Thank You’s - Thanks very much to the parents who were able to help us get to and from the Puntledge Hatchery last week. Also, a special thanks to Robert’s mom, Chris, who works at the hatchery and did our tour for us.

Halloween Activities . . .

Each student needs to bring their own small pumpkin (about the size of your child’s head) for Monday, October 29th. We will be using the pumpkins for Language Arts, Math and Art activities. Please do not buy them too soon and send them no earlier to school than Friday the 26th . . . thanks! Size is important as the boys and girls will be doing much of the work, including the carving, themselves.

On Halloween Day, Wednesday, October 31st we will be having a day (9:45 to 2:15) of Halloween crafts and games with our Little Buddies in Mrs. Meyer’s class. If you are able to spend some time at school this day helping with a centre, please let me know.

Cumberland El. students are encouraged to dress in Black and Orange for this day and should not wear a costume to school. Some children don’t understand this request and school staff let them know this is so that their costume stays intact for the evening’s festivities. Our reasons also are because not all students have access to costumes which causes discomfort and/or contention for some.

Please don’t allow your son/daughter to bring their Halloween candy to school. On Halloween Day Mrs. Meyer and I will have adequate treats! Also, as we are expected to follow the “B.C. Healthy Schools” model, the days following Halloween I will encourage the boys and girls to bring Halloween treats such as chips or nuts with their lunch. Thanks for your support!

Science - The boys and girls have been learning about BC animal habitats and are in the process of doing a research project on a BC animal of choice. We are just about done with finding our facts (“key words”) and the students have now started putting their key words into sentences and paragraphs. The boys and girls will also be collecting graphics and making diagrams for their projects. The delivery of the research will be via a PowerPoint presentation slide show. I am anticipating that we will be ready to show our PowerPoints on the afternoons of Wednesday, Nov. 7th and Thursday, Nov. 8th between 1:00 and 2:00 pm in our classroom. The boys and girls will know ahead of time which day they present so they can let their parents know.
Science cont. - Grade 2, 3, and 4 students of Cumberland Elementary are fortunate to have the Vancouver Aquarium ‘Aqua Van’ at our school this Monday. Our class will be visiting ocean critters in the morning from 9:45 to 10:45.

Walking Trip - As part of our Animal Habitats science unit, we will be walking to the Cumberland Community Forest on Wednesday, October 24th (weather pending; alternate days are Thursday or Friday) in the afternoon. The purpose of this trip is to take a close-up look at a Temperate Rainforest and view the animal and plant growth that live there. We will also have our P.E. class there as it is a perfect location for ‘Kick the Can’. We will depart at 12:45 and be back for 2:30 dismissal.

Planners - I am so impressed with my students and how responsible they are with their planners! Rarely a day has occurred when not all planners were at school. Good job!

**Think Social!** - Cumberland Elementary has set one of its school goals as using P.B.S. or ‘Positive Behavior Support’ to encourage positive behaviors from students in our school and to manage unwanted behaviors when they occur. As one of the resources for our P.B.S. goal we are using the curriculum Think Social by Michelle Garcia Winner.

* For September we were focusing on students showing ‘expected behaviors’, ‘whole body listening’ and ‘thinking with our eyes’. ‘Expected behaviors’ are the behaviors that we are looking for from our students, previously described as ‘rules’. ‘Whole body listening’ asks the students to listen to the speaker without playing with things as well as using their eyes and body language to acknowledge what is being said. ‘Thinking with our eyes’ encourages the students to look and assess a situation before acting.

* For October we will be taking a look at problem sizes. Some students will lose a pencil and react as though it is a larger problem like losing their bicycle. For these lessons we will look at examples of small problems (speed bumps), medium problems (hills) and large problems (mountains) and then determine ways we might react to the problem and possible solutions to solve or help solve the problem.

You will hear various staff members using Think Social vocabulary at school and you might even hear your child use some of the language from the program at home.

Thanks for your support!

Pam Twin
Div. 5 - Grade 3/4 Teacher