**Summerhill Street Elementary School MAY/JUNE 2023**

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**OUTDOOR SPACES**

It has been two years since we created the outdoor classroom and built our raised garden outside by the rock wall and Summerhill sign. Our classes will start using the outdoor classroom soon and we will be planting more flowers by our rock wall and sign as well.

With our Climate Action Grant, we are purchasing plants for our grow tower and indoor plants that we can grow and transplant outside. We are excited for a few of our classes to start working on this in the next couple of weeks!

One more addition for students to look for is more chalkboards being attached to the brick walls of the school. These chalkboards will allow for students to write positive messages and show their artistic skills.

**Dressing For The Weather**

These days can be challenging when trying to dress your child for the weather. Our school grounds are still very wet so, even though the days will become warmer and sunnier, it would be a great idea to have your child wear rubber boots for at least a few weeks yet. We encourage the students to stay away from the wetter patches but slips still happen when we are having fun. A change of clothing in the book bag will help to avoid calls home for dry clothes. It is still cool in the morning, so a light jacket is in order but with the sun usually coming out by lunchtime. We will soon be getting ready for hotter weather!

**Hot Lunch Program**

**We will offer the new round of Hot Lunch from May 30 - June 22nd.**

**\*\*\* Popcorn will be over the week before school ends.**

**The new HOT LUNCH orders are online now and will end on May 19.**

**School Counsellor Corner- Mrs. Voutour**

***Over the past few months, we have been working hard on our Social Emotional Learning.  The focus for the months of March and April was to work towards developing a Sense of Belonging.  Several lessons and discussions with classes have revolved around how to promote inclusion and include others.  We also worked on the importance of being yourself and feeling like you belong within your peer group, classroom, school, and family community.***

***Throughout the months of May and June we will be focusing on “The Kids in the Know” guidance curriculum.  This personal safety program has supported students with learning the importance of developing boundaries, identifying trusted adults and when it is important to seek an adult for help.***

**One social emotional strategy to work on over the summer: Focus on positive self-talk. Respecting self.**

**Morning affirmations are a great way to start the day!**

**1. I am important.**

**2. Today is going to be a good day.**

**3. Today I will do my best!**

**Online Auction**

It is online auction time for our Summerhill families and friends!  A letter was sent home explaining our final fundraiser of the year.  If you can send in a donation for our auction which runs from

**May 26th - June 2nd**it is greatly appreciated.  The auction items can be found on a Facebook page with a link to be sent home to families shortly.

Please share the link and be sure to check out at all the amazing donations we have received.  There is something for everyone!  Thank you for your support and have fun bidding.

Our Auction pick up and BBQ night is planned for Thursday, June 8th with a rain date of June 15th.

**Alice in Wonderland**

**The Directorial team would like to say congratulations and thank you to all the cast of our play Alice in Wonderland.  On May 8th, our cast represented Summerhill with pride and enthusiasm at the District Drama Festival.  Each performer took the stage with confidence and had a lot of fun being part of our drama team.  What a great way to promote the fine arts program at Summerhill! A virtual awards ceremony is to follow at the end of May.**

***Transfer Requests***

*Please remember if you live outside our zoned catchment area and require approval to attend Summerhill as a non-zone school, these requests need to be completed on an annual basis. A letter was sent home for families with the current request. Please complete and return to the school by May 25th. This replaces the need for a new request form. For new requests, the forms are available at the Oromocto Education Centre and, once completed, need to be returned there for processing. The forms are also available online on the Anglophone West School District website under Parents > Student Transfer Request Form. \*\* For our Grade 5 students who are moving to Middle School in September, new requests will need to be completed for the new school.*

**Phys. Ed. News**

**In Phys. Ed. Class, students are starting to practice track and field skills. We can’t wait to see our students working on their running, jumping and throwing!**

**Track and Field Meet is planned for May 23 (Rain date – May 24) Permission forms will come home soon.**

**MS. JONES - MINDFULNESS UPDATE**

We are still doing Yoga every second Wednesday. Students are enjoying this practice and learning lots of new moves.

May is Mental Health Month and we are focusing our lessons on building students' understanding towards Mental Health.   Mental Health Awareness Month takes place across Canada in May every year. During this month, Canadians can learn about mental illnesses and how they affect people's lives in different ways. In addition, students can learn more about how to reduce the stigma around mental illness.  Students will take part in their classes to plant seeds of personal growth as we begin to cultivate our Summerhill Garden and transplant our flowers outside and students will be using the outdoor classroom.

Recently with our Arts Smart Grant all classes have access to two outdoor art carts.  The outdoor classroom helps instill a sense of mindfulness and improves health.  Spending time outside produces a variety of health benefits including increased focus, increased creativity, better sleep, decreased stress, improved retention, encourages environmental awareness. We are exciting to kick off Mental Health Month our new resources.

**END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES**

*Our teachers have worked hard to book quite a few field trips throughout the year and have relied on the generosity of many local organizations to help fund the cost of the bus or to allow for a FREE visit for our students. In some circumstances, the teachers accessed a grant to help fund the cost of the trip.*

*Our students have benefitted from many learning opportunities outside the school this year and we would like to thank the following community associations:*

* *No Stone Left Alone*
* *Science East*
* *Quartermain Society*
* *Hugh John Flemming for Mining Week*
* *Mactaquac Provincial Park*

***\*\*\*\* There are lots of field trips, guest speakers and special activities scheduled for the last few weeks of school. Please keep a close eye for the permission slips with the details of field trips and return these to school as soon as possible. Thank you****!*

**PSSC Meeting**

The PSSC will be meeting at 6:30 pm the evening of May 16th. All are welcome to attend. This will be our last PSSC meeting of the year, and it will be held in the conference room.

At our last PSSC meeting, we reviewed some of the highlights from the Parent Survey that was done in March. Here are a few of the themes that came up in the surveys.

1. Overall, students are feeling safe at Summerhill. The responses from parents on the 3G Strong survey questions ranged from 3.86 – 4.21.
2. Parents would like more information about student progress during other times in the term prior to report cards. *Note: This will be discussed with staff.*
3. Should we go back to using agendas again? *Note: Summerhill has not used an agenda for the last few years as we have relied on other communication tools. Communication differs between teachers and the goal next year will be to find a more consistent method that meets all the needs for the home/school connection. Agendas are an added expense for parents, so we discussed different ways that communication between home and school can be done effectively and this will be revisited next school year.*
4. Parents would like more variety in Hot Lunch. *Note:* *Our goal would be to offer Hot lunch with more variety next year. We need more volunteers to cook from our kitchen. If we cannot cook from our kitchen, we order from outside food services and we will continue to look for affordable and appealing choices for our students.*

**As always, if there are specific issues that you think the classroom teacher and/or administration needs to know about, please reach out to us!**

**DATES TO REMEMBER: Mark Your Calendar**

**May 9 – 26 - Provincial Assessment -**

**Grade 4 English Reading/Scientific Literacy Grade 5 FI Reading/Grade 5 Math**

**Monday, May 15 – NBTA Branch Day – NO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, May 16 – Music Man presentation at 1:00 pm in the gym (Whole School)**

**Wednesday, May 17 –** **Hug a Tree Presentations (Grade 3)**

**Thursday, May 18 – Hug a Tree Presentations (Grade 4)**

**Friday, May 19 - Hug a Tree Presentations (Grade 5)**

**Monday, May 22 – Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, MAY 23 (RAIN DATE May 24) – Track and Field Grades 3-5**

**Thursday, MAY 25 – Grade 5 students go on their Middle School tour (Ridgeview and Harold Peterson)**

**May 26 – June 2 - Online Auction is live for bidding!**

**June 9 – Modeled Lessons for Science (Grade 3 and 4)**

**June 16 – Modeled Lessons for Cyber Titan Challenge for Grade 5**

**June 20 – Grade 5 Evening Outdoor Celebration (Rain date June 21)**

**June 23 - Last Day of School for Students/Report Cards given out**