

Alex Hope News



January 29, 2021

Newsletter #5

Drop Everything and Read:

Literacy week at Alex Hope was a success. It was great to see so many of our students engaged in literacy activities throughout the week. From jokes, to rhymes to fun facts, our students were immersed in a variety of genres. We have truly appreciated the support from home. Your work along with the interventions at school and the desire to learn from our students has helped close the learning gaps that were created due to the loss of school during the pandemic. We still have work to do, but we really appreciate your efforts to support our home reading programs and discussing readings at home.



Just a few tips to keep in mind when supporting a beginning reader: start slow, work on letter sounds and blended sounds. Talk about the pictures, and have your child make predictions. For our older students, please continue to work on inferencing. Have students make predictions and explain how they came to that conclusion. What did they read that helped form that opinion? These skills not only help with reading development, but they also improve student writing.



Take the learning outside:

We are extremely excited to announce that the Langley School District will be providing Alex Hope Elementary with a brand-new outdoor learning space. It's a great opportunity for our staff and students. With the new outdoor classroom, we hope to also revitalize the hill outside our west wing. We hope to give our students the opportunity to work with and learn about plants and trees that are native to this area. As well, it will be a great spot to learn in the nice weather. As well we want to say a HUGE thank you to our 2019-2020 student council and PAC for the new picnic tables that are currently being installed. As well we would like to thank our PAC for the new 'Buddy Bench' that has been installed on our primary playground.



Valentine's Day:

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. As the Pro-D day falls on February 12th, many classrooms will celebrate this day on February 11th. We understand that on this day, many families are excited to send little treats for our students. As grateful as we are for that, we simply **cannot allow for any types of 'treats' to be handed out**. However, in trying to provide some sense of normalcy, we will encourage the tradition of exchanging Valentine's Day Cards. The cards **MUST** be made of paper. If the cards come with a plastic packaging or in an envelope they will not be handed out. Please be sure that the cards are made of paper/cardboard and are not sealed in an envelope. We recognize that this might be an unnecessary step, however our community has done a tremendous job of keeping our school safe and we will continue to put student and community safety first.

Welcome to Alex Hope:

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Whin-Yates to Alex Hope. She will be joining our resource team for the remainder of the year. We are excited to have her at our school and supporting our students.

Reminders about Masks:

We have truly appreciated the support from our community with regards to wearing masks. We do ask that you please remind your child to bring their reusable masks home to be washed. As well, please help remind your child that disposable masks need to make their way into the garbage. We have made this part of our announcements, but students could use a few reminders to help keep our playground clean.

Black History Month:

February is Black History Month in Canada. We will be utilizing stories, novel studies, current events and announcements, to guide our learning and to strike up conversations around this important topic. Holding conversations around Canada's historical Black figures would be a great way to extend your child's learning and supplement what we will focus on at school. The CBC and Canadian Government website are two great places to start when looking for information.

Lunar New Year:

Gong hei fat choy. Saehae bok man-ee badeu seyo. This year Lunar New Year falls on February 12th. Ms. Ytsma, our teacher librarian has put together a wonderful collection of books on the lunar new year for our library. Alex Hope Elementary wishes everyone a Happy Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is an important celebration for many members of our Alex Hope school community, and we look forward to celebrating along with our community.

Diversity and Respect:

February 22 – 26 is Diversity and Respect Week in Langley. Though this is something that we promote daily at Alex Hope, this is a week where we will put extra focus into ideas of inclusion, diversity, understanding, empathy and respect. Wednesday, February 24 is Pink Shirt Day /Anti-Bullying Day and Friday, February 26 is our Rainbow Spirit Day – Dress in the colours of a rainbow. Throughout the week we will hold virtual assemblies where we will focus on the diversity that we see at Alex Hope and to celebrate our differences and similarities. In addition, we will also perform school wide read out louds (via TEAMS) and announcements, that focus on the themes of Diversity and Respect.



Student Assessments/Surveys:

If you have not already done so, please be sure to check your email for information on the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA's) for all of our grade 4 and 7 students. Though we do encourage students to take part in this assessment, some parents may want to excuse their child from the FSA. Please note, if you choose to excuse your child, you must contact the school administration and provide a written note for your child.

Students in grade 5 and 6 will be taking part in the MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). This is a survey that focuses on the social and emotional needs of our students. Information was sent out via email. Please be sure to review the information package.

