

Dec 4, 2024

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Principal's Message

Hello families and happy December! Wow – but this year is going fast!!

We have had a great but busy Fall and now Winter is almost upon us, though the sunny start to December has made Winter feel a far way off yet. I'm sure we will get there soon!

Our December is set to be busy, too, with many special events and even an in-person Christmas Concert for the first time in a few years! Yay! Schools will be closed for the break from December 21st – January 5th as we return to school on Monday, January 6th, 2025. From all of us here at Auguston – we hope that you enjoy a wonderful holiday season spent making memories with family and friends. Stay safe and we look forward to hearing all about it next year



~ Mrs. Sward and all the staff at Auguston
Traditional Elementary School



Pink shirt



Our Pink Shirt design contest is in full swing. This week classes are voting on their favourite designs from the 25 finalists posted

in the hallway by the office. Our winner will be shared with the school on Friday and in our next newsletter in January.



(rainbow above the school)

Food drive



We are once again pulling together to help those in need in our community by gathering

donations for the Salvation Army Food Bank. We have big red bins at the school to fill and will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items and supplies each day until the 19th of December. Most needed items include crackers, instant oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, soups, canned veggies, pasta and sauces and canned fish or meats. Also appreciated are juices, instant coffee, hot chocolate and can openers. Thank you for helping us help fill this need in our community.

Mitten project



Our Christmas Mitten project is also in full swing. We have purchased all of our supplies and

are putting together warm winter mitten packages that will be donated to Cyrus Centre. Led by Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Smith and tied to the Metis Christmas Mitten book by Leah Marie Dorion, our staff and students are pinning heart beads and messages onto mittens to share with those in need of some warmth and love this season. Contributions towards funding the costs of the mittens and supplies can be made through [School Cash Online](#) and any extra funds raised will be donated directly to the Cyrus Centre.

Festive Fridays



We are having spirit Fridays this year to celebrate our upcoming season!!! Friday,

December 6, we will dress in **red and green**, December 13 we will wear **festive hats and headbands** (along with their school uniform), and December 20 is a **pajama day** (please ensure your child/ren still have proper footwear and warm jackets as we will still be going outside for recess and lunch!)! These are not no-uni days, but students are welcome to participate each Friday just for the fun of it.

Expansion project

Our new addition is looking amazing and coming together quickly now! We are almost ready to move in and crews are currently putting up soap dispensers and paper towel holders....we are so close! Final tests of systems and finishing touches are still being completed so we don't have a move in date yet.....but we will let you know when we do!



Learning updates

Our Term 1 Learning Updates are coming home Friday, December 13th. These snapshots of student learning so far this year outline growth, stretches and ways to support further learning at home. Please take a moment to read over it with your child(ren) to celebrate their successes and make some goals to work on in Term 2.

Book fair

Our recent Scholastic Book Fair was hugely successful! We sold \$ 6,038.90 worth of books, pens, erasers and other cool stuff. Half of that money comes back to the school to purchase books for our library, classrooms and to put towards our One Book One School initiative in the Spring. Thanks to our amazing PAC for organizing the Book Fair and all of the volunteers who helped out.

Coupon Sales

Our recent Coupon Book Fundraiser was also hugely successful. We sold 308 books and won some great prizes while doing it! We have a few pizza parties coming our way (Mr. Ketelaar's class, Mrs. Elford/Mrs. Vandermeer's class and Mrs. Small's class) and Mrs. Small's class also won a field trip to the Vancouver Zoo! Well done everyone!

THANKS
FOR YOUR
Support!

Winter weather gear



With our cold weather coming, please ensure that your children have warm weather gear, rain proof jackets and waterproof boots as we will be heading outside as much as possible at recess and lunch times. Those fresh air breaks do wonders for our growing brains – keeping them clear and ready for learning - so we will continue to go outside every day unless it is really heavy rain or extremely cold. A change of clothes is also helpful and will avoid us calling for some dry clothes to be dropped off on those rainy, wet days.

Concert



Yes – it's true – our concert is back! Students are practicing their songs and staff are working on

organizing everything. We have parent helpers arranged to set up and help out with decorating and lighting and sound....and we are almost ready. There will be two shows, 9:30am and 1:15pm, on Wednesday, December 18th. Tickets will be free but due to limited seating in our gym will be set at a maximum of four per family. Please understand that in order for everyone to share in this amazing event we need to limit who attends and we appreciate your help in respecting these limits so that we can stay within our fire code regulations. We will have more information about ordering your tickets as soon as we have a system up and running.

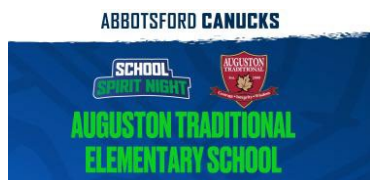
Cold and Flu Season is also here!



As cold and flu (and COVID) season is once again with us, please continue to do a daily health check for your child(ren) each morning. If they are

unwell or have a fever, please keep them home until their symptoms have subsided and they are feeling strong enough to last through the entire school day, including outside play times. We will continue to keep up with our hand washing and respiratory etiquette here at school and appreciate everyone doing their part by staying home when they are sick and not sharing their germs! See [Student Health Policy](#) & [Your healthy winter guide 2024/25](#)

Abby Canucks



Our very own Abbotsford Canucks will once again sponsor Auguston Traditional at their January 10th home game. We are able to buy seats at a special rate, part of the proceeds come back to the school, and there are even some prizes to be won and a chance for one of our students to ride the Zamboni! Please see [Abbotsford Canucks School Spirit Night](#) for more information and to purchase tickets. What a great Christmas present for that special hockey fan!

Snow Guidelines



In case we get some snow, and in order to make sledding safe and fun for everyone, we have a few rules that we all need to follow:

- Our Grade 5 sledding hill beside the gym is officially CLOSED due to the construction project. It is too short and not safe as there is fencing at the bottom. No sledding is permitted there at any time and this hill will be permanently closed from now on.
- Grade's K-5 are able to slide on the hill above our school field between the edge of the backstop and the lower field area. Helmets are preferred. The grade 4/5 area is closest to the backstop, with grades 2 and 3 between the trees and K/1s farthest from the school on the smallest slope.
- Only students with sleds are allowed on the hills. As some families will choose not to send their kids with sleds for safety reasons, sharing of sleds is not allowed unless it is between siblings.
- Students are to sled down alone (no doubling up) and one at a time, giving the previous sledder time to move away from the bottom of the hill before going.
- Skis or snowboards are not permitted.
- Students at the bottom are to walk back up to the top in line with the trees (ie go along the bottom of the slope to where a tree is at the top and walk up safely there).
- No standing at the bottom of the hill. Viewing will be from outside of the slide zone.

- It can get icy and slippery out there, so caution while around the sledding areas is important!
- There is no sledding allowed on the hillside above our Kindergarten rooms (beside our garden area) during school hours or within the duty times before and after school.
- If conditions become too icy, sledding will be closed. This closure will be decided on depending on conditions on a daily basis.
- Students are also asked not to eat the snow in and around the school pavement areas as we use rock salt and chemical product to reduce the ice and make our surfaces less slippery.
- We also have a no throwing snow rule – not at each other, not at trees or buildings, not up in the air as there may be rocks and/or ice chunks mixed in.
- Please also share the snow and don't wreck other people's snowmen or snow forts that they have worked hard to build.

Dogs on school grounds



Recently we have had a number of dog messes to clean up on our field again. Though we are good neighbours and love to share our space, our students' safety and cleanliness is our first priority. If you bring your dogs to the school field for a run, please do so when students are not present on the field or playground. This is for safety reasons as we don't know every dog and if they are safe. We also ask that you don't allow our students to pet or come near your dog and that you clean up after your dogs, too, if they do their business on the field – that is not fun to step in!!

No Parking Zones



Please continue to be mindful of our no parking zones out front of the school along Stephen Leacock Drive. Things can get really busy around our school during our drop off and pickup times, and we appreciate you keeping

all of our families safe out there. Please remember to GO SLOW and be aware of our students as they are moving around our school property and crossing the road. If you are dropping off or picking up in one of our bus loops, please be mindful of everyone's time and DO NOT PARK in either loop. You must remain in your vehicle in order to keep traffic moving and get everyone safely on their way, if your child(ren) aren't there ready when you pass through the loop – please do another loop so traffic behind you can move through. The 'no parking zones' are coned off and we appreciate you keeping sight lines in mind as you approach our crosswalks. Thank you!

Basketball & Dove Programs

Our Abby Community School Society (ACSS) are finishing up their fall sessions over the next couple weeks:

- **Last session Dec 9:** [ACSS Gr 4/5 Boys Basketball](#)
- **Last session Dec 16:** [ACSS Gr 4/5 Girls Dove Self Esteem](#)



Upcoming Dates in December

Dec 2-19	Food Drive for the Salvation Army - our red bins are here to fill with non-perishable food items
Wed, Dec 4	Treat Day orders due by 3pm
Fri, Dec 6	Red & Green Day - wear your festive colours! We will also choose our Pink Shirt design contest winner this day!
Wed, Dec 11	PAC Treat Day - donuts!
Fri, Dec 13	Festive Hat and Headband Day Learning Updates go home
Mon, Dec 16	Grade 5 Bake Sale after school
Wed, Dec 18	Our Christmas Concert is back! Shows at 9:30 and 1:15 (<i>ticket information coming soon!</i>)
Fri, Dec 20	Pajama Day, Pancake Lunch put on by our PAC, Last day....



Mon, Jan 6 We return to school on January 6th after a long winter's nap!



Reading Link Challenge

Weekly on Mondays, 12:35 - 1:05pm
Library Learning Commons

Grade 4 & 5 students in the Reading Link Challenge will meet at lunch (after the eating period) on Mondays to read and quiz each other on books. Students will read up to 6 books and then get quizzed on the books in teams.

Thank you, **Mrs. Deol** (Div. 4 Teacher), for coordinating this activity for our students!

Remembrance Day Contribution



Mrs. Tait dropped off a \$700 cheque to The Royal Legion (Abbotsford) for our school's Remembrance Day (No Uni) contribution.

School Photos



See school photos on the website at:
<https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/blog>

Thank you, Tina Howe, (parent and teacher) for taking many of our school photos!

[Kicking off the Holiday Season](#)



[Dress Like Me Spirit Day](#)



Pancake Lunch Donations

We are thrilled to have our yearly 🥞 Pancake Lunch 🥞 back on December 20!

🌟 [Munchalunch](#) is live for donations !!

This year we're changing things up!

In the past we have requested for families to donate food items for the day of. This year we will be asking for 💰 money 📱 donations via [munchalunch](#), with all proceeds to go towards the items needed ie; pancake batter, syrup, butter, whipped cream, sprinkles, fruit, juice boxes, etc. **Donations are available till the 15th at 4pm!**

We are hoping this will allow us to purchase what is needed and reduce waste!

To those who have reached out about volunteering, we are looking forward to a fun filled day to celebrate our students. Please make sure you have completed the [volunteer](#) process.

**** Volunteer forms MUST be completed EVERY SCHOOL YEAR - exception is the Criminal Record Check which is good for 5 years ****

Thank you!!

- Your PAC Team

Have questions?

Please email the PAC at augustonpac@gmail.com

Join the PAC Facebook Page for reminders & updates!

[Auguston Traditional Elementary School PAC](#)

Pay for School Activities and Give Consent Online



Consent forms are **ONLINE** in [SchoolCash](#). Consent includes Request for Email Address Consent, Photograph/Video and Media, Permission off Grounds and for Field Trips.

We would like to encourage **ALL families** at our school to utilize the online option for consent & payments **EVERY** time! We are currently at **99.70%** who have signed up. Let's make it 100% Auguston and **PLEASE USE the online option every time!**

****Mitten Project until Dec. 13 *No Uni for a Toonie * Damaged or Lost Library Books
*Email Consent *Extracurricular School Sports *Kindergarten school supplies
* Off Grounds * Photo/Media***

Thank you to parents who have set up your schoolcash account and utilize this option. You will be receiving reminders and messages about new items being added to your child's 'cart' when field trips and other items arise. A suggestion is to purchase a **prepaid credit card** to make purchases if you are concerned about online shopping. The district site is a secure site which does not hold account information.

SchoolCashOnline limits the amount of cash/cheques handled in schools, reduces paperwork, and results in more focused instructional time in the classroom. The Abbotsford School District now uses SchoolCashOnline for all schools. With SchoolCashOnline, parents have the convenient and secure option of paying for school items using their credit card online, 24/7. You can pay for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. It will save you time too! **Register for Schoolcashonline in 4 simple steps! If you haven't yet done so, please click on the link below to sign up TODAY!**

Pay School Fees Online

Secure credit card payment
24/7 convenience
Easy registration

[Click Here!](#)

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