

# Sayward School Newsletter

December 2023



Only a few weeks left before the Holiday break! We have plenty of fun things planned to keep us busy until then. You'll want to stick the calendar at the back of this newsletter right on the fridge.

We will need some parent/guardian volunteers for some of our event days, please let us know if you are able to help!

Some things to look forward to are; crafty afternoons, secret Santa student shopping, School Community Potluck, Giant Stocking Raffle draw, a Christmas concert and a Polar Express movie night!



it will be a busy month full of reasons to smile.



We are very fortunate in Sayward to have dedicated drivers for our school buses. We have Miss Linda for the elementary route and Cara Locke for the middle/high school route. Elementary is a time when students learn about bus safety as well as the expectations that go along with being able to ride the bus. Most of our students have participated in the bus safety demonstration and talk for this year and we will continue make sure that all students participate. Even if they don't ride it regularly now, there are field trips and the eventual transfers to Campbell River schools that will be happening.

## The expectations for bus safety include:

1. Hold the handrail as you get on the bus, enter one at a time, scan your pass
2. Take your seat promptly and sit always facing forward
3. Place backpacks/bags on your lap
4. Always keep the aisle of the bus clear
5. Always keep your head, hands, and arms inside the bus.
6. Throwing objects inside or outside of the bus is not permitted.
7. Talk quietly; the driver needs to concentrate to safely drive the bus. Fighting, shouting, or use of inappropriate language is not permitted.
8. Be kind to others including fellow students, any adults on the bus, and the driver – bullying will not be tolerated
9. Eating, Drinking and gum chewing is not allowed on school buses at any time. This rule is to prevent choking and maintain bus cleanliness.
10. Remain in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop.
11. When you leave the bus, scan your pass and hold the handrail.





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If students are being unsafe on the bus, the driver may issue a discipline notice as required by the district. A copy goes to the district, the school, and the parent/caregiver. This event may result in the student being suspended from riding the bus for a period. The length of time depends on the event and whether there are repeated offences. We remind students that riding the bus is a privilege and being respectful is important for safety and appreciation for others and our drivers.



Our Grade 4-6 class hosted a wonderful assembly for Remembrance Day. Together they collaborated everything as a team; from setting up the chairs, to deciding who would say what- They planned it all! We are so very proud and grateful for all of their hard work.



Our friends at our local hatchery have brought us Chinook Salmon eggs! All of the students were quite excited to watch the eggs be dropped into the tank. Scott did an amazing job explaining the expectations for the eggs and answered every single question the students had. It was quite an exciting day and we all look forward to watching the eggs grow.



# December details

On the afternoon of the **8th**, classes will be creating cardboard ginger bread houses! We would like to reach out to our community to ask for Christmas decoration donations. Extra decorations will be utilized to also decorate the classroom doors! A festive theme is still to be decided amongst staff. We cannot wait to see what the students create. Parent/guardian volunteers are welcome to join us, please contact the school office to sign up today!

Tuesday, the **19th** is our School Community potluck! All students are encouraged to please bring one or two potatoes and one carrot to school between December 11-18th. We will use them for our potluck and will also be making turkey, gravy and stuffing. Please feel welcome to bring your family favourite homemade dish to add to our feast. This will be over the same time as when the PAC will draw the lucky Giant Stocking Winners!

## Movie Night!

Come one, come all!

To a magical Holiday movie night!

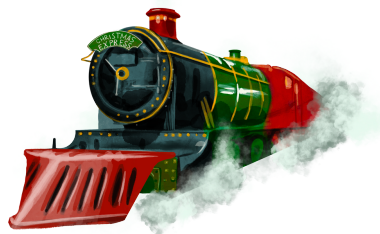
**Movie: Polar Express**

**December 21st**

**Start time: 5pm**

School Gym

Wear you comfy PJ's and bring a stuffy!




## Reminders:

- Please send warm coats and footwear as the weather gets colder
- If you have not yet, please send a pair of non marking inside shoes



## Birthday Corner!

3rd -Ainsleigh  
3rd-Hudson H.  
5th-Olivia  
7th- Sylas  
27th- Gilliam  
29th- Vayda



## PAC meetings

December 14 @  
2:45pm  
January 18 @ 2:45pm  
February 15 @ 2:45pm  
March 14 @ 2:45pm  
April 18 @ 5pm  
May 16 @ 2:45pm  
June 13 @ 5pm AGM

All meetings to be  
held in the school  
library



PAC is accepting donations for the annual Giant Stocking Raffle! Let them know if you would like to donate today!  
Ph: 282-3314 email:  
[saywardschoolpac@gmail.com](mailto:saywardschoolpac@gmail.com)



Our amazing PAC is busy organizing the Student Secret Santa shop again this year! Students can bring cash in to purchase items for each member of their family. Secret Santa shop day is set for December **15th**. All items are a \$1 or \$2 each. Volunteers will be present to help students 1 on 1 while they shop, wrap and label all gifts they choose. Donations are still being accepted for moms, dads, and kids! If you have some gently used items that you feel may be more useful to someone else, please send it in! They ask that adult novels/cookbooks and clothing please not be donated.





## December 2023 Principal's Corner



As we step into the month of December, I am filled with delight at the thought of the warmth and cheer that this season brings to our school community. It's a time for reflection, gratitude, and of course, a sprinkle of holiday magic! ✨ First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation to our amazing students for their hard work and dedication throughout the first part of the school year. We've witnessed terrific accomplishments and growth, and I look forward to seeing their continued success in the upcoming months. Our grade fours completed the provincial FSA assessments, and I am proud of the efforts they put forth in doing them.

We are all excited to have the Chinook Salmon eggs in our science lab and they are off to a great start. This will be a whole school project and as they are eggs from the local hatchery, we will be able to release them into the river right here in Sayward this spring! We are grateful to our local hatchery people, Paul Davis and Scott Burchett as well as Deb Cowper from the Stream to Sea program.

As we approach the winter break, our school will be adorned with festive decorations, creating a wonderful atmosphere for both learning and celebration. Our dedicated teachers have some creative ideas to help celebrate the winter season. Please consider volunteering to help with one of the larger events.

Connect with your child's teacher for more information.

Thank you all for making my first few months here at Sayward Elementary such a wonderful experience. I am excited to see what the future brings!

As always, please feel free to pop in if you have any questions, concerns, or an idea for our school. I am also available by email if that works better for you;

[Christine.middleton@sd72.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.middleton@sd72.bc.ca)

