



KOOTENAY LAKE UPD8

Volume 1, Issue 6

October 8, 2008

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEMO

From the Desk of the Superintendent . . .

Celebrating World Teachers' Day—October 5, 2008

This edition of UPD8 is dedicated to the teachers of School District #8 (Kootenay Lake), in recognition of World Teachers' Day on October 5, 2008. World Teachers' Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1994 to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing teachers and the work they do every day.



School District #8 has approximately 290 teachers, all of whom can take a great deal of credit for our strong student results and quality of programs offered.

The September 1, 2008, edition of The Globe and Mail featured an article entitled "High Praise for Public Education" and focused on the central role that the school played in the editor's neighbourhood, which is in central Toronto. The author was Jim Stanford, of the Canadian Auto Workers' Union, and I have pulled out just a couple of his thoughts:

"But our school's importance goes far beyond these facilities and services. It's high-quality education for students of Parkdale's many backgrounds is a price-

less contribution to social cohesion. This egalitarianism enhances our ability to get along as neighbours, in addition to boosting our children's chances in life.... Our school is a prized asset in our neighbourhood, as is public education in general a gift to our whole society.

That children from all classes and backgrounds attend the same building, get to know each other and learn from the same teachers is nothing short of a miracle. And it all starts right there in the neighbourhood."

**Thanks to the teachers
in School District #8 and your
colleagues beyond our district
for all that you do for individuals,
our communities, and
our society.**

**District
Mission:
"We focus on
excellence for
all learners in
a nurturing
environment."**



Thought of the Week:

“Every teacher should realize the dignity of his/her calling”.

John Dewey

Flu Shots

Flu shots are available for SD 8 staff on regular and temporary postings.

Please check with your school secretary as to time allocated:

Thursday, October 23	Salmo Elementary
Monday, October 27	Trafalgar, L.V. Rogers
Wednesday, October 29	P.C.S.S., A.R.E.S., Erickson
Monday, November 3	Redfish Elementary, J.V. Humphries
Wednesday, November 5	Winlaw, Mt. Sentinel

The District Calendar: 10 Days Out

This part of the Wednesday morning bulletin will be used to share key district happenings for the 10 days following that edition of the bulletin.

- October 15, Sally McLean Math Day, Board Office (AM/PM Sessions)
- October 15, Secondary PVP/Trades Meeting, Prestige (9:00—3:00)
- October 16, Leyton Schnellert, Board Office (9:00—3:00)
- PVP Meeting, October 21, Board Office (9:00—3:00)

October 10: A School-Based Professional Development Day

School based Pro D days provide an excellent opportunity for staffs to work together and are typically jointly planned by the principal and/or vice principal and school-based Pro D chairs, as well as in other ways using staff input and expertise. For schools that agree, as a staff, to do summer pro d as a full staff, one or two of the school-based days are viewed as days in lieu.

On October 10, many staffs will be continuing with the collaborative activities and projects from September 22, many of which are linked to the School Plan to Strengthen Learning which was designed by the staffs on the May 25 Planning Day. Some cross-school collaboration will also be occurring. Typically, the district does not plan staff development on school-based days to enable staffs to work together but this year is a bit of an exception. Given the continuing focus on literacy in school plans, the fact that we have a relatively new English Language Arts curriculum and the district direction around assessment for learning, we are supporting two cross-school and cross-district opportunities:

Reading Power with Adrienne Gear – The Reading Power resource is in use in many of our schools and is congruent with the big ideas behind Smart Learning and our new curriculum (Audience: K-7 teachers)

Let’s Keep Talking About Assessment with Damien Cooper – This session will build on last year’s middle and secondary school conference, as well as our summer institute. The focus will be on the use of assessment for learning across the curriculum on a minute-to-minute, day to day basis.

Both sessions have approximately 100 registrants from across the Kootenay-Boundary, including West Kootenay Teacher Education students.