

Message from the Principal

January 2024

Mr. Shawn McLeod, Principal | Tel 604.858.4510 | shawn_mcleod@sd33.bc.ca | <http://unsworth.sd33.bc.ca>

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A very Happy New Year to our Unsworth Community! We hope you all had a most relaxing and memorable Holiday with your friends and families. We are very excited to welcome the students back to school and our teachers are looking forward to continuing the focused efforts and deep learning for our students in Term 2.

Just a reminder as the weather changes, please ensure your children are prepared for their time outdoors (Recess & Lunch playtime) Gloves, toques, Winter Coats & proper footwear is must this time of year.

January is a time for us to refocus and adjust our strategies for our school goals:

1. *We are dedicated to ensuring that students are proficient in foundational literacy skills and increase their abilities, confidence and willingness to engage with language to acquire, construct and communicate in meaningful ways.*
2. *We are dedicated to ensuring that all students become proficient in numeracy skills that allow them to create, apply and conceptualize mathematics in real world situations.*
3. *We celebrate diversity, embrace inclusion and foster a sense of belonging to ensure all students thrive and feel safe. Equity and inclusion are foundational to learning and leading, and are critical to success, well-being and fulfillment.*
4. *Students experience pivotal transition points throughout their education, from pre-K to Kindergarten, from grade to grade, school to school, and from school to post-secondary or work situations. We acknowledge our responsibility to support all learners, so they successfully complete their education (pre-K through to Grade 12) with a sense of dignity and purpose, and opportunities to meet their goals.*

MONDAY, JANUARY 15th



FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th



The Spirit of Giving in December

We would like to thank our Unsworth community for the generous canned food. The spirit of giving was alive and well at Unsworth as we donated over 4050 of non-perishable items to the Salvation Army, additionally over \$2800 was raised!! Unsworth ROCKS!



Student Morning Arrival Times and Afternoon Dismissal Reminders

As the morning bell rings at 8:15 a.m., students should not arrive at school prior to 8:00. As the days are shorter and the mornings are dark and cold, we ask that the children arrive closer to the bell, rather than earlier. There have been a number of instances recently, where students have been arriving before 8:00 a.m. Supervision of students begins at 8:00 a.m. Students are expected to wait outside until the 8:15 entry bell, unless it is deemed an inside

day due to weather. Our afternoon dismissal is at 2:15. Students who are picked up, should be picked up no later than 2:30. Parents are asked to make alternate arrangements if unable to pick up their child by 2:30 p.m. We are seeing an increase in students needing supervision well past the dismissal and supervision times on a daily basis. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Kindergarten Registration

Full Day Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now underway. If your child will be five (5) years of age by December 31, 2024, please register on-line at www.sd33.bc.ca. You will need to scan and attach your child's birth certificate and proof of residence when registering. We are strongly encouraging all of the in-catchment families who wish to register at Unsworth Elementary to do so as soon as possible...we are filling up quickly!

PAC News

Did you know that you are a member of the PAC? All parents are members of our PAC and are encouraged to attend the meetings. PAC meetings provide parents with information about our school, a chance to ask questions or raise concerns and of course, a chance to become involved with our school. The PAC Executive encourages you to attend the monthly meetings and look forward to meeting you.

The next PAC meeting will be **January 23rd at 9:00 a.m.** We look forward to seeing you!

Library News

Book Fair News:

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair in December. Thanks to you, we raised almost \$3000 for the Library! All of this money will be going to books for the library and prizes for our Book Bingo program. Thank you Unsworth!

Book Bingo Winners for November:

Speaking of Book Bingo, the following were our winners for November. Emilia, Lucy and Seeret (Laurillard); Gemma, Wyatt and Kenzie (Wiens); Dallas and Benson (Wiebe); Wyatt and Everett (Lousier); Jasper, Mikayla and Emma (Poettcker); Kieran, Logan and Kate (Dyck); Gus, Alivia and Charlie (McDonald); Summer, Sophia and Leo (Broadbent); Noah, Harvey and David (D'Archangelo); Yusuf, Charlotte and Rhys M. (Toop); Peyton and Piper (Mills); Colby, Kolya and Kiera (Robertson); Alex, Brixton and Zoe (Ball); Rayan (Lochhead); Jack, Chloe and Arveer (Lacey/Urban). Congratulations everyone!

Hallway PBS Blitz Winners:

In November, all of our staff was watching the students for proper hallway behaviour. Special Eagle Eye slips were handed out, and Mr. Caskanette made a fancy box for us to collect them. Mrs. Lange did a special draw and chose 40 winners out of that box. Here is the list of our awesome hallway winners: Nolan and Seeret (Laurillard); Gemma, Scott and Styles (Wiens); Riley and James (Wiebe); Scarlett, Indi, Daisy and Charlie (Lousier); Harper, Ava, Jasper, Emma, Mateo and Kellen (Poettcker); Gus, Alivia, Deegan, Kensington and Ruby (McDonald); Aiden, Ella, Sawyer and Leo (Broadbent); Rhys B (Toop); Claire, Keelan and Nova (Mills); Makenna (Robertson); Eden, Ellie, Bianca and Peyton (Ball); Michael (Lochhead); Xavier, Macie, Chloe and Anvi (Lacey/Urban). Stay tuned for our new focus later this month!

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 15th	Black Shirt Day
Friday, January 19th	Spirit Day – Tropical Day
Friday, January 19th	Popcorn Day
Tuesday, January 23rd	PAC Meeting (9:00)
Thursday, January 25th	Ready, Set, Learn (pre-Kindergarten event)
Friday, January 26th	Pro D Day – Schools are Closed
Friday, February 2nd	Popcorn Day
Friday, February 9th	Hot Lunch
Friday, February 16th	Pro D Day – Schools are Closed
Monday, February 19th	Family Day
Tuesday, February 20th	PAC Meeting (9:00)

Thank you to all sponsors that support our Unsworth Community

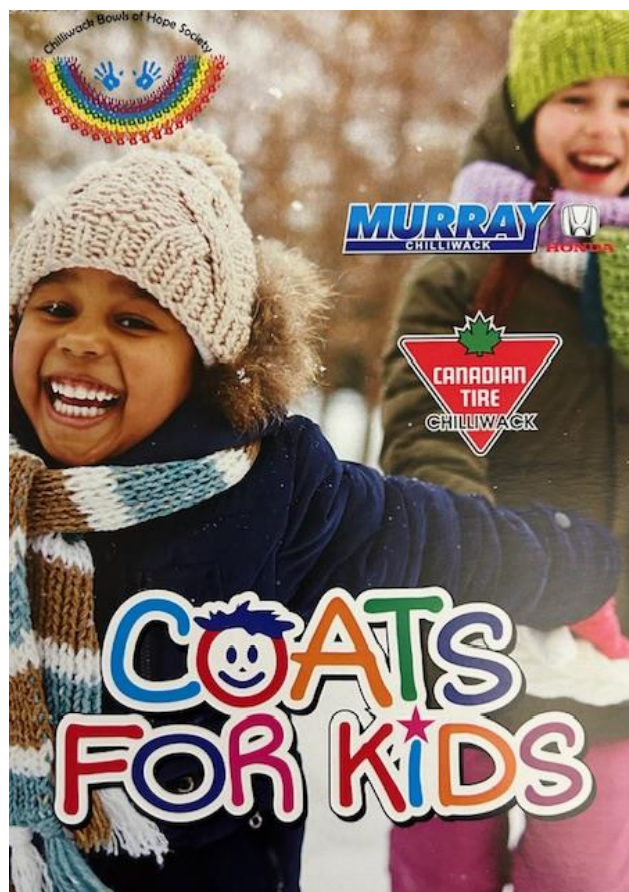
Unsworth Elementary is pleased and thankful to **Spectrum Medical** for their very generous donation of 10 tickets to each & every home game of the Chilliwack Chiefs Hockey Team this season.

Students will be given these tickets as classroom incentives and as a part of our weekly “Eagle Eye” Draw for students demonstrating positive behaviours at Unsworth.

Keep an eye out for students coming home with these tickets...If you cannot use them, please return them to the school and we will find another lucky Unsworth Fan to go to the game 😊

Again, a very BIG “Thank You” again to Spectrum Medical for making this all possible for our kiddos.

Additionally, a VERY BIG “Thank You” to the numerous **sponsors listed below** that helped provide School Supplies, Winter footwear & jackets to some of our students at Unsworth. Your efforts & generous donations are so very much appreciated. Thank you everyone for making our Unsworth School Community awesome!



January – Mental health

Know when and how to access mental health support for your child.

Mental illnesses are common in children and young people, they can have a significant impact on their development, relationships and their performance in school. Getting help early can prevent symptoms from becoming more severe and support a faster recovery.

Where do I start if my child or teen needs help?

A good place to start is by talking with your child/teen about how things have been going for them and what you've noticed.

Keep in mind that children and teens vary in their ability to talk about their feelings and experiences. They may not have the vocabulary to describe feelings. They also may not understand what's going on for them or make the connections between something in their life and their struggles.

How do I talk to my child or teen?

Here are some tips to help start a conversation with your child:

- Find a good time and place to talk. Driving to and from places, preparing dinner, or cleaning up after a meal are great opportunities to talk.
- Ask how they are or if they'd like to talk about anything that's going on for them.
- If they say they're fine or nothing is wrong, explain why you're concerned and offer specific examples that you've noticed.
- Acknowledge how it must be difficult for them.
- Ask about what strategies/actions they find helpful. Acknowledge their strengths.
- Discuss how mental health is part of everyone's life – and not just about severe problems.
- Talk about how sometimes it can take the assistance of others to overcome difficulties. Ask if they would like to talk with someone.
- Ask them what they think would help or what they think they need.
- Offer to make an appointment for your child/teen to see your family doctor – physical issues can sometimes have mental health symptoms associated with them. It's important to check if there's any physical issues.
- Let them know you want to help and that they can always come to you.
- If your child doesn't want to talk, let it go and try again in a few days.
- If you have concerns that your child may be using alcohol or other drugs, [get tips on how to talk to your child about drugs](#).

Get more information about child and youth mental health: <https://ow.ly/KgZZ50PehL0>



2023 / 2024

INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDELINES



Information for Parents and Students

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites. *For more details on how this is done, [click here](#).*

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the **School District website** www.sd33.bc.ca or tune into radio stations **STAR FM (98.3 FM)** or **THE DRIVE (89.5 FM)**, to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.

A Transportation Snow Plan is in place for students who rely on travel by school bus and live in higher elevations such as Chilliwack Mountain, Little Mountain, Majuba Hill, Ryder Lake and some areas of Columbia Valley and the Eastern Hillside. An announcement will be made should travel in these areas become challenging due to slippery road conditions. *(Please note: the greater Promontory area does not have a snow plan).*

All inclement weather announcements will be posted on the District website
www.sd33.bc.ca

