



October 10, 2018

# THE COYOTE CONNECTION

## **A MESSAGE FROM CHERYL SEBASTIAN, PRINCIPAL**

It is hard to believe that it is already mid October! We have had a very busy start to the school year but students and staff have settled into routines nicely.

We had a fantastic turnout for our Harvest Feast. It was great to have so many family members here to celebrate the start of a school year and the coming of fall. One of our goals for this year is to increase opportunities for parents, families and community to come for a visit and participate in school functions and student learning. Stay tuned and keep your eyes out for our monthly calendar which will be sent home with students, posted on the PAC Facebook page and the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office. Teachers will often remind students and send notes home in their agendas of upcoming events.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the school!

**ATTENDANCE & LATE ARRIVALS** - We have had a significant increase in student absentees and lates this fall. Regular attendance and arriving at school on time are critical factors to ensuring student success in school.

School classes begin promptly at **8:30 am**. When your child arrives late to school, even by 10 minutes, they have already missed the beginning of their reading lesson. The reading programs we teach are very structured in their pacing and lesson delivery. When students miss part(s) of a lesson it is very easy for them to fall behind.

In an effort to increase your child(ren)'s success in school we will be monitoring attendance/ late arrivals on a monthly basis and following up with a phone call home from your child's teacher and/or a letter home from the office if necessary.

Your cooperation in getting your child to school by **8:15 a.m.** will ensure they are here on time for breakfast and prepared to start their lessons on time. Thank you for working with us to make it a successful year for your child.

**PHONE CALLS** - There have been several changes to student's after school routine. Please ensure that you call the school office by **1:30 pm** to ensure that messages are relayed to your child's teacher. Receiving calls after that time causes chaos and confusion for students, staff

and bus drivers. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all students in getting home safely to you so it is important that you call early . Thank you for your co-operation regarding this matter.

On early dismissal days, please ensure that you call the school no later than **10:30 am**. Also, a reminder that the Youth Centre is usually **not open** on early dismissal days.

**LOST & FOUND** - Our lost and found is growing! Please remember to **mark all your child's clothing/items with their name** so if lost they can be identified and returned in a timely manner. If your child is missing articles remind them to look in the lost and found. The lost and found items are located just inside the doors leading to the classrooms.

**ORANGE SHIRT "EVERY CHILD MATTERS" DAY** - Sk'elep School celebrated Orange Shirt day on October 1<sup>st</sup> to raise awareness and honour residential school survivors. Every student was given a new orange shirt to commemorate the legacy of residential schools.

**HARVEST FEAST** – The Harvest Feast held on October 5<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We had an excellent turnout of parents and grandparents to enjoy our celebration. A big thank you to the staff for helping our cook, Alecia Michel, prepare the food and to one of our parents, Liza Fedechko for making the bannock.

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

The Theme this year was "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."

Most fatal fires occur in residential settings where people feel safest. Fire can spread quickly through your home, leaving only precious minutes to escape. Your ability to get out fast depends on advanced warning from smoke alarms and advanced planning - creating a home fire escape plan. Make fire safety a priority in your home. Reduce your family's risk from fire by following the tips below.

### **Smoke Alarms**

- Make sure everyone in your home can recognize the sound of the smoke alarm and knows exactly what to do when it sounds.
- Install working smoke alarms near sleeping areas and on every level of your home. For maximum protection also install smoke alarms in bedrooms.
- Smoke alarms should be tested and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Alarms should be tested once a month by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm.
- For battery operated smoke alarms, replace batteries at least once a year or for extended life batteries according to manufacturer's instructions. Batteries should also be replaced when the smoke alarm makes a chirping sound.
- Smoke alarms should be cleaned at least every 6 months, by gently vacuuming the exterior.

### **Home Fire Escape Plans**

- Create a home fire escape plan showing 2 ways out of every room. Practise your plan with your entire family by having a home fire drill at least twice a year.

- Choose a Family Meeting Place a safe distance away from your home. All family members should be taught to report to the Family Meeting Place after leaving the home.
- One person should then go to a neighbour's house or the nearest phone in a safe location to contact 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.

We will be having scheduled fire, earthquake and lock down drills throughout the school year so that students are prepared should we ever have to evacuate the school for any of those reasons.

**BOOK FAIR** - The Scholastic Book Fair is an exciting bi-annual event at Sk'elep School. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair, as it benefits our school library and promotes reading.

The winners of our Book Fair draw are:

Primary - Aiyana Edmund (K) (poster)

Intermediate - Dante Martinello-William (Gr.5) (poster)

Grand Prize (\$25 worth of books for student and \$25 worth of books for the classroom) -

Aurora Phillips-Fritz (Gr.2) and Ms. Smail

The next Book Fair is scheduled for the Spring of 2019. See you then!

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS** - We were very happy to see all of the parents who came in to chat with their child's teacher(s) on Wednesday, October 17th and Thursday, October 18th.

If you weren't able to make it in to see your child's teacher on those days and would like to do so, it's not too late! Please call the school to arrange a date and time that works for yourself and the teacher to come in and chat about your child's learning in school.

**STUDENT PHOTO RETAKES** - Student photo retakes will be taken on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:45 a.m.

**EARLY MORNING DROP OFF** - While we understand that parents have different drop off times before they begin their work day, it is important for all parents to understand that there is **not any supervision in the school until 8:00 a.m.** Teachers may be in earlier but they are preparing for their day and not able to supervise. Please ensure that you **do not drop off your child prior to 8 a.m.** Please make other arrangements for childcare prior to this time. If students do arrive early they will be asked to sit at the bench area until 8:00 a.m.

**FALL WEATHER/STUDENT CLOTHING** - Remember that the weather is changing and with that comes cooler temperatures. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Please ensure that your child has a jacket or warm hoodie when they arrive at school. All students are expected to go outside for the morning and afternoon recess breaks

and therefore they must be dressed appropriately. Layering works the best especially when the temperature fluctuates. Please label all clothing that your child brings to school.

A reminder that all students are required to have a second pair of shoes or runners at school. The shoes/runners are to have non-marking black soles. In case of a fire drill, all students must go outside immediately so it is very important that students wear inside shoes.

**HALLOWEEN** is just around the corner!

Classrooms may be involved in class based activities over the next few weeks. Teachers will notify you of any events they are planning. On October 31<sup>st</sup> students may wear costumes (without weapons such as knives, guns, swords, etc.) to school. In the afternoon, all classes will enjoy Hallowe'en activities in the gym.

Here are a few safety tips to review with your child;



- Children should always trick-or-treat with an adult.
- Never enter a stranger's home (unless you are with an adult).
- Always look both ways when crossing the street.
- Carry a flashlight or glow sticks.
- If you are an older child (teenager) make sure you travel in a group of friends.
- Have emergency contact information attached to costumes and treat-bags.
- Have your Halloween candy inspected by your parents before you eat it.



### October Events

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**October 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Photo Retakes - 8:30 am**  
**Halloween Activities**

### November Events

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Young People's Concert**  
**Remembrance Day Assembly**  
**Remembrance Day - No School**  
**Report Cards home**  
**Recognition Assembly**