



Newsletter- March 2017

It is hard to believe that March is already here. I am telling myself that Spring is here too, but I am told I am being too optimistic.

Looking back, we had a very busy February. Grade 3-4 finished up the year at the rink with Broomball. We had a successful Ski day, Hockey Day in Botha was another success, students honoured Pink Shirt Day, and last week we held an Ugly Sweater day. Our Grade 4-6 students participated in a 3-3 Basketball in Stettler, and travelled to Brownfield for a game where they represented Botha well with a great effort and sportsmanship.

Looking forward, March is a bit of a “different” month this year, as far as our schedule goes. Our report cards will go home on Wednesday, March 8th. Students have no school on the 9th and 10th this year as teacher will attend Teacher’s Convention in Edmonton. Student Led Conferences are to be held on March 16 (more on that below) and on the 17th, Botha students will travel to Donalda for our last basketball game, where the BODO cup will be up for grabs. Finally, **Spring Break will fall on March 27-31. Students will return to school on April 3.**

In speaking with parents and staff, this term we thought we would try **something new for Student Led Conferences**. This term, with the student report cards, you will receive one of two notes enclosed in the same envelope. Teachers will either indicate that a meeting is being requested to discuss your student’s learning, or that the teacher had not requested a meeting, but should you wish to have a meeting, we will schedule you a time. We certainly don’t wish to make it seem as though we don’t wish to have you visit, however, we are just looking to ensure best uses of time, and ensure that we make time for meetings that may be more necessary.

I would also like to update parents with regards to head lice concerns. I want to reassure you that lice is not a major concern in our school right now, and the only reason you may have heard more about it is that there have been a few reported cases and that the school has been proactive about wanting to stop the spread. Unfortunately head lice is quite common in all elementary schools, and by being proactive, we do not want to make it seem that we have an epidemic. We have been in contact with the Health Unit. Again, they have pointed us to best practices that have been posted on our website. **Please note, moving forward, that our school will only hold on to lost and found items for one week before it being disposed of.** If you should have any questions at all about head lice, it’s treatment, or what is being done to prevent the spread of lice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Finally, I want to acknowledge all of the parents that support our school and our students by making time to attend events such as ski day, or basketball. As a staff, we certainly appreciate the support and it's because of parents support that Botha students have as many opportunities as they do. When we are asked to participate in an event we never hesitate to say yes, in that we know that we can count on parents to help make it work. Thank you for that.

All the best in the month of March and safe travels if you should be lucky enough to have a trip planned for Spring Break!

Mike Flieger