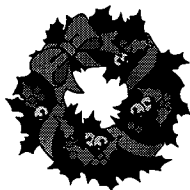


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December 21, 2018

Christmas Newsletter



"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us."

This quote is attributed to South Africa's former president, Nelson Mandela. In my position, I have the privilege to witness so many moments when students, perhaps not even knowing, become shining lights for the entire school. In their own quiet way, every day, I see students smiling at each other, helping each other, caring for each other. It is as simple as helping someone who fell in the snow to get up again, or to pick up the pencils one may have dropped on the floor...

And it also takes place in collective achievements:

In the month of December alone, the students of Sir George Simpson collected more than 500 cereal boxes to support the St. Albert Food Bank and the St. Albert Kinettes' Christmas Hamper program.

In September, the students of Sir George Simpson raised almost \$4,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Several students at Sir George Simpson, answering the call of one teacher, volunteered to cook lunch for the homeless people of Edmonton at the Hope Mission.

Sir George Simpson's Social Justice Committee decided to address the issue of pollution created by plastic straws in our school and in our community.

Our Band students offered the gift of music to all of us and to those at Leo Nickerson Elementary School.

The list goes on...

Christmas is a very special time to remind us about sharing our own lights, like so many of our students do! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël!



Pierre Rousseau, Principal

School News

Congratulations to all Band students for an excellent Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. And a very special thank you to all Band students who attended the Leo Nickerson Christmas Concerts on December 11 and 12, 2018. Bravo Mrs. Worthington!

Congratulations to all Grade 9 students for being excellent Sir George Simpson ambassadors at the Citadel theatre. All Grade 9 students had the opportunity to attend Tom Wood's excellent adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Bravo!

Congratulations to our Leadership students for a successful cereal box collection campaign!

Friday, December 21, 2018 is our last day of school before the Christmas vacation. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 PM and the buses will be available at that time to go home. Students attending the ski trip will be back at school at 3:30 PM and will need to be picked up by parents. Our first day back in 2019 will be Monday, January 7th.

(over)

Mark your Calendar:

January 7, 2019: First Day Back!

January 9, 2019: Early Dismissal

January 10-11, 2019: Band students at Camp Nakamun

January 10, 2019: Play Production 9 students attend "Phantom of the Opera" at the Arden Theatre

January 11, 2019: PowerSchool Portal will be closed to allow teachers to work on Report Cards

January 15, 2019: School Council Meeting at 7 pm

January 16, 2019: Grade 7 French Immersion students to Le Canoë Volant

January 17-19, 2019: SAPEC Senior Basketball Tournament

January 18, 2019: School Assemblies

January 18, 2019: Ski Trip to Rabbit Hill

January 25, 2019: Report Cards and End of Term I

Farewell! Au Revoir!

After several years at SGS, Mr. Gavin Bradley will be heading on a different journey, as the teacher he was replacing will be back from maternity leave. Farewell, Mr. Bradley. You will always be welcome at Sir George Simpson!

Mr. George Mentz will be away on a leave of absence from November 21, 2018 to March 1, 2019. Mr. Mentz will be back to us very soon!

Ms. Chelsea Hubbard: Ms. Hubbard taught Outdoor Education 7, 8 and 9 for the first part of Mr. Mentz's leave until the end of December. She will be going to E.S. Gish in the second semester. Thank you, Ms. Hubbard!

Welcome! Bienvenue!

Mr. Benjamin MacKay: Mr. MacKay will be taking over for Mr. Mentz in January. Mr. MacKay graduated from the University of Alberta in June 2018.

Mme Michelle Lamble: Mme Lamble will be back in January after her maternity leave. Mme Lamble will teach our Grade 7 LFI and Math in our Grade 7 FI program.

Transfer! Transfert!

Mme Teresa Settingiano: With the return of Mme Lamble from maternity leave, Mme Teresa Settingiano will be transferring homerooms to teach Grade 7 Language Arts and Social Studies in our English program.