

# December 2013 Newsletter

## Shrek the Halls

The Home and School Committee would like to say a big thank you to our talented and dedicated Santa Claus parade committee. This year was without a doubt our biggest and best float yet. Hats off to the following people for all their hard work to create this year's parade float: Liz Tait, Rob Thomson, Colin & Alannah Hodgins, Linda & Lloyd Hodgins, Dave & Shauna MacLeod, Scott Needle, Dan Osbourne, Sandra & Dana MacDougall, The Mercer Family, Inesa Naviciene, Jen Osbourne, the Donaldson Family, Jen Arbeau, Tricia Wilson, Spring Lake, Vickie Sooley, Tracy Turnbull, Jen Cohoon, Mark MacPherson, Peter Wallace, Mrs. Hierlihy, and Mrs. McNamee. We would also like to thank the Sign Shop for a great deal on our banner and an extra special thank you to the Pierce family for letting us take over their yard, providing us a truck and trailer, music, food and more. We appreciate everything you did to make this happen!



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Bonnie Hierlihy,  
Principal

Julie McNamee,  
Vice-Principal

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*We, at FES, wish  
all families a  
Merry Christmas  
and a happy and  
safe New Year!*

## Mill Rats Visit

As part of our Be Cool week, the grade 3-5 students had a special visit from the Saint John Mill Rats. They delivered an anti-bullying message and played basketball with some of our lucky students. Lucas was our star F.E.S. player.



## Safe Arrival

Did you know if your child is going to be absent from school that you need to call the Safe Arrivals line? 847-2087 - you can call this number at any time day or night and leave a message. This is a very important safety feature run by our school volunteers and many hours are spent each week tracking down students who are absent from school.

# HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

## Fundraising News

All aboard the Polar Express on Sunday, December 8th at 2:00pm in the gym. This family friendly movie will be sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$20.00 per family and will be available for pick up at the door beginning at 1:15. Admission includes popcorn and a drink and we will also have a cash only canteen!

This year we are pleased to be selling raffle tickets on a Christmas themed gift basket. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. A picture of the basket can be viewed on our website [www.fairvalehands.ca](http://www.fairvalehands.ca). The winner will be drawn during the kindergarten concert on December 17th.

And finally back by popular demand our annual VIP contest! Ticket information will be coming home with your child for a chance to be VIPs for the morning at one of our school Christmas concerts. The lucky winner will receive 2 VIP parking spaces close to the door and 4 front row seats! Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 and the winners will be notified the evening prior to the concert by phone!

We expect all gift card orders to be returned the week of December 9th and will be in touch with all families with regards to pick up dates and times. Our knit wits products are expected back the week of the 16th. Please note that due to the value of the gift cards we will not be sending them home with the children.

Are you still looking for a gift for the kids on your Christmas list? The Duffle Bag Theatre company will be performing Sleeping Beauty at the Imperial Theatre on Saturday, December 28th. \$1.00 from each ticket purchase is being donated to our Dreamland spruce up fund. You can contact the Imperial box office to purchase your tickets.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next home and school meeting on January 20th. On behalf of the home and school committee we wish all Fairvale staff and families a safe and family filled holiday season.

## LITERACY CORNER

*Ends Policy #2—Students at FES will demonstrate continuous improvement in literacy skills, striving to meet or exceed the standards set by the Province of New Brunswick.*

### Consider Nonfiction for your next book to share with your child

How often do you read a nonfiction text to your child? Most parents who read to their children choose a story. However, much recent research supports choosing an informational text, such as a book or magazine, instead. As adults, we spend most of our days reading and writing informational text. Students, even young students, benefit from hearing about inventions, countries, animals, planets, and the weather.

Why choose informational text?

- ◆ Many children prefer it.
- ◆ It stimulates conversation, which improves comprehension. It improves vocabulary knowledge and understandings in science, math, social studies, health, music, and art.
- ◆ It helps develop understanding of how to read charts, graphs, diagrams, and maps.
- ◆ It helps students to learn to write nonfiction, such as reports.

Next time you are ready to read with your child consider nonfiction. The most important point of all is to pick something that you both will enjoy!

Author Robert Rayner visited our school this month and shared his love of writing. He read excerpts from his various books and lead two small group writing activities. This provided stretch learning for some of our students.

Mrs. Debbie Gillis, ESST- Literacy

# In the Spirit of Giving!

As we enter the holiday season we want to instill the spirit of giving. In so doing, we have selected three charities to support as a school community this year.

Throughout the month of December, We will be collecting non perishable food items and toiletries for the KV Food Basket. We will also be collecting pet supplies for the Animal Rescue League. Students are encouraged to bring in items throughout the month of December. Admission for parents to the choir

concert, and our Christmas concerts will be a non perishable item for the KV Food Basket, or an item for the Animal Rescue League. Please have all items in by December 17th.

We will also be supporting Kennebecasis Valley Fire Department toy drive. All donations of toys will go to the Saint John Christmas Exchange program. We would encourage students to bring in a new or **gently** used toy for this cause. We were informed by the fire de-

partment that they are often lacking in presents for older children. If your child at Fairvale has older siblings, we would be happy to take any of their gently used items as well. All items should be in to our school by Friday, December 13th. Over the past five years our front hallway has been overflowing with toys for the less fortunate in our community.

Together we make a difference.

## Dates To Remember

- ⇒ Nov. 30 Healthy lunch website opens
- ⇒ Dec. 2 & 4 Curling Presentations for students in grades 3-5 ( and 2 Blanchard)
- ⇒ Dec. 2-13 Toy Drive RRFD—Please send in a new or gently used unwrapped toy
- ⇒ Dec. 3-19 Food Drive
- ⇒ Dec. 5 Welcome to Kindergarten 3:30 & 5:30
- ⇒ Dec. 5 Choir Christmas Concert 7PM
- ⇒ Dec. 5 Skating
- ⇒ Dec. 5 Healthy Lunch Website closed
- ⇒ Dec. 8 Christmas Movie *Polar Express* 2 PM
- ⇒ Dec 9 VIP Seating Tickets for Sale
- ⇒ Dec. 11 Christmas Concert Grades 1-5 Last Name A-M  
8:30AM
- ⇒ Dec. 12 Skating
- ⇒ Dec. 13 Christmas Concert Grade 1-5 Last name N-Z 8:30 AM
- ⇒ Dec. 17 French Author visit: Louys Pitre
- ⇒ Dec. 17 Kindergarten Christmas concert @ 12:30
- ⇒ Dec. 18 Turkey Dinner
- ⇒ Dec. 20 Christmas Lip Sync K-5 (student event) @ 9am
- ⇒ Dec. 20 "Night Before Christmas" pajama day
- ⇒ Dec 20 Last day of school—Full day
- ⇒ Jan. 6 Professional Development for staff
- ⇒ Jan. 7 First day for students





## News from your PSSC

The PSSC (Parent School Support Committee) is off to a great start this year! We are excited to have a full 15 member parent committee whose primary focus is ensure that the parent voice is heard in setting education priorities and planning for improvements in our school. Our committee addresses broad issues related to the education of all children in the school, with the goal of enhancing student learning. PSSC meetings are generally open to the public. Parents and interested community members are encouraged to attend these meetings. All meetings are held at 7:30PM in the FES Library. Meeting dates for the rest of the year include: January 16th, February 13th, April 10th, May 15th. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the committee at [FESPSSC@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:FESPSSC@nbed.nb.ca) or you may also contact any member directly.

The PSSC will be hosting a "Children's Wellness Night" on Tuesday, January 21 from 7:30-9:00 in the music room. We have secured a child psychologist who will speak on **childhood anxiety** and a dietician who will address the topic of **healthy eating at home and at school**. Please join us for these informative sessions on wellness. More details to follow in the January newsletter.



Back row: Peter Menchenton, Marty McCarthy, Bridget Stack, Tracy MacPherson

Front row: Liz Tait (Chairperson), Kendra Gallant, Melissa Harris, Heather Tait, Jana Comeau (Secretary), Bonnie Hierlihy (Principal)

Missing from photo: Kevin Finnigan, Robin Kirkpatrick Evans, Spring Lake, Tricia Wilson, Charlotte McGill Pierce (DEC member), Judy Kilpatrick (Teacher Representative)

Begin with the End in Mind Career Week was a huge success, thanks to so many parents who gave so generously of their time. You deserve to be celebrated! This collaboration supported Ends Policy #4 " To Enhance Family Engagement and Community Partnerships".



## Christmas Concert Updates

Christmas Concert practices are well underway with the Grade 1 - 5 classes as well as the Primary and Upper Elementary Choirs. The Choir Concert is on December 5 at 7:00pm. Please note the change in starting time. Students should be at the school no earlier than 6:40. There will be a special Boys Only song that many of our boys are involved in. The boys will be performing for both concerts, that is on December 5 at 7:00pm as well as for the school concerts on December 11 ( for parents of students with last names between A - M ) and December 13 ( for parents of students with last names between N - Z ). Boys should wear hoodies and jeans for their performances. On December 5 the boys should arrive no earlier than 6:40 as well. Parents should have received a note asking their child to wear something specific for the school concert. Choir members can wear something nice. We hope you will enjoy our Christmas Concerts.

## Counsellor's Corner: Jane Perkins Love @jane.perkinslove@nbed.nb.ca or 847-6304

Making Sense of Anxiety—The escalating levels of anxiety in our children begs for an explanation as well as a solution.

Mrs. Perkins Love will be offering a 4-week course beginning Wednesday, January 29th entitled Making Sense of Anxiety in Children and Youth. This course will be based on the work of Dr. Gordon Neufeld, a developmental psychologist from Vancouver, B.C.

Dr. Neufeld brings a fresh and promising perspective to one of our most troubling and perplexing human problems. Dr. Neufeld sheds light on this age-old problem, paving the way for natural interventions that can actually get to the root causes as opposed to just managing symptoms.

This course will be held January 29th, February 5th, 12th and 19th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. It will be comprised of videos and group discussions. If you are interested in attending this course, please contact Mrs. Perkins Love at jane.perkinslove@nbed.nb.ca or call 847-6304. If your child suffers with anxiety, you'll be glad you did!

The Cool Cats had an active role to play in Be Cool Week. There were daily announcements which provided students with 4 different strategies for acting Cool when being teased. They are: Ignore It, Laugh It Off, Change the Subject, and Ask the Teaser to Stop. Even the kindergarten children understand that being hot means blowing up, being cold means giving up, and that neither way solves the problem. But being COOL means staying in control and can solve the problem.

During the Be Cool assemblies, the Cool Cats' reinforced the importance of Following the I-Care Rules and Living the 7 Habits in learning to be Cool. There will be many more ways of being Cool that will be introduced throughout the year.

The members of the Bully SMART Team were presented to the Grade 3 - 5 students during their Be Cool Assembly last week. They are: Alex Forgeron & Madelyn Keyes in 4 Bonner, Jack Deschenes & Morgan Tait in 4 Costello, Clara Hodgson & Josh Osborne in 4 MacGillivray, James Hindle & Ally McLaughlin in 4 Roul, Elizabeth Cook & Christian Naida 4 Woods Emileigh Owens in 5 Hanson, Tyler Michaud, Cole Murphy & William Turnbull in 5 McRae, Hayden Whithers in 5 Roul, Rachel Hope & Tyler Newell in 5 Wallace, Andrew Hodge, Sarah Mew & Paige Stone in 5 Walsh. Congratulations to those students who were chosen for the team. It is quite an honour. Weekly meetings will begin in early January and there will be many opportunities for the team to get their important message out to the other students.

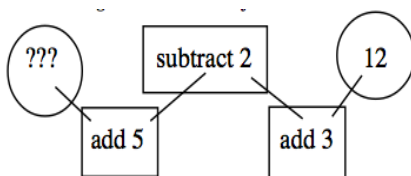
## Math Corner—ENDS POLICY #3—"Students at FES will demonstrate continuous improvement in numeracy skills, striving to meet or exceed the standards set by the Province of New Brunswick".

### WORK BACKWARDS

What if you know the result of a situation, but you don't know the beginning? For example, you might know that you end up with thirteen baseball cards after doing a certain number of trades and you want to figure out how many cards you had before the trading started. In that case you need to work backwards; you have to think about your actions in reverse order. This strategy works for any sequence of actions when you know the end result rather than the starting place. Try working backwards to solve these problems:

#### K-2

What is the starting number?



#### 3-5

Jo gave a number problem to Nelda. She told her to pick a number, add 10 to it, double that sum, and then subtract 5. Nelda's answer was 39. What number did she start with?

#### Challenge!

What is the starting number?

- Start at
- Add 6
- Multiply by 2
- Divide by 8
- End at 9.