Division 5 Class Newsletter – April 24th, 2013

Dear Parents,

Happy Earth Week! I hope that everyone had a rewarding Spring Break. The weather was certainly in our favour! Thanks so much to the parents who were able to drive on our March 22nd field trip to release our salmon and to the bowling alley. We released 197 healthy fry (200 eggs were delivered)!

Earth Day - A variety of things are happening around Cumberland Elementary to acknowledge Earth Day. Gayle Bates, the Regional District environment educator came to our school Monday and Tuesday to visit each class. In our class Gayle talked about ‘stuff’ and how our society disposes so much of it that our landfills are to capacity, as we are now experiencing with our Comox Valley Recycling Centre (formerly Pigeon Landfill). The boys and girls watched ‘The Story of Stuff’; a very worthwhile view for everybody www.storyofstuff.com. We cleaned up the playground last Friday and transformed our garbage into ‘Trash Art’ on Salmon; please check them out on our bulletin board. Just prior to Empire Days, as we did last year, the whole school again will take on cleaning the village streets.

Growing Chefs - The boys and girls need to bring a veggie to share with their peers for our next class, May 7th. It should be washed, prepared and ready to eat and be kept a secret!

Science - We are working on a unit on Trees and having so much fun with it! The boys and girls know all of the parts of a tree and its lifecycle. They have also learned to classify trees within the two main categories, coniferous and deciduous and have been learning how to identify many of our own local species of trees. We’ve done tree studies down at the Cumberland Community Forest as well as in our own amazing school forest. We are also starting a Climate Change study which, of course, compliments Earth Day and our Tree unit.

P.E. - We are fortunate to have the school district gymnastic equipment at Cumberland Elementary for a couple weeks. Last week Cumberland El. mom and Gymnastics coach, Sherry Roffey, came and did a couple lessons with the students which they enjoyed immensely! Though a Grade 4 unit, we are all moving into Track and Field for the next few weeks. The boys and girls should be wearing shorts and t-shirts for P.E. for the next few weeks. Reliable running shoes are a must. Grades 4 to 6 will be doing full Track and Field practices on the afternoons of April 30, May 2, 6 and 8.

Language Arts - The boys and girls will be working on independent novel studies. They will choose their own challenging reads and will complete activities with a focus on character studies, settings, vocabulary words, plot and author studies. Our goal is to continue to build on reading fluency and comprehension and of course, increase our appreciation of literature.

Math - We are working through our Geometry unit with Mr. Breault at the helm. He will be teaching the boys and girls about 2-D Shapes as well as 3-D Solids and helping the students to recognize symmetry, tessellations and transformations.

Field Trips - We have a few upcoming field trips planned. I may be overloading you somewhat but hope that we will be able to have enough rides to get to these worthwhile locations. Permission slips will come home with students.

a) Grade 4s only - Grades 4 to 6 students will travel to Vanier Track for our SD71 Zone Track Meet. Students will be transported by busses and will need to wear track clothing, layered for the weather. They will also need a nutritious lunch and water. A consent form will come out soon.
b) On **Friday, May 10th** we will go to the **North Island Wildlife Recovery Association Centre** in Errington for a very interesting tour (eagles, bears, turtles, etc.) of their facility. Following, we’ll lunch in Errington and then stop a Coombs Market so that students can shop for half an hour. We need to leave the school by 9:00 am and will be back for 2:30 pm dismissal. Students should wear weather appropriate clothing. They need to bring a healthy lunch and water. Students are welcome to bring up to $8.00 spending money for the Coombs Market. Consents will come home tomorrow.

c) On **Wednesday, May 15th** we are going to **Pantuso Dance** (Moray Cr.) for a dance lesson, 9:15 to 10:15. Following the dance lesson, we will be going to the art studio (Earth Art Studio) of Michelle Peters (Powerhouse Road), artist extraordinaire for an art lesson on the forest trees. Following the art lesson we will return to school for lunch. We will leave school right at 8:45 and return for noon. Students need to dress for the weather and bring a nutritious lunch. Consents have gone out.

d) On **Tuesday, May 21st** all Cumberland El. Grade 4s will go the **K’omox Big House**. Times, likely morning, and a consent will come soon. Ms. Windecker will be the teacher on this trip.

e) **On Monday, May 27th**, we will go to **Willow Point** for an intertidal zone and coral reef study. The boys and girls will have done an eel grass, seaweed and invertebrate unit by this time and this trip is to culminate our studies and actually see what we have learned about. We will leave at 11:30 am and return for 2:30 pm. This day is a low ‘spring’ tide day (0.5 m) and we have to hike a ways out on a rocky beach to the reef. The students need to wear sturdy (not flip flops) waterproof sandals or rubber boots and layered clothing.

f) **Friday, June 7th** Division 5 and Div. 10 (Mrs. Meyer) classes will be walking down to the water toy at **Village Park**. We will play at Village Park and have a BBQ hotdog lunch (don’t bring lunch that day). We’ll leave school at 10:30 am and be back for 2:30 pm dismissal.

g) **Friday, June 14th**, as part of our Growing Chefs Programme, we have been invited to **Innisfree Farm** in Royston. Thierry Vrain is the owner of Innisfree Farm and he is one of our ‘guest’ chefs. Permission slips will come out a bit later but please mark it on your calendar if you are able to drive.

h) **Friday, June 21st** - Primary Beach Day at destination T.B.A. Students will be bussed.

**Other Dates to Note:**
- Class Photographs will be taken this **Wednesday, April 24th**
- April 29th is Jump Rope for Heart at Cumberland El. *A Loonie donation would be appreciated*
- May 1st is an early dismissal day (1:30 pm)
- May 16th (Grade 4s only) Trip to Alert Bay and Telegraph Cove (info/consents already sent out)
- May 17th - all students will be doing a Village clean-up to help out for Empire Days
- May 20th - is Victoria Day (no school)**Many of our students will be doing Maypole on this morning.
- May 29th - Cumberland Elementary’s Annual Talent Show, 1:00 pm in the gym
- May 29th - Parent Tea, 2:30 pm in the library
- June 25th - Cumberland El. ‘Fun Day’
- June 27th - last day of school (12:00 noon) and reports home

Hopefully, we will continue to be embraced with full-time spring weather! Thanks for all your support! Also, thanks for sharing our blog with your family and friends.

Pam Twin, Division 5 Teacher