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A letter from Superintendent of Schools/CEO Peter Jory

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we work our way into the middle of November, it seems we are waiting for the other shoe to drop, as the old saying goes. The weather is changing to winter, our Americans neighbours are in post-election flux, BC ministerial portfolios have yet to be announced, and we are wondering what new COVID information is coming our way. Meanwhile, we are in session, teaching and learning continues, and everyone is busy with mainly "typical" school planning and work.

I will mention that this week has Remembrance Day in the middle of it, and our school ceremonies will occur on Tuesday in cohort groups with video presentations. On Thursday evening we will hold our next Long Range Facility Planning consultation session, which will look more deeply at the Salmon Arm and Sorrento area configurations through the magic of electronic media. The following week we will have a Ministry designated learning day focussed on Indigenous education. Mid-November also marks the end of quarter one courses at our secondary schools and student-parent-teacher goal setting sessions at the elementary level.

After that, many of our schools will start to turn their attention to Winter concerts, which will be organized into small group sessions or electronic formats to stay in compliance with our school and district safety plans.

I have had a number of parents mention how happy their kids are to be back in school full time, and how grateful they are for how hard our staff has worked to make it as normal as possible and to keep learning moving forward. There are some things we cannot do right now, and while it is true that list might get longer before it gets shorter again, I am still feeling optimistic that our context will be in better shape by the end of the school year.

Enjoy your week and be safe,
Peter

Peter Jory, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Remembrance Day Ceremonies



Schools throughout SD83 will be recognizing the importance of Remembrance Day. Most schools are doing "virtual" assemblies, or holding ceremonies in classrooms or within cohorts. Of special note, Pleasant Valley Secondary School (PVSS) student Taliah Bellman performed ["The Last Post"](#) and ["Reveille"](#) on her trumpet. These were pre-recorded and shared with elementary schools across the district. PVSS Principal Chelsea

Prince comments the school is proud of her accomplishment and that this is a very significant recognition of Taliah's skills!

Teaching students to think deeply about math

Teaching students to think deeply about math and be able to apply mathematical thinking to problem solve is a focus in SD83. And it may surprise you to know it is being done through laughter, working together and understanding the importance of being able to use math rather than just do it!

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Virtual Long Range Facility Plan Consultation Meeting

SD83 is continuing the consultation process around the development of its long range facilities plan particularly for the Salmon Arm area and feeder schools. Two new options have been brought forward and an online consultation session will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. to gather input from parents and the public. After this session a [survey will also be opened to gather input](#). The survey opens at 8 p.m. on November 12 and closes at 4 p.m. on November 27.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Board elections on November 12

Trustees will be holding elections for the Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) at a special meeting of the Board on Thursday, November 12 at 3 p.m. at the District Education Support Centre (DESC). This meeting will be livestreamed.

Trustees will elect the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and representatives to the B.C. School Trustees' Association (BCSTA), and B.C. Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA) for the upcoming year.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Early Dismissal Day

**Unfamiliar phone
number?
(236) 600 - 9089**

No caller ID?

**It may be your
child's teacher
calling!**



As part of SD83's learning and assessment a student-parent-teacher conference is held. To facilitate this there will be an early dismissal day for all SD83 elementary schools plus Carlin and Len Wood on Thursday, Nov. 19. The exception to this is at Falkland where the early dismissal day will be on Nov. 26.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Encouraging writing



Shuswap Middle School Grade 7 teacher Chelsea Verney gave her students a "conversation starter" to help with a recent assignment. She posted a photo of a person at the end of the dock and asked them to write, in as much detail and description as they could, about that. Check out the interesting stories her students wrote!

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Drivers continue to pass school buses

Over the 20 school days in October, 34 drivers passed SD83 school buses when the red lights were flashing. Transportation Manager Andrea Kathrein comments that obviously 2020 has been a stressful year for most folks, a lot of anxiety out there. "For us in the Transportation Department at School District No. 83, the safety of our students both on and around our school buses has reached an alarming level of risk since students returned to school on September 8, 2020. "

"We are seeing a dangerous rise in the number of motorists driving through the red alternating lights on our school buses. They need another reminder to stop for reds and slow down for yellows. We ran a social media school bus safety campaign for the month of October, but it resulted in little to no success in reducing these incidents."

In October alone, 34 vehicles drove through our school bus' red alternating lights which only had 20 operating days. The month before it was up to 29 red light runners. (we were down to 9 red light runners back in February 2020).

"It's just so critical that motorists understand the importance of stopping for the red alternating lights on our school buses. Red Alternating lights that are actively flashing indicate that there is (or will be) a child walking around outside of that bus. Motorists must stop and wait until the red alternating lights turn off indicating that the child is safely on the bus or safely on their way home."



Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, November 11 - Remembrance Day

Thursday, November 12 - Special Board Meeting (Board elections) at 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 12 - Consultation for Long Range Facilities Plan at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18 - Board of Education meeting at DESC at 6 p.m.

Friday, November 20 - Non-Instructional Day (Ministry Designated)

[View our Health & Safety Plans Here](#)

