



District Dialogue

September / October 2011

Superintendent's Message



Dr. Karen Nelson
Superintendent of Schools

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Superintendent's Message	1, 2
Professional Development Activities	2
Events New Bus Maintenance Facility	3
Fraser-Cascade Mountain School	4, 5
2011 School Trustee Elections	5
2011 /2012 School Calendar	6

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2011-2012 school year. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all staff members for your dedication and commitment to ensuring that the necessary preparations were attended to in order to provide a welcoming, clean, and safe environment for our students to return to on the first day of school.

Our bus garage is in the process of being relocated to the property adjacent to the District Education Office. We look forward to working more directly with our bus drivers and the transportation department. I wish to thank our Secretary-Treasurer, Natalie Lowe-Zucchet, for working with the maintenance and transportation departments in order for this vision to become a reality.

Once again this year teaching and non-teaching staff engaged in a variety of professional development activities during the days and weeks leading up to the first day of school. On August 26, 2011 principals, teachers and district staff joined staff from School District No. 33 (Chilliwack) to engage in an interactive session on personalized learning. This included reviewing curriculum and assessment as well as how to implement personalized learning in school and district growth plans.

On August 31, 2011 trustees, principals, vice principals and district staff enjoyed a team building session with a focus on the implementation of personalized learning and First Nations Culture. We reviewed the practices that are currently taking place in our district and determined that we have many programs that we can indeed be proud of. We also recognized that we cannot become complacent and that we need to continue to work together to ensure that our students graduate with the necessary skills and abilities in preparation for the world they are about to enter. We wish to thank Rosalee Floyd for all of her efforts in organizing such a productive and fun-filled day.

The 2011-2012 school year marks the first year in our District, and throughout the province where kindergarten students will attend school on a full-day basis. I wish to commend our teachers, principals and our maintenance department for attending to the necessary preparations in order to ensure a smooth transition for our students.

During the current school year we will be following-up on information gathered at the six public forums held last spring on personalized learning. Members of the Education Committee are continuing to meet and plan for a Spring Forum in 2012 that will focus on engaging our students and staff members. As well, we have three public meetings scheduled to review our Enhancement Agreement. We look forward to working with our First Nation/Aboriginal Communities to review plans to support and enhance student learning. I would like to thank Stan Watchorn, Rod Peters and members of the Aboriginal Education Council for their commitment to this important process.

continued on pg. 2



Superintendent's Message

continued from page 1

Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement regional meetings will take place in Hope, Boston Bar and Agassiz from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 9, 2011 - Boston Bar (Health Clinic)
- Wednesday, November 16, 2011 - Chawathil (Hope Area)
- Wednesday, November 23, 2011 - Seabird (Agassiz-Harrison Area)

In closing, I want to thank staff members and individual members of each of our educational partner groups for your hard work, dedication and commitment to supporting our district. I wish to extend a warm welcome to students and families who are new to our district and to those of you returning - welcome back! I look forward to the promise and excitement of a new school year in 2011-2012.

Karen Nelson
Superintendent of Schools

Professional Development Activities

Congratulations to staff members in each of our schools for organizing and participating in the following Pro D sessions during the summer:

- Hope Secondary School Staff:** - "The Dirty Apron" Teambuilding, review of curriculum development and implementation
- AESS Staff:** - Classroom Management with Dr. Sunddip Panesar Nahal, writing workshop with Susan Augustyn
- C.E. Barry Staff:** - French workshop, computer workshop, dance workshop
- Coquihalla Staff:** - Anxiety workshop, focus group work, school planning, ActionSchools!
- Silver Creek Staff:** - School planning session, Apple computers and Smart Board in-service
- Harrison Staff:** - School Growth Planning
- Boston Bar Staff:** - Teambuilding, school planning, re-vamping of the school Code of Conduct and positive behavior system.
- Kent Elementary Staff:** - After-school Pro D Collaboration

Once again this year our noon hour supervisors enjoyed participating in an informative and interactive session provided by Jim Skinner on dealing with challenging behavior issues.

Training in First Aid was also provided for staff members and we wish to thank Heather Dewar for consistently ensuring that we have qualified staff in each of our schools.





New Bus Maintenance Facility

Work is underway on a new 5,800 sq. ft. bus garage on the vacant lot behind the Board Office on 7th Avenue. The new facility will have outdoor stalls for bus parking and quick repairs and inspections. Inside the facility will be a large maintenance area with offices upstairs for operations and technology staff.

Construction work is expected to break ground before the end of December.



Seabird Island College/Adult Programs and the Fraser-Cascade School District are pleased to announce a new partnership that will allow expanded upgrading, trades, vocational, and technical training that is open to everyone.

For more information on this partnership program contact Sandy Balascak at ACE at (604) 796-9496

Dr. Art is coming to Hope!



School Activities



Seniors & Teens Day at ACE



Myles McKie speaks to students at Kent Elementary school about his life living with autism



Coquihalla Elementary - Science 4 Wetlands Program with Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning

Fraser-Cascade Literacy Task Initiative



Promoting and supporting life-long, life-wide, life-deep learning

2011/2012 Goals:

- Promote and operate Story Time in the Park as an 8-week program that takes place in July and August.
- Expansion of the program to ensure Story Time in the Park has a full-year presence.
- Raise sufficient funds through grants and fundraising to operate Story Time in the Park

Fraser-Cascade Mountain School

Grade 7 students from C.E. Barry and Silver Creek Elementary completed their last hike of the season with the Fraser-Cascade Mountain School by exploring the Dog Mountain Trail near Hope. Grade 7 students from Agassiz Elementary-Secondary School also completed their last hike of the season. They hiked the historic 1860 Hope-Nicola Trail and the Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park near Hope.

The Mountain School fall hiking season comes to a close as snow begins to build above the tree line. A total of 543 students, their teachers and parents from Boston Bar, Hope, Agassiz and Silver Creek hiked with the Mountain School during the past two months. They completed a very ambitious hiking season climbing the Coquihalla Needle, Yak Peak, Zoa Peak and Serpentine Lake in the Coquihalla; Mount Frosty, Despair Pass, Blackwall Peak, the Heather Trails, and Mount Outram in the Manning Park region; Mount Lincoln and the Spirit Caves Trail in the Fraser Canyon; Wells Peak near Hope, Slollicum Peak near Harrison and Mount Cheam near Chilliwack.

The objective of the program, to have young people in our school district actively engaged in the outdoors, will continue with the snowshoe season early in 2012.



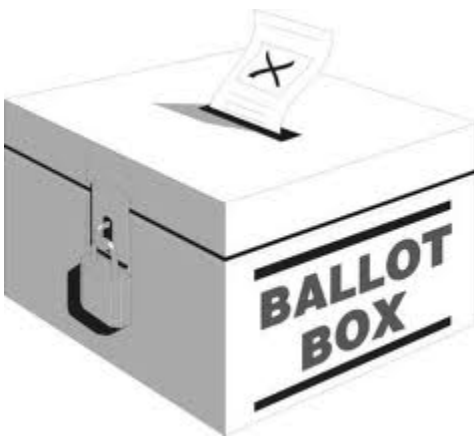
Fraser-Cascade Mountain School



ZOA PEAK IN THE SNOW - 2011

2011 School Trustee Elections

General local elections to elect school trustees for all boards of education in the province will be held on **Saturday, November 19, 2011**. The candidates for Fraser-Cascade are:



School Trustee election information is available on the school district website at www.sd78.bc.ca For more information contact Natalie Lowe-Zucchet, Chief Election Officer or Eldie Smith, Deputy Chief Election Officer at (604) 869-2411 during regular office hours.

Hope Electoral Area (3 to be elected). Election by voting required:

<u>Surname</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Jurisdiction of Residence</u>
FURNESS	PAT	Hope, B.C.
SINCLAIR	JIM	Hope, B.C.
COPE	MARV	Hope, B.C.
MCMULLAN	LINDA	Hope, B.C.

Agassiz-Harrison Electoral Area (3 to be elected).

Election by voting required:

FRASER	ALAN LOVET	Agassiz, B.C.
WARREN	MARILYN	Agassiz, B.C.
JOHNSTONE	RON	Agassiz, B.C.
TUSTIAN	ROSE	Agassiz, B.C.

Canyon Electoral Area - Elected by acclamation

(No election by voting required)

HENDRICKSON	TOM	Boston Bar, B.C.
-------------	-----	------------------

2011/2012 School Calendar

Days in Session	188
Minimum number of days of instruction	181
Maximum number of Non-Instructional days	6
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2011
Non-Instructional Day – (All Schools)	Friday, October 21, 2011
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 11, 2011
Curriculum Implementation and Planning Day (All Schools)	Monday, November 21, 2011
Schools close at end of day for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16, 2011
Winter Vacation Period	December 19, 2011 – January 2, 2012
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	Tuesday, January 3, 2012
Non-Instructional Day – (All Schools)	Friday, January 20, 2012 Joint District/First Nations Learning Activity Day
Non-Instructional Day – (All Schools)	Friday, February 17, 2012
Schools close at end of day for Spring Vacation	Friday, March 9, 2012
Spring Vacation Period	March 12 – 23, 2012
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 26, 2012
Good Friday	Friday, April 6, 2012
Easter Monday	Monday, April 9, 2012
Non-Instructional Day – (All Schools)	Friday, April 27, 2012
Non-Instructional Day – (All Schools)	Friday, May 18, 2012
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2012
Last Day of School for Students	Thursday, June 28, 2012
Administrative Day	Friday, June 29, 2012
Schools Close	Friday, June 29, 2012