's areas of interest are in mathematics education, applications of technology in education, assessment, and development of educational apps.

"I teach courses on elementary mathematics pedagogy and applications of technology in education. My research is primarily focused on theories, tools and techniques that can be used to support these courses. Topics of interest include student response systems (selected or constructed), developing and evaluating apps to support learning of mathematical and scientific concepts and developing essential fluencies. Applications of iPads in education to support learning – especially with respect to: exploring with manipulatives and visual models; confirming understanding through generation of learning objects, animations and videos" -Dr. Tim Pelton

Byte Camp At Cloverdale Traditional

Since 2003, Byte Camp has helped over 10,000 kids improve their creative digital skills in innovative and fun programs. Explore the world of animation, from Stop-Motion Imagery and Claymation to Vector and #D Animation. Students will learn hands-on how these creative processes are used to make some of the TV shows and movies they love. Click the link to view more information and to find out how to register.

<https://cloverdale.public.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/63/2015/10/Byte-Camp-Registration-Form.pdf>

CTS PAC UPDATES:

Donate Your Empty Bottles to CTS PAC

Just a reminder that you can donate your empty bottle returns to the CTS PAC at any **Bottle Depot**. When you return your bottles, be sure to let the cashier know BEFORE they ring in your returns that you would like the total to be donated to CTS PAC. All money received will be put towards the programs and services at our school supported by our PAC.

Last Minute Christmas Gift ideas:

Watches to practice telling time, flash cards, new uniform socks and tights, gift certificate for a book store, how to draw books and art supplies.