ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Lindsay Richards, Principal ***Phil Conway, Vice Principal***

DECEMBER 2009

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School Phone Number 435-7391
Safe Arrival Phone Number 435-9230

NEWSLETTER FROM ALLISTON UNION
Issue 4

ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF AND STUDENTS AT ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL WE WISH YOU A HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH JOY, PEACE AND GOODWILL!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

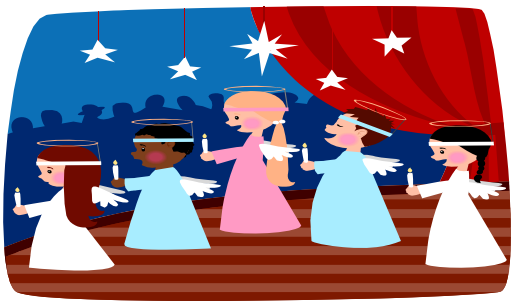
On Tuesday, November 24th Alliston Union Public School held its official "Stand Up To Bullying" assembly to launch our focus on anti bullying initiatives for the 2009-2010 school year. During the fall term every classroom has been reading the book ONE by Katherine Otashi. This book tells the story of colours and numbers and how "ONE" can make a difference when there are others who feel left out or picked on. It is a story that is easily understood by all students, kindergarten to grade 8. A group of intermediate students re-enacted the story on stage in a school-wide assembly. The actors wore coloured clothing and paint and the story was narrated. Our thanks and appreciation are extended to Charlotte E. , Gabby, Laura, Emily, Sydney, Nick, Teagan and Charlotte D. for their commitment to our Stand up to Bullying initiative through their work with the Safe and Caring Schools Committee. Thank you to Ms. Myers, Mr. Austin, Mr. Burke, Mrs. Campbell-Holliday and Mrs. Kestle for their hard work toward this very important school-wide, year long project.

Please watch for information about our Stand up to Bullying project with presentations, awards and other events that will occur throughout this school year. Please talk to your child about bullying particularly in naming the participants in bullying. They are the bully, the victim and the bystander.
Please also talk with your child about our character trait focus for this school year. We have set goals that all students at Alliston Union will speak the truth (honesty) about their words and actions and take responsibility for their words and actions. All of these initiatives are based on the School Climate Survey results, spring 2009.

At this time of the year we particularly acknowledge the goodwill towards others. It is appropriate then that we at Alliston Union recognize the imperative to "Stand up to Bullying" in all of our interactions at school and beyond.

From all of us at Alliston Union we wish all of you in our community a very safe and happy holiday season.

L. Richards,
Principal



Celebrations of the Season

December is always a happy month for many students, parents and staff. While we remember those who are less fortunate at this time of the year we also take time to celebrate the season as an Alliston Union P.S. Community. The following are dates scheduled for December celebrations:

December 15th

School Dance, by division, throughout the day – approximately 50 minutes each division.
Admission: non perishable food item from each student for the Food Bank. A Snack Table will be provided by Grade 8 students to assist in funding the Year End Trip.

December 14,16, 18 – 9:10– 10:30am - Caroling and class performances in the gym. Please join us.

Attention parents of kdg. students: Kindergarten will perform during the assemblies on December 16 and 18. Your child's teacher will provide details in a letter to you.

Student Council World Vision Movie Fundraiser

Students in Kdg to Grade 8 will be watching a Character Education/Anti-bullying movie in the gym. There will be snacks available for purchase and we are asking for a ***donation*** for World Vision. Goal: Donations received will go toward funding a classroom in a developing country.

Lion's Club/Local Food Bank Donations

December 1st to 16th – Thank you for all of your kindness through donations to the Lion's Club. Please remember that instead of toys, the Lion's Club is requesting new books, magazines, crayons, pencils, colouring book sets. We will accept these items through the school until December 16th when the Lion's Club will need to wrap all donated items for Christmas hampers.
As well we will accept non-perishable food items until December 17th for donations to the Food Bank.

Thank you to School Council

Thank you to Kathy VonBorzyskowski and our Eat Well to Excel volunteers for all of their hard work to ensure that our students have access to healthy, nutritious snacks during the school day.
Thank you to Nancy Stevens, our Hot Lunch Volunteer Co-ordinator for making hot lunches possible.

Student Attendance

Your child's daily attendance at school is imperative for his or her academic, social and physical achievement and growth. When a child is away from school, for a day or two, due to illness, the teacher will work with the student when he/she returns to assist the child in missed work. A child who is away frequently from school misses a great deal of important teaching and learning. It then becomes difficult for the child to proceed in the classroom because of the information that has been missed. Please ensure that your child attends school everyday. If your child is not well enough to participate in the whole school day i.e. classroom work, outdoor play, then your child should be at home recovering from his/her illness. Students are expected to be outside at breaks as that is where the supervision is and classroom teachers are responsible for their own supervision schedules outside of the classroom during breaks. Please ensure that your child arrives at school everyday on time and prepared for school at least 5 minutes prior to the entry bell. Preparation for school includes appropriate clothing for the weather, nutritious snacks and lunch and an understanding of pick-up procedures ie who will meet them at dismissal in the schoolyard. If a child is not in line at the time of entry to school then the child is late for school. The child is then to report to the office and receive a late slip. The child will proceed to the classroom on their own or with a staff member if assistance is required. Teaching and learning are disrupted when a child arrives late to the classroom. Please help us with our school procedures in teaching children about the importance of learning and being on time for school.
Thank you for your assistance as we work together for all students to achieve their best at school.

Winter Weather

1. Walking students are advised to time their morning arrival so that they don't have a long wait until the entry bell goes at 9:05 a.m.
2. An extra pair of gloves/mittens and socks in your child's schoolbag are a GOOD idea. Cold or wet hands and feet are not fun!
3. Snow can be a lot of fun (if you are not driving in it!) and we enjoy seeing our students build forts and snow people and rolling in the snow. Students are not allowed to throw snow due to risk of injury on school property. Please review this rule with your child(ren).
   THE SNOW STAYS ON THE GROUND is our practice.
4. Road safety includes additional precaution during the winter months. Icy, narrowed roads mean that drivers have less control of their vehicles. We try to alert our students to the hazards of winter so that they will be extra careful. We encourage you to talk to your children to review winter safety practices regularly.
5. On the occasion of school buses being cancelled all students are expected at school; walkers and those students who are able to be transported by their parents. Please be advised: A full school program is provided in every classroom when school buses are cancelled.

Ensure that your child knows what to do in the event of an early school closure due to inclement weather or other emergencies.
Listen to B101.1 FM or ROCK 95 FM(95.7)
Check the SCDSB website for bus cancellation updates. Our bus company is Stock.

Bus Safety

We continue to thank our Bus Patrollers for their dedication to their positions. Please help to keep our buses safe for all students by reviewing the bus behaviour reminders below.

- Refrain from sliding/walking on snowbanks
- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion, keeping your head and arms inside the bus at all times
- Be aware of traffic flow and leave the bus loading area promptly
- Safe, courteous behaviour is expected at bus stops
- Stand well back from the curb while waiting for a bus – the sidewalk is the safest place to stand
- Keep aisles clear at all times – the bus patroller may have to walk up the aisle to assist a student and needs a clear path to do this safely

Backpacks or sports bags must rest on the student's lap while in transit. Skates must have guards and should be carried in a sports bag. No large items are to be transported on the bus.

Balanced Day School Tips

- Children on the balanced school day timetable need the same amount of food during the day as other children do-only the timing of when this food is eaten will be different.
- It doesn't really matter which foods your children choose to eat at the breaks. More important is that they eat a variety of healthy foods over the course of the day.
- Sandwiches can be cut in half and wrapped separately – one half for each break.
- Foods that are placed in a thermos may be hotter and taste better if they are eaten during the first break.
- Cold food like juice and yoghurt can be frozen to help them last to the second break.

Please send only healthy, nut free foods to school with your child!

From School Council

Happy Holidays from School Council! Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us.

Revision

In our November newsletter we listed our 2009/2010 School Council representatives but neglected to include Kim Berek who is this year's School Council Secretary. Our sincere apologies for this omission.

AUPS Holiday Dance

Let's deck the halls and jingle the bells at the AUPS Holiday Dance!!! All students are encouraged to attend the festivities in the school gym on December 15th. Admission will be a non perishable food item. Grade 8 students will be selling snacks to support their year-end trip.

Hot Lunch Program

Thank you to those who have supported our Hot Lunch fundraiser. Funds raised through this program are used to support field trips, our anti-bullying program, DARE graduation and Grade 8 year end trip, to name a few. We have gone with a new venue this year for the submarines. We are finding that the subs are too large for the younger students therefore this next term we are ordering the subs in a 3" size instead of 6". For students who enjoyed the 6" size, parents could order two. We have also had some comments that the bun on the subs are too doughy. We are working with the venue to alleviate this situation. We thank you for your comments and suggestions as we continue to offer students & parents with healthy, convenient lunch choices.

Term 2 Hot Lunch orders are due December 8th for the term running from January 4th to March 12, 2010.

Staff Changes

Welcome to Mr. Kirwan who returns to Alliston Union in our grade 4/5 class. Ms. DeGrace will stay on through the school year in the kindergarten B classroom.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE – ONTARIO

International Student Exchange – Ontario, a registered not-for-profit corporation, offers to Ontario students a variety of educational programs through the school year and during the summer. Programs are open to all students in grades 7 and 8. Please visit www.iseontario.on.ca, or phone 705-722-9440/fax705-722-9441 if you would like more information.

EFSL Information Night

The Grade 5 Extended French Program provides students with the opportunity to become fluent. French is the language of instruction used for approximately one half of each day. Neither the students nor the parents are required to have prior knowledge of the French language to participate. Any family in the community considering enrolling their child in this program for the next school year (2010-2011) should plan to attend the information meeting.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT AT ALLISTON UNION ON January 14th AT 7 P.M.

Please note: Application to the EFSL program is completed on a first come first served basis. All students, including siblings, must apply with the appropriate paperwork as soon as possible as of January 14, 2010.

Thanks For Your Support

Thank you for attending the parent/student/teacher conferences regarding your child's progress. Working with your child and your child's teacher builds a relationship for lifelong learning and enhances your child's achievement at school. Please call your child's teacher at the school anytime during the school day for information about your child's progress. Please use your child's agenda on a daily basis for ongoing communication.

Thank you…..

To all our parents/guardians who are assisting us with our safety procedures at entry/dismissal times and throughout the school day. Buses, parking, pick-up, drop-off, visitors in the school and all safety procedures may seem like a great deal of information but we strive to do the best that we can for the safety of all students. If you require detailed information regarding our safety procedures please contact the school for a copy of the October 2009 newsletter or the September Package. We appreciate your assistance.

Please be advised that any outside of school activities included in the AUPS newsletter are not endorsed by Alliston Union P.S. or the Simcoe County District School Board.

Olympic Torch Relay

The staff and School Council at Alliston Union would like to invite students to extend the magic beyond the classroom, while encouraging enthusiasm for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and the Olympic Torch Relay. In lieu of or in addition to a Christmas gift this year, students will have the opportunity to make a donation to CanFund in honour of their teacher(s), friends or family.
CanFund (www.canadianathletesnow.ca) provides Canadian Olympic athletes with funding up to $12,000 each year, with 100% of your donation going directly to the athletes. By making a donation, students will have the opportunity to add to our "Olympic Torch" that will be located in the front lobby of our school.

This fundraising initiative is also in support of welcoming the Vancouver Olympic Torch to Alliston on December 29th in collaboration with the Town of New Tecumseth. Students are asked to cut out and bring in their completed flame(s) with money for this fundraiser in a sealed envelope during the week of December 14th. *Flame cut-outs are being sent home on a separate document with the school newsletter.*

Thank you for your support!

EQAO

We are very proud of our grade 3 and 6 students who demonstrated improved student achievement during the spring 2009 EQAO assessment period. Our grade 3 students achieved results above the school board and province in all areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Our gr. 6 students achieved significantly better than their grade 3 results 3 years ago with percentage increases of approximately 20% in all 3 areas of Reading, Writing and Math. Thank you to our students and teachers for their outstanding efforts!

Ontario Early Years Centre

Have you visited the Ontario Early Years Centre in Alliston? The OEYC is a free service for all adults with children 0 to 6 years of age. Adults and children participate in activities together. Children have the opportunity to play with other children and participate in many different types of programs and activities which promote early learning and school readiness, and they are FUN for children and adults alike. Call 705-435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.