

April 2024

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Message from the Principal

Welcome Back!! We hope you had a lovely Spring Break with family and friends. The break was a time to rest up and energize ourselves for the final push toward summer. It is hard to believe that there are little more than twelve weeks left in this school year! As we enter the final term, students will build on the foundational skills acquired in the first and second terms and focus on the qualities of being a successful learner. Our teachers are fostering higher level thinking skills in literacy,

numeracy and personal responsibility/problem-solving. As partners in learning, parents are strongly encouraged to keep in contact with their child's classroom teacher in order to support learning in this final term.

The final term is typically a very busy time, please read-on to find out what is happening at Unsworth and be sure to check our newly updated website regularly for updates.

School Supervision

Just before Spring Break, we noticed that some students have been picked up late. Parents are asked to make alternate arrangements if unable to pick up their child within 15 minutes of the bell. Please remember that our school supervision starts at 8:00 in the morning and afterschool supervision ends at 2:30. All students must go directly home after school unless supervised by a parent. An exception is made for parents that pick up their child a bit later due to our staggered pick up schedule as per the parking lot reminder below. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Parking Lot Reminder

The parking lot is getting busy once again...

We are asking parents to once again, please stagger your pick up plans to help us alleviate some of the pressure in our parking lot. If you have a student in the Intermediate grades (3-5) and they can wait a bit, please plan your pick up time around 2:25...This will give our younger students a chance to clear the way and reduce the pressure.

- The curb-side lane is for drop-off and pick-up only, please stay in your vehicle and pull forward to allow for more cars to enter the parking lot
- If your child is being picked up in a vehicle, they will be expected to wait curb-side near the white signs and will be directed to follow your car to the furthest point forward in the line-up
- If you need to exit your car to pick up your child or connect with a teacher, please parking in one of the vacant stalls.
- Please remember to model safety for your children by using the crosswalks
- The bus area is to be kept clear for our School Bus and for the Excel van. Once those vehicles have departed you can pull forward into that space

When everyone follows this parking lot protocol, we are able to clear the parking lot in 10 minutes which our neighbourhood is grateful for.

Are you Moving??

We are currently initiating the staffing process for the 24/25 school year. To determine our staffing allocations, we must have accurate enrollment numbers. If you intend on moving and know that your child (ren) will not be attending Unsworth next year, we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. Likewise, if your child (ren) will be attending another school in the district, you are strongly encouraged to register at that school as soon as possible. Please contact our office or write your child's teacher a note to confirm if you are moving.

Parent Student Placement Requests for 2024/25 School Year

In May and June, we begin working on student placement for the 2024 - 2025 school year. Please review the following information outlining our student placement process and how you can provide input.

The process of assigning students to classes is a complex one, which begins with the district allocation of staffing based on projections of numbers of students for September. In creating classes, we must balance the student needs in each class, and also work within the limits of the Ministry of Education guidelines concerning class size and composition.

The placement of each child is carefully discussed by a group comprised of the child's present teacher, other teachers who have been involved in the student's learning, next year's possible teacher, the Learning Resource Teacher and the Principal. The resulting placement will take into account the whole child. The following factors are considered when grouping students and are not in any particular order:

- The learning style of the student and the teaching style of the teacher
- The child's physical and social maturity
- The balance of student needs, behaviour, skills and talents in each class
- The child's interactions/friendships with other students
- The child's intellectual development level
- Promoting leadership potential in students
- Student level of independence

[Fillable Class Placement Form](#)

The current teacher will have a substantial amount of information to provide about your child's learning and social/emotional needs and will make recommendations. There are many considerations taken into effect when considering the best classroom placement for each child, other than friendships, which understandably are important to your child, but part of the process of growth involves getting to know others and working with them.

Parents requesting special consideration of **significant educational circumstances** in the placement of their child are advised to pick up and complete the Placement Request form available at the office and submit it by **Friday, May 24th**. The information provided by the parent will certainly be considered along with the other criteria that must be balanced in making educational decisions for effective learning environments in each classroom. **We will not be accepting parent requests in September; you MUST provide input BY May 24th.**

Student Safety Reminder

As the Spring weather arrives, more and more students are traveling to school by bike, scooter, skateboard and rollerblades. Please remember that students need to be wearing helmets if they are using any of these “wheeled” modes of transportation.

All students are reminded to walk their bikes, scooters, and skateboards when they reach the school grounds. As per our School Code of Conduct, students choosing to ride on school property will be given a warning. Second time offenses will result in the equipment being taken away and a call to parents. Please know that this rule is a SAFETY rule – both for the student riding the equipment and the other students that may “cross their path”. Thanks for your support!

Library News

Reading Link Challenge

On Friday March 1st, three teams of students battled each other for the title of being Unsworth’s Reading Link Challenge Champion. Since November, these students were reading 6 books provided by the Fraser Valley Regional Library, and then practicing trivia questions about each of the books. Our three teams were The Flaming Hot Chili Peppers (Brielle I., Alex E., Bianca P., Stella Z., Chloe E. and Elodie M.); The Little Einsteins (Sawyer M.R., Brielle M., Lauren R., Kiera K., Jordyn M.R. and Peyton H.); and The Bookworms (Lowell F., Evelyn P., Zoe T., Arveer M., Felix D. and Emily Q.). It was a hard-fought, close battle but ultimately The Bookworms came out on top! They will move on to our district challenge on April 11 where they will face off with the winning teams from each of the other schools. Congratulations to all of our participants!

Readathon Results

Our Unsworth family is the most incredibly generous group ever!! Once all of the pledges come in, we will have raised approximately \$4700 for book prizes! Wow! Thank you SO much Unsworth for your support

MOVIE NIGHT at Unsworth Elementary

Our PAC would like to invite you and your child(ren) to a movie on night on April 19th. Childcare will be available for students in Grade 1 – 5 for a fee of \$5. Kindergarten students must be accompanied by an adult. Please scroll down for more information.

Attention Parents of Students in Grade 4: There is still time to complete the Ministry of Education, Student Learning Survey. Please click the link below. Thank you!

[Student Learning Survey](#)

TumbleBooks available for family use – see our website

What is TumbleBooks?

TumbleBooks is an online library of high interest books/picture books for students in Grade K-6. TumbleBooks are presented in an innovative and exciting format which teaches children to learn to read, build vocabulary and have fun at the same time. TumbleBooks are created by taking existing picture books and adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book which you can read or have read to you.

The school has purchased a school license and the link is now available to our families. You can have ready access to thousands of high interest children’s books from the comfort of your own home.

The link is located under the student information tab on the left of our website. Check it out! It's a great resource for families. www.unsworth.sd33.bc.ca (user name: sd33 password: reads)

Dates to Remember



April 11 -	Reading Link Challenge
April 12 -	Popcorn Day
April 19 -	Movie Night
April 19 -	Spirit Day (Decades Day)
April 19 -	Hot Lunch
April 26 -	Pro D Day

Office Hours - Reminder

Our office closes for lunch from
12:00 – 12:45 p.m. daily.

Unsworth Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Registrations

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!

Your PAC Needs You!

Are you interested in joining the PAC executive team or chairing a committee for the 2024/2025 school year?

Executive positions

Chairperson – Provide leadership, ensure the business of the PAC is proceeding effectively, conduct monthly meetings, prepare an agenda for all meetings, act as a spokesperson for PAC, communicate with school Administration and assist PAC committees with decisions, be a signing officer for cheques and documents, and prepare an annual report for the AGM.

Vice-Chairperson – Assists the Chairperson as required, maintain PAC calendar of events and activities, chair meetings in the absence of the Chairperson, and help prepare an annual report for the AGM.

Treasurer – Be responsible for all PAC funds, deposit all funds collected on behalf of the PAC in an account at a recognized financial institution approved by PAC, maintain detailed accounts of all receipts and expenditures, present a written report on the financial status of the PAC at all general meetings, make books available for viewing by members upon request, sign all cheques along with one other signing authority, prepare a projected annual budget to be presented at the PAC AGM, and apply for grants.

Secretary – Record the minutes of all general, executive, and annual general meetings, record the attendance at all meetings, post the minutes, and prepare a brief report following each general meeting to be included in the parents' newsletter and/or on bulletin board.

BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) Representative – Act as a liaison between PAC and BCCPAC, to annually register the BCCPAC membership, to provide the PAC executive with BCCPAC activities.

DPAC Representative – Represent Unsworth Elementary in the voting process at DPAC meetings, report DPAC business back to PAC, forward PAC school-based issues to DPAC on request of the PAC.

Member at Large (x2) - Assist the executives with ideas and support at meetings, assist the executive with projects, aid in communication with parents. A great entry level position for parents wanting to understand PAC and interest in being on the executive in future years.

Committees

Committees may be either standing or ad hoc in nature. Examples include Fundraising Coordinator, Social Media Coordinator, Hot Lunch Coordinator, Inclusive Education Committee.

Yearbook – works with the teachers to create a yearbook keepsake.

Fruit & Veggie/milk – takes care of organizing and delivering fruits and veggies from the Veggie Program.

Fundraising – Co-ordinates fundraising efforts throughout the school year.

Staff Appreciation – Co-ordinates two staff appreciation events throughout the school year.

Emergency Preparedness – maintains safety bins, updates the emergency response binder and works with Administration to provide Emergency Preparedness efforts for personal safety (stranger danger or fire safety).

Hot Lunch – Currently, this is one parent's responsibility, but it could easily be two – one parent in charge of contacting restaurants to set up hot lunch while the other oversees arranging volunteers for handling food delivery to staff and students.

Annual General Meeting for nominating and electing new members of the PAC executive will be Tuesday May 30th.

What is a PAC...

PACs are forums within each school community to discuss matters affecting your school and the education of your children. Parents' voices are a tremendous value to their school. They offer a wealth of ideas and support in the challenges that face all public schools. PACs strive to represent the diversity within their communities and contribute to the benefit of all students by:

- providing opportunities to educate and inform parents about the school;
- involving parents in volunteer activities; and
- openly discussing parents' concerns and aspirations for their school.

Who Can Become a Member of PAC?

All parents and guardians of students registered in the school can participate and are members of the PAC.

Purposes of a PAC

1. To advise the school principal and staff on parents' views and feedback about school programs, policies, plans and activities.
2. To organize PAC activities and events and endeavor to provide parent education.
3. To encourage parent involvement in the school, and to support programs that promote parent involvement.
4. To communicate with parents, and to promote co-operation between the home and the school in providing support for the education of children.
5. To assist parents in accessing the system and to advocate on behalf of parents and students.

6. To provide financial support for the goals of the PAC, as determined by its membership.
7. To advise and participate in the activities of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC).

The business of the PAC shall be unbiased in respect of race, colour, religion, politics, family status, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental ability. The PAC is not a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, parents, or other individual members of the school community.

Did you know?

In the event all positions cannot be filled, the minimum to be a viable PAC is three, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Without a PAC, the school is not eligible for Gaming funds. Our school uses this money to subsidize bussing costs on field trips, helping make field trips more affordable for all families.

Annual General Meeting for nominating and electing new members of the PAC executive will be **Tuesday, May 28th**

Hot Lunch

We would like to thank the amazing team of parents who run our Hot Lunch Program. There have been lots of variety for different appetites! It is wonderful to see how often they have been able to support local businesses.

Please remember: [MUNCH-A-LUNCH](#)



- Cut-off for Hot Lunch is one week before
- You can confirm your order through Munch-A-Lunch
- Link to video for more information on PAC Facebook page

ORDER LUNCHESES NOW on MUNCH-A-LUNCH! Ordering is open!!!

04/12 (Fri) - popcorn
04/19 (Fri) - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
04/19 (Fri) - Hot Dogs
05/03 (Fri) - Donuts
05/10 (Fri) - Chopped Leaf
05/24 (Fri) - Pita Pit
06/07 (Fri) - Hot Dogs
06/08 (Sat) - Feed an Eagle

GOLF NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Thursday, May 16th 3-7pm (Friday is a pro d day).

\$30 for adults includes a burger and side and 2 driving range tokens. **\$20** for kids includes grilled cheese/hot dog or chicken strips plus one side and 2 tokens.

**Please register on our MUNCH-A-LUNCH website!
Thank you for your support!**



When: Friday, April 19th

Where: Unsworth Gymnasium

**Time: Doors Open at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(movie starts at 6 pm)**

This is PAC Fundraiser

**FOOD ITEMS and CHILDCARE pre-ordering
available on Munch-a-Lunch**

- **A limited amount of items will be available from the concession but pre-ordering is preferred.**
- **Childcare for students grade 1 – 5 will be available for a \$5 fee. Parents are welcome to attend!**
- **Kindergarten students must be accompanied by an adult**

FEATURING:



Please email:

unsworth-pac@sd33.bc.ca

for more information