



# GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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January 08, 2009



Dear Parents/Guardians:

## **Welcome Back!**

We are looking forward to a very productive and interesting six months. Remember, one of the most important things that you can do for your child's education is be involved in their reading program. Read to them and ask them questions about the story, listen to them read, have them read along with you and encourage them to read silently in their spare time. Help them to develop the habit of reading for pleasure everyday.

Our school goal continues to be; to increase the number of students meeting or exceeding grade level reading and writing expectations. Parent support with these goals is essential. Thank you for being involved in their learning.

## **Computer Safety**

Computers are an excellent way to access information, however computer safety can be an issue for children. At school students are not permitted to use the internet without a supervisor in the room. (Please read and sign the **School District Internet** agreement attached for students in gr.3 – 5) You may want to follow some of the tips found below for family internet safety.

### **Keep Current • Keep Communicating • Keep Checking**

- **Keep Current with technology.** You don't have to be an expert, but a little understanding goes a long way towards keeping your child safe online. Get basic technical training and learn about new products as they're released.
- **Keep Communicating with your children** about everything they experience on the Internet. Know their lingo, and ask when you don't understand something. Work to keep communication lines open.
- **Keep Checking your children's Internet activity.** Know where they go online. Let them know that you'll keep checking because you want them to understand that the Internet is a public forum and never truly private.

You don't have to be a computer expert to keep your child safe online. iKeepSafe has created resources for each age group to help your family have a safe, healthy and enjoyable experience using connected technologies.

**For more information go to the following link:**

<http://www.ikeepsafe.org/PRC/>

## **Family Literacy Day**

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> is Family Literacy Day. Promoting learning activities at home helps ensure that children acquire the reading, writing and math skills that prepare them for productive, fulfilling lives. This day is set aside to focus on the wonderful world of reading! Your family may choose to simply read a book together, write a letter to a friend, follow a recipe to create a special treat, research a favourite author, start a book club, or create your own magazine.

### **Tips for Parents**

- **Watch a book:** Many children's stories have been adapted for the big screen. Read these stories with your kids first, then watch the movie equivalent; the Harry Potter series is a great example. So is "Tale of Despereaux".
- **Go Surfing:** Navigate the internet with your child to find fun and educational websites.
- **Let them catch you reading:** Act as a reading role model for your kids by reading in your spare time. Remember that children learn by example.
- **For more tips and activities ideas see:**  
[http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/fl\\_activities.shtml](http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/fl_activities.shtml)



### **Winter Safety**

It is very icy on the school grounds. While the children have been having lots of fun, please remind your child to play safely when sliding and sledding, and to watch out for others. Also, please send appropriate outside clothing for your children to wear at recess and lunchtime, so they don't have to work in wet, uncomfortable clothing.



### **Calendar of Events**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Friday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn Day
Tuesday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Boys Floor Hockey Tournament
Wednesday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Senior Girls Floor Hockey Tournament
Tuesday, January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Family Literacy Day
Friday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Food Day

### **2009 Kindergarten Registration**

We have already had registrations for Kindergarten in the 2008-2009 School Year. If you have a child **born in 2004**, please come by the school and register to ensure a spot for your child. If you know of parents with kindergarten aged children in your neighbourhood, please let them know that they should come and register their child.

### **Alberni Wrestling Elementary School Program**

The Alberni Valley Wrestling Club is hosting our 4th Annual Winter Elementary Kids Wrestling Program taking place from January 6th to February 6th. The elementary wrestling program is designed for students to be introduced to the sport of Olympic Wrestling in a fun and safe environment. The program will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:45 in the Neill Middle School upper gym (back of the school). The Elementary wrestling program is offered to Grade 3, 4 or 5 students. Students may come on one or both days depending on when they are able to attend. Permission Slips are in front of the office.

**Winter Wonderland- THANK YOU!!**

Winter Wonderland was a huge success due to all the parental support we received. A BIG thank you for providing treats for our students, and for helping with tying/untying all the skates. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you, too, to the number of parents who came out to be with their children and help to make the event a family event.

**Student Verification Sheets**

We will be sending home Student Verification Sheets early next week, please return the forms by **Friday January 16<sup>th</sup>**. These sheets are important so that we have all the updated information and contacts for each student.

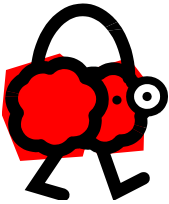
The Gill staff wishes each of you a **Happy New Year**. Best Wishes!

Mr. D. Olson  
Principal

Mrs. J. Kruks  
Vice Principal

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**NEWSLETTER RETURN SLIP**



Please return this portion of the newsletter by Wednesday, January 14th for a chance to win a book prize.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name(s)

Comments:  
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