



Promoting Academic Excellence and Personal Growth

Sussex Elementary School Family News

Sept. 27 2014

<http://sussexelementary.nbed.nb.ca>

Grade 2 classes -Sussex Elementary School Project

GOOD DEEDS PAY OFF BY HELPING TO SAVE OUR BATS!!!

Students in grade 2 are embarking on a "Help save the bats" campaign. For every good deed our grade 2 students do they will receive a gem. The gems will be placed in a jar in the front lobby. They will be counted and turned into cash that will be donated to the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to help save the bats!!! The students will also learn all about bats in a non-fiction unit coinciding with Halloween.

As part of a non-fiction theme, students will learn how interesting bats are and how they are in jeopardy of becoming extinct because of the White Nose Syndrome (WNS). See detailed information below on the near endangered brown bat that we once used to see flying in our night skies!!!

Through the local generous donation from Bob Whitters of RBC Dominion Securities in Sussex, students will be able to earn up to \$1000 in good deed gems for cash that will be sent to the Canadian Wildlife Federation to help a team of researchers find a way to combat the WNS and save our bats! Students will directly see how their good actions can create a positive impact on our society!!!

Time line: Begins the first week of October and will run all year.

Supplies: tokens, clear jar for tokens, posters, thank you letters to Bob Whitters and RBC, guidelines for when tokens are given by teachers, Bat box ordered to put up in the outdoor classroom (parent support is also available to make them) class bat stuffy!!!,

<http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/challenges-projects/help-the-bats/>

For more information see page 2 and how you can support this cause.

Registration for Kindergarten 2015-2016

Registration for 2015 will take place from during the week of October 14th to 17th, 2014. Our Kick Off to Kindergarten information session for parents is scheduled for Wednesday Oct. 29th at 6:30pm in our school library. Please make sure you have your child registered for kindergarten! If you don't have a child entering kindergarten next year but know someone who does, then please remind them to register their child. Attendance is compulsory for children who turn five years of age on or before December 31st of 2015 though entry may be deferred for one year for those children who turn five between September 1st and December 31st of 2015. Children born in 2010 should be registering for school!

Thanks for sharing this information!

Sussex Elementary is a Nut and Peanut FREE School!

SES Code of Conduct

I will be;

Responsible

Respectful

Reliable

Help Needed

Swim Program

The grade 4 swim program starts this week and parent chaperones are needed to make this program successful. If your child is involved please let your child's teacher know that you can help supervise. If your child is not involved in swimming but would like to help out then please call Ms. Khedheri at SES. 432-2019.

Afterschool Ski Program

We are looking for a parent coordinator to oversee this program. If you are interested call Mr. Bobbitt at 432-2019.

Dates & Info. in this Issue

Information on bats	2
Thanksgiving Dinner Info	3
Policies for Parents	4
Allergy Concerns	4
No child without	4
Home and School News	5
The Shift - Hockey Prog.	6

Grade 2 classes -Sussex Elementary School Project - Continued from

All funds raised help support CWF's leading bat researcher Karen Vanderwolf in her team's effort to stem the tide of WNS in Little Brown Bats and other bat species.

Bats in Canada are in big trouble and they need our help. A disease called white nose syndrome (WNS) is wiping out entire colonies of Little Brown Bats and spreading fast.

"WNS was not detected in NB until March 2011. Before WNS, we counted over 7 thousand bats in 10 caves. This past winter we found 22 bats total from those same 10 sites. A huge decline! The majority of the mortality occurred in 2011/2012. I get a lot of anecdotal reports from people about how they are seeing fewer bats in the summer so it is a cultural loss for us as well as a biological one." Source: Canadian Wildlife Federation and Karen Vanderwolf.

Useful Bat Information

White-Nose Syndrome

So far white-nose syndrome (WNS) is only found in the eastern half of North America. Bat species that live in the western half have never been exposed to WNS and it is unknown how they would be affected by it. Even in the east, not all bat species are affected by WNS. Some species never enter caves and so are never exposed to the fungus that causes WNS. Some bat species that do enter caves seem to suffer less mortality than others, possibly due to differing physiologies.

Unfortunately it is the most common bat species in Canada that are suffering the most. So far scientists have found 9 bat species with the fungus, but only 6 of these species develop symptoms associated with WNS. The 6 include **the Little Brown Bat**, Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Small-footed Bat, Indiana Bat, and Big Brown Bat, with the first 3 species suffering the greatest mortality. For instance, Little Brown Bats often decline by 90-100% in WNS positive hibernacula, while Big Brown Bat declines are more often in the 30-60% range. Bat species in Western Europe that are exposed to the fungus do not appear to decline at all! The reason(s) for the differences are not known but studies are ongoing. Understanding why some bat species are resistant to WNS may offer insight for a future cure.

Bats 101

Bats make up nearly a quarter of known mammal species and are second only to rodents in terms of diversity. Bat species unknown to science are still being discovered: 30 new species were identified just last year (2013), bringing the total to 1,293. Most of this diversity in bats is found in the tropics. Bats have a wide distribution and can be found on every continent except Antarctica. Most bats eat insects, but there are also species that eat fruit, nectar, fish, and other vertebrates. Three species of bat drink blood, none of which are found in Canada. The Philippine flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) is one of the biggest bats and can weigh 1 kg (2 pounds) or more, and has a wingspan of more than 2 meters (6 feet). The smallest bat is the Bumblebee Bat (*Craseonycteris thonglongyai*) which weighs around 2 grams with a wingspan of ~170mm (6.7 inches). Bats evolved 65-54.8 million years ago and are more closely related to people than rodents.

North America has 48 bat species, with 18 found in Canada. All bats found in Canada are fairly small and eat insects. British Columbia has the greatest diversity of bats (16 species) among the provinces; 8 of those species do not occur anywhere else in Canada. The biggest bat in Canada is the Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) which weighs 26 grams with a 40 cm wingspan. The smallest bat in Canada is the Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) which weighs 4-10 grams with a wingspan of 21-26 cm.

Bats consume a variety of insects, some of which are important agricultural and forestry pests. In other areas of the world bats are also important for seed dispersal and pollination. In the US alone, it is estimated that bats provide insect control services worth \$3.7-5.3 billion per year.

Other threats to bats

Wind Turbines

Wind turbines are estimated to kill 600,000-900,000 bats per year. Bats that are affected by wind turbines are generally migratory species that do not get WNS.

Habitat Loss

Another threat to bats is habitat loss. During the summer, bats like to roost in large trees, but human activities over the past 100 years have made large trees scarce. Bats adapted to this situation by roosting in barns and people's attics. However, modern building methods often exclude bats and barns are being torn down, reducing suitable roosts for bats. Bats require roosts that have the right micro-climate and are safe from predators and other disturbances.

What you can do?

It is important never to disturb bats, particularly during the winter when they are hibernating. If you find yourself in the presence of a bat, be sure to remain as quiet as possible to minimize disturbance. Avoid bat roosts as much as possible. Do not visit caves or mines during the winter when bats are present. If you do visit a cave, make sure to follow decontamination procedures so as not to spread fungi and other micro-organisms. How to decontaminate »

You can help the bats by putting up your own bat box.

You can also support forest and wetland conservation as habitat for bats and limit your use of pesticides. You can plant flowers and shrubs in your backyard that encourage moths, an important food source for bats.

You can also encourage the conservation of winter habitat for bats. Caves and mines can be protected from human disturbance by gating. This is particularly true for mines, which are often filled in once they are no longer used by humans.

Cafeteria News

K-2 Dinner will be Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Gr 3-5 Dinner will be Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Tickets are on sale from Sept 24, 2014 to October 3, 2014.



No Child Without – Free MedicAlert Membership for Students at our Schools

The Canadian MedicAlert Foundation has developed a program to protect children and provide school officials with the help they need to address concerns about students living with chronic medical conditions, allergies, or special needs. No Child Without is for students kindergarten up to their 14th birthday receive Medic alert protection at no cost to the parent or school.

Visit www.nochildwithout.ca to learn more about the program or contact Mr. Bobbitt for a brochure on the program.

Allergy Concerns led to ALL Schools in ASD-S being Nut and Peanut FREE!

With an ever changing student population it is important to identify at the start of each school year medical priorities and implement safety precautions that help prevent medical issues from being a safety concern for one or all students. **This year, ALL schools in ASD-S are nut and peanut-free. A detailed letter was sent home to all our families outlining the allergies we have at SES.**

To see an educational medical video go to, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZHGzTrxwJE>

It is the only way to minimize the possibility of an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. The staff at SES will work diligently to remind students that **we are a peanut/nut free school**. As parents, you will be reminded throughout the year, as well! Please do not send nut or peanut products to school with your child. This may require you to read the food labels on products, and taking this seriously may prevent a life-threatening experience for another child.

What Parents Need to Know

New Brunswick Education Policies

- 703 - Positive Learning Environment
- 710 - Release and Access to Student Information
- 704 - Health Support

Each year schools are required to inform parents of Department of Education policies in which parents have responsibilities outlined within the policy. Although there are many other policies, **these 3 have direct responsibilities for parents**. If you are reading this newsletter online then click on the link to learn more. The first policy that all parents need to be familiar with is [Policy 703 - Positive Learning Environment](#). It outlines the roles and expectations of all players in the education system in ensuring a quality learning environment is had by ALL.

The second policy that parents need to be aware of is [Policy 710 - Release of and Access to Student Information](#). This policy is of particular **importance to families involved in parental custody agreements**. It clearly states that the primary parent is responsible for providing up to date information on custody orders and arrangements.

The last policy is the [Health Support Policy - 704](#) and it **outlines the responsibility of parents when their child has medical conditions that require the school to put in place an emergency plan for a student who has allergies, juvenile diabetes, or other life threatening medical conditions**. One key responsibility for parents is to provide to the school an emergency plan in the event of a medical emergency. It is also the policy that governs the administration of prescription medication at school.

Policy 704 is the policy that governs the recent decision by ASD-S to make all of its schools **Nut and Peanut Free Environments**.

For more information on these and other policies go to;

<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/policies.asp>

SE

Home & School

September
Sept.

Did you know?

Norrads Recycling Center has an account set up for SES. When you return your recyclables, let them know you would like to donate the money to SES Home & school.

Last year we raised over \$1100 dollars!!

What an easy way to give back to your school!!

Find us on facebook!

Sussex Elementary Home
& School



Sussex Elementary –Grade Four Students Red Cross Swimming Safety Program

We are pleased to announce that Sussex Elementary school will be offering our grade Four students the opportunity to participate in a 10 week swimming safety program sponsored by our SES Home and School Association in conjunction with the Potash Corp. Civic Centre.

More detailed information will be sent home to the grade 4 parents, along with a waiver form, in the next couple of weeks.

We will need parent volunteers to make this program successful and a valued part of the curriculum that our grade 4 students receive on a yearly basis.



What:

The First Shift is a program designed to ease kids and their families into the sport of hockey in a fun and friendly environment. We begin with a Welcome Event, offering information and activities to help build kids' confidence and make them, and their parents, more comfortable in the hockey environment. The program includes 6 on ice sessions - one per week on the same day, at the same time to make it convenient for parents to schedule. The focus for the on ice sessions is fun, teaching kids basic skating and fundamental hockey skills through play.

The registration fee is \$199 and includes:

- Welcome session- information, education & equipment fit session
- 6 on ice sessions

Head to toe hockey equipment

When:

The First Shift Welcome events kick off on October 7, and run through the first week of November. Dates and times are specific to each local association.

Where:

Part of a multi-year commitment, Bauer & Hockey Canada have created a national plan to roll out The First Shift across the country. Beginning this fall, 32 minor hockey associations across Canada have been selected to host The First Shift program. Based on demand, future programs are anticipated for hundreds of associations in the coming seasons.

Who:

The First Shift is open to boys and girls, ages 6-11 who have never registered in hockey before.

Why:

Because Bauer believes in all hockey has to offer kids, their families and our communities, together with Hockey Canada, they designed The First Shift to break down barriers to entry by offering a program that is accessible, affordable, and most importantly, fun.

Our mission is to change the way hockey is offered to bring 1 million new families into the sport over the next 10 years. And it begins by helping kids fall in love with hockey!

How:

To learn more about The First Shift, and how to register, visit: thefirstshift.ca or contact Sussex Minor Hockey.