



ÉCOLE KEATING SCHOOL

December 2011 Monthly Newsletter

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School Website:	http://keating.sd63.bc.ca/
KHASA Website:	www.khasa.ca
KOSC e-mail:	kosckids@telus.net
KOSC Website:	www.keatingoutofschoolcare.com
KOSC Telephone Number:	250.652.5546

ADMINISTRATION

Dear Parents / Guardians of Keating Students:

The first term has come and gone very rapidly, and as December unfolds, please note the calendar for upcoming events. Due to the holidays this is a short but very active and busy month. Christmas crafts and sing-a-longs, field trips and special performances, as well as very active classroom learning make this a fun and productive time for all.

Teachers have been very busy making connections with parents and giving opportunity for ongoing communication throughout November. However, in light of job action, formal written report cards are struck work. The ministry has stated that an obligation still exists for report cards to be completed and given to parents. This statutory obligation remains for administrators. Thus you will be receiving a report card home through the week of December 5th. Pertinent information on this report form includes attendance records for September through November. The format does not include assessment data/comments for each subject. I do encourage that if you require any further information, you contact your child's teacher in regard to your child's progress and or attendance.

Upon reflection of the past three months, your children have provided you and us with many joyful encounters and examples of awesome citizenship. As well, we are thankful for your ongoing support of our school and its programs. Your involvement does make a huge difference.

We congratulate Mme Dominique Boltres on her retirement from Keating after 34 years of providing excellent service to Saanich and Keating students and families. We wish her well and will miss her expertise. We also congratulate Mme Julie Jorgensen on her successfully posting into this vacant Grade 2 French Immersion position beginning in January 2012. Welcome Julie.

On behalf of Keating staff and administration, please have a restful and very Merry Christmas Season and a Happy New Year. Joyeux Noël et Bonne année à tous.

Sincerely;

Mr. M. Notte

Principal

Wed., Dec. 7 th	Keating Playground Meeting 7 p.m. MPR Parents of children K-5 invited.....
Thurs., Dec. 8 th	Bayside Craft Fair & Silent Auction 3 – 7:30 pm
Fri., Dec. 9 th	Hot Lunch
Fri., Dec. 9 th	KHASA Fundraisers: Pick-up Poinsettia / Purdy Choc. Orders / KHASA Corner 10 -3 pm
Mon., Dec. 12 th	Decorating Door / Winter Activity Tour of Gym 12:05 – 2:40 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 13 th	CPF Potluck Social 7 p.m. Keating Staff Room RSVP Kim Currie (cpf.saanich@gmail.com)
Wed., Dec. 14 th	Jingle Bell Run 10:30 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 14 th	FI Assembly 9:10 – 9:30 a.m. / Gym
Thurs., Dec. 15 th	KHASA Movie Night; <i>The Santa Clause</i> Doors open 6:30 / Movie begins: 7 pm (FREE)
Fri., Dec. 16 th	Whole School Assembly 10 a.m. (Guests welcome)
Fri., Dec. 16 th	Family Winter Fun Projects to be p/u from the Gym
Fri., Dec. 16 th	Hot Lunch Forms (Jan./Feb./Mar.) due
Mon., Dec. 19 –	
Mon., Jan. 2	Winter Break
Tues., Jan. 3 rd	School Re-opens
Wed., Jan. 4 th , 5 th , 6 th	Bottle Return Drop-off 8:15 – 9 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 6 th	Bottle Return Drop-off: 2:15 – 3 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 19 th	KHASA Meeting; 7 p.m. / MPR
Wed., Jan. 4 th – Friday – Jan. 6 th	Keating Bottle Return Project 8:15 – 9 a.m. & on Friday, Jan. 6 th 2:15 – 3 pm
	**KOSC families who drop off earlier than 8:15 am are welcome to drop off bottles in the covered area the morning of the drop off.
Tues., Jan. 24 th	Kindergarten & French Immersion Information Evening 7 – 9 pm / Keating Gym

KEATING'S SPRING FAIR 2012

Friday, May 4th, 2012

If you are interested to learn more or if you would like to volunteer, contact one of the coordinators.

Kat: 250.213.7898 kat@disputeresolution.bc.ca

Nicole: 250.652.3983 mnbains@shaw.ca

Chris: 250.652.3350 rachta10@shaw.ca

Kevin: 250.858.5755 ksbunting@shaw.ca

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) is a charitable non-profit organization that advocates for the best possible public education for all children in BC through the active involvement of parents. Their membership includes Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) in BC. BCCPAC produces many resources for parents on advocacy and BCCPAC Advocacy. *Speaking Up! A parent guide to advocating for students in public schools* is just one of the many resources available for order on their website. For more information, check out their website at www.bccpac.bc.ca/index.aspx

KEATING VISION STATEMENT

AT KEATING WE ARE A CARING COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS WHO TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT, WELCOME DIVERSITY AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER.

INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE:

Keating Winter Fun Project: One giant Angel or Mitten was sent home with each family. The decorated Angel or Mitten will be displayed on the gym walls throughout December for the entire school community to enjoy! Return your completed projects between Friday, December 1st and Friday, December 9th. Drop off is in the gym on the stage. Extra angels or mittens are available at the school office.

Lost & Found: The Lost & Found is **VERY FULL** (located in the hallway outside the school gym). Please take a moment to check out the Lost & Found to see if any of these items belong to your child(ren). Small items; jewelry, toys, etc. are kept in a box at the office. All unclaimed items will be sent to charity on Monday, December 19th.

Criminal Record Checks (CRC) are required for volunteers who have potential unsupervised access to students i.e. driving to and from field trips **CRCs are valid for 2 years.** If you obtained a CRC last year, it too will be valid for 2 years. Parents can obtain a letter from the school office that will allow them to obtain a CRC with NO fee (this letter can be requested by email, phone call or by stopping by the school office). Generally, your classroom teacher will let you know if a CRC is required. If you are unsure whether you have a valid CRC on file with the district, please email Mrs. Matthews (mmatthews@sd63.bc.ca) to confirm.

Check out Keating's website: Website contains; calendar, forms, newsletters, links and more.
Keating Website: <http://keating.sd63.bc.ca/>

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR MME MARILYN PINDER

Staff and Administration at Keating Elementary want to extend a heartfelt
Thank You to KHASA and all Keating families for your support of the November 26th
Celebration of Life.

We truly celebrated the ways in which Marilyn touched us all, and once again were reminded how special this community is as we take care of one another. Marilyn's family was sincerely touched. Thank you.

Copies of Madame Pinder's photograph which were handed out at the service and included her recipes for *Marilyn's Marvelous Fudge* and *Mme Pinder's Favourite Math Game* are available at the office for anyone wishing a copy.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We provide a safe secure environment where students develop the critical thinking and social skills necessary to be confident and successful life-long learners.

FRENCH IMMERSION ASSMEMBLY FRENCH CERTIFICATE OF MERITE

As part of our last French Immersion Assembly, the following students were awarded a Certificate of Merit to recognize their French speaking abilities:

Div. 2 / M. Parent & M. Fraser

Emma Walsh, Lauren Hutchinson, Finn Robbins, Logan Speirs, Malachi Hartley

Div. 4 / Mme Nicolson

Nick Griffiths, Nathan Spencer, Laura Van Campen, Kaelynn Lindahl

Div. 5 / Mme Lepicq & Ms. Alford

Kate Roberts, Ben Winkel, Sierra Junger, Breeze Gladwin

Div. 8 / Mme Gautrais

Robson Scott, Josephine Mills, Hannah Crowell

Div. 9 / Mme Pike

Cooper Junger, Mindalynn Frelick, Ella Duthie, Nathan Kwan

Div. 11 / Mme Boltres

Olivia Dunlop, Patrick Farkas, Cohan Lyne

Div. 12 / Mme Cuthill

Nathan Winkel, Sarah Sprungmann, Anna Hyldig, Sophia Teghtmeyer

Div. 14 / Mme Lord

Serena Hunde MMalik Gagne-Smith, Shaine Hartley, Finlay Walker-Cutt

Div. 15 / Mme Barber

Isabel Miller, Jaida Lewis, Cooper Alexander

Div. 17 / Mme Gartrell Yeo

Talise Steel, Keagan Wingerter, Oskar Aitken-Salmons

Div. 18 / Mme deBoer

Alayna McIver, Reilly Hughes

Div. 19 / Mme Thomasson

Maddison Widdifield, Stephen Thomson

KEATING OUT OF SCHOOL CARE:

"Come and experience the holidays KOSC Style! We have lots of great field trips and activities planned, including swimming, skating, and a BC Museum scavenger hunt and IMAX! New families are always welcome! Please call 250.652.5546 for more information, or you can check out our calendar of activities on-line at www.keatingoutofschoolcare.com

Happy Holidays!"

HOT LUNCH Friday, December 9th

There was no Soy chocolate Milk available for the November Hot Lunch (company error).

For those children that ordered a Soy chocolate Milk please come and see Mrs. Winkel for a free replacement at 11:40 am this Friday in the MPR.

Hot Lunch Forms for January, February & March 2012 were sent home today in paper copy.

Please return to the Forms box located in your child's classroom or to the form box located outside the school office. Thank you.

SWIM CLUB; GRADE 3 – 5 STUDENTS



On Tuesday, December 13th Swim Club will meet at the regular time. This is the last Swim Club day for 2011; watch your email for more swim club updates. Regular Swim Club resumes Tuesday, January 3rd.

We would like to thank

Mme Nicolson, Mme Cuthill & Ms. Windle for volunteering their time for Swim Club.

INDOOR SOCCER

We had a great soccer season this year! 56 kids came out and played at lunch hour for 6 weeks. Our play off games were exciting and action packed and even went into over-time period and shootouts. At the end of the season the Blue Bulldogs won the Golf medal, the Cougars won the Silver medal and the Roadrunners won the Bronze medal. The sportsmanship cup was won by the Cheezies. All this soccer brought lots of excitement and entertainment to the spectators.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to our coaches; Ms. Alford, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Harward and Mrs. Lee

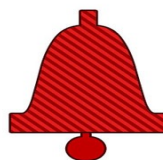
BADMINTON

Last week, Badminton Victoria instructors made a visit to Keating Elementary for 4 full days of badminton instruction during gym hours. We saw the entire school twice! Without exception, all of the kids improved and saw how fun badminton can be. Badminton Victoria offers many programs for youth all over the Victoria area from fresh young beginners all the way up to some of the top junior players in Canada! We offer many programs either independently or through local recreation centres such as Saanich Commonwealth Place and Gordon Head Recreation Centre. If your child enjoyed the badminton classes at Keating, then they will LOVE getting into one of our badminton programs. Check out www.badmintonvictoria.com for more details on places to play badminton recreationally or for instructional classes. The new registration information for programs starting in January of 2012 will be available shortly. As the kids found out last week, badminton is the fastest racquet sport in the world! ARE YOU FAST ENOUGH! Email Jeremy at badminton@pacificsport.com for more details.

JINGLE BELL FUN RUN - Wednesday, December 14th, 2011

To celebrate the holiday season and to promote physical fitness at Keating School Mrs. Lee has organized a 'Jingle Bell Fun Run' for Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. Every student in the school will get a jingle bell to wear as a bracelet while running the course. Children are encouraged to dress up for the run in their Santa hats, reindeer antlers or any other 'Christmassy' apparel they can find or make! Parents are welcome. The course will be set around the school and students will be permitted to complete up to three laps. A small draw prize will be given to one student from each division.

Thank you Mrs. Lee for your enthusiasm and helping to keep Keating School students fit!!



CLASS REPS NEEDED

The following classes are in need of a Cass Rep and/or Class Rep Alternate.

★ Div. 003	Ms. Windle / Mrs. Porter	Class Rep & Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 006	Ms. Pettigrew	Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 007	Mr. Bocking	Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 008	Mme Gautrais	Class Rep & Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 011	Mme Boltres	Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 013	Ms. Hawkins / Ms. Alford	Class Rep & Alternate Class Rep
★ Div. 016	Mrs. Harward	Class Rep & Alternate Class Rep

Details for this volunteer position may be viewed on the school website or description form is available outside the school office. If interested, please talk to your child's teacher, school office or email [KHASA \(khasa63@gmail.com\)](mailto:khasa63@gmail.com). Thank you.

BC has a strong education system, but there is no denying that our world is changing rapidly. New jobs are constantly being created, and technology is changing the way we communicate and connect with each other. We need to modernize the way students are educated so they are prepared for the world, not only as it is now, but will be in the future (B.C. Ministry of Education, 2011).

Parents, you are encouraged to take a look at the new BC Education Plan, by visiting the government website <http://www.bcedplan.ca/>. The site is extremely user friendly with easy to read information about the directions of the plan. It also has a great video, as well as a place for parents to engage in on-line conversations about the plan. It includes everything from real world and personalized skills to the importance of teachers and effective teaching. The direction of public education is very exciting and this plan gives you plenty of food for thought. Happy reading!



W.I.T.S. UP?
Keating Students Use their W.I.T.S.
(Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Help)

At the beginning of November, students participated in grade group W.I.T.S. assemblies led by Cpl Bryant, Mme Heron and student volunteer actors (Grade 5 Keating students and Grade 8 Bayside students). For Grades 2-5 a variety of conflict scenarios were acted out by the student actors with a second take being an example of how one could use his/her W.I.T.S. to solve the problem. The Ks and 1s learned through literature, as Mme Heron and Cpl Bryant read *King of the Playground*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor and guided the students through the basics of W.I.T.S.

On January 5, as a follow-up to the W.I.T.S. assemblies, students will take part in a second grade group assembly led by our school counsellor Lynn Wray. She will teach the children concrete skills on how to ask for help and how to talk it out when they find themselves in a conflict.

For more information on the W.I.T.S. program, please check out the website at <http://www.witsprogram.ca/> You will find a great new link on the site for families. There are lots of resources, like a toolkit for parents and a book list. You may want to visit your public library to see if you can find one of the recommended reads.

Mme Heron, Interim Vice-Principal

REPORT FROM CORPORAL PAT BRYANT
CENTRAL SAANICH POLICE

On behalf of the Central Saanich Police Service and myself, I would like to wish the Families and Staff of Ecole Keating Elementary a very Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

The first four months of the 2011-12 school year at Keating has been a wonderful experience for me. You have made the transition into the Youth Resource position extremely seamless for me. I truly enjoy walking the hallways and seeing the happy smiles.

I am extremely impressed with our School Crossing Guard Program. Gillian England (our coordinator) has done a remarkable job keeping the Program running so smoothly. To our Guards(I am proud to call you Guards) and their Parents, a huge thank you. You have stepped up and performed your tasks admirably, even with the changes that we made to ensure safety for everyone.

I would like to encourage more families to consider using the cross walk in the morning and afternoon. This way we can ease the congestion in our parking lots. Think of it as a New Year's Resolution. A walk along Central Saanich Rd first thing in morning is a great way to start the school day.

Merci Keating,
 Cpl Bryant, CSPS
 Pat Bryant, CPL #45
 Central Saanich Police

K KORNER
Helpful Tips for Healthy Kindies

**HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING
OF
WHAT THEY READ?**

Children need to make sense of print. The more they can connect their own experiences to what they are reading, the better able they are to understand print messages. Here are some ways you can help extend your children's understanding of what they are going to read, have read, or have had read to them.

1. Before your child reads or before you read to him or her, look at the book cover (the title and illustration) and talk about what the story or book might be about. (If there is a summary on the book jacket or the back cover, read it together). The more ideas your child has before regarding, the better able he or she will be to make sense of the contents.
2. When your child is reading to you, fill in the difficult words so that the meaning is not lost. When you're reading to your child, stop occasionally to talk about difficult or interesting words.
3. Talk together about the illustrations so your child will develop the habit of connecting the pictures to the printed words.
4. If you're reading a chapter book or an information book together, stop at the end of each chapter or section to discuss the thoughts, feelings, and behaviours of the characters, or the facts and ideas presented.
5. Encourage your child's questions as you're reading together.
6. Invite your child's observations and comments about the illustrations, and about interesting words and sentences the author has used.
7. When you've finished reading together, invite your child to talk about the parts he or she liked best, about what was learned, about favorite illustrations,....

Here are some activities your child might enjoy after reading a selection:

- ◆ drawing pictures that show the important events in order (like a cartoon or filmstrip)
- ◆ making a poster advertisement for the book using crayons, markers, paints, chalk,...
- ◆ reading another book by the same author or on the same topic
- ◆ constructing a "shoe box" diorama with Plasticine, Lego, paper....

GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Over the holidays, you may wish to check out the large variety of on-lineeee books through the Greater Victoria Public Library <http://gvpl.ca/interests/kids-tweens/tumblebooks-more/> There are books available in both French and English and for readers of all levels. Children can read along or simply listen to a story. The words being read are highlighted and children can move forward and backwards in the book at their own speed. Children also love to explore the many different titles available to them and some even like to share their favorites with their siblings or mom and dad. Enjoy!

KEATING STUDENTS BRING HOME NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY AWARD

Changing the World with a giving heart

This was the theme of this year's National Philanthropy Day event. Included in the award winners was a group of students from Keating Elementary that did the Saanich School District very proud.

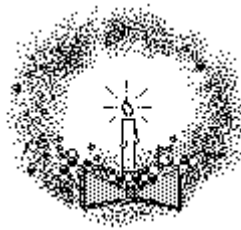
Last year, Division 2 Grade 4 and 5 students were involved in fundraisers for children with cancer, Unicef, and the Support Japan Campaign. All together they brought in close to \$1700 through used toy sales, popcorn sales, and t-shirt sales. These events caught the eye of the National Philanthropy Day organization and the "2010-2011 Division 2" students of Keating were awarded the Youth in Philanthropy Award for 5 – 10 year olds. In an awards event held at The Crystal Ballroom of The Empress, Keating and Bayside parents and students mingled with some amazing and caring philanthropists on Vancouver Island and beyond. Throughout the evening they heard stories of hope and inspiration, and when it was the students turn to present, they did not disappoint. Nine and ten year old students spoke with ease and confidence to an audience of 350 adults and distinguished guests. They told their story to numerous rounds of applause and were given a standing ovation as they accepted their award. They have now recorded on video their stories and these clips will be used to promote Youth in Philanthropy throughout North America and the world.

This was a magical event for students, parents and staff and one that galvanized the spirit of volunteerism and giving in this group of energetic children. But it didn't stop there. The following day, the students along with their parents made and distributed more than 400 bags of popcorn to raise \$455 for Unicef. And, currently, the students are researching various organizations as they have \$500 in award money to give to a charity of their choice.

*The ways and means of philanthropy may be evolving as we speak,
but one thing will always hold true.*

*Behind every successful event, you need caring people with their hearts in the right place to make it happen.
Keating school and our local community can be proud of a group of little hearts
who are doing all they can to make the world a better place.*

UNICEF POPCORN FUNDRAISER: On Tuesday, November 8th some grade 4 & 5 students at Keating organized a UNICEF Popcorn Fundraiser. Thank you to all the families that supported this fundraiser. \$455.95 was raised for Unicef.



SAANICH CORE VALUES

Compassion, Fairness, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect

COMMUNITY NEWS

CLOVERBUD INFORMATION NIGHT: want to know what *Cloverbuds* is all about? Come and drop in at the Saanich Fairgrounds (Willow Building); Wed., Dec. 7th 6:30 – 8:30 pm If you need more information or have any questions, please call Holly Johnson @ 250.514.6904.

READ Society: The READ Society offers programs in reading, writing and math for children and youth ages 6 to 18.

- ➔ Academic assessments pinpoint how your child is doing.
- ➔ Professional teachers create individualized programs.
- ➔ As a non-profit, READ provides tuition assistance to children youth from low income households whose academic skills are below grade level.
- ➔ 250.388.7225 www.readsociety.bc.ca
- ➔ Four locations: Sidney, Victoria, Colwood, Sooke

PIRANHAS'S SWIM CLUB is Looking for Swimmers!

If you like water; swimming; learning and having fun, you too can be a Piranha. Winter registration is taking place at the Panorama Rec Centre: Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2011 2:30 – 4:30 pm & Friday, Jan. 6th 2012 from 5 – 7 p.m. *Come check us out.*

4th Annual Royal Oak Middle School Holiday Sales

Friday, Dec. 2nd and Saturday, Dec. 3rd

Show times are: Friday 3:30 – 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 – 3 p.m.

4564 West Saanich Road

Artists, Artisans, Crafts, Great Food Free Parking – admission by donation

For more information and vendor forms please visit: <http://romsvic.wordpress.com>

All proceeds will go to Royal Oak Middle School PAC to enhance club, classroom activities, etc.

Peninsula Track and Field

Are you looking for a way to keep your child active during the winter months? Why not join the Cross-Country program at Peninsula Track and Field! 8-11 year olds run once a week on Friday evenings from 5-6 p.m. and more serious athletes aged 12 and up run 2 or 3 times a week (depending on their age and other commitments). In March we switch from cross-country to our track and field program which includes sprinting, middle distance running, long jump, high jump, shot put, javelin, discus and hammer. For more information, please contact Karen at 250.655.4981. You can also check us out on the web at www.pentrack.org

Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada; Parenting Without Power Struggles

This weekly program offers parents:

- ◆ the opportunity to build on the strengths of families;
- ◆ practical problem solving ideas to prepare for the transition from preteen to teen
- ◆ support from other parents that really understand;
- ◆ hope from finding out that you are not alone
- ◆ respect and confidentiality

Please contact the Boys and Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria Jan Townsend 250.384.9133 ext. 222 visit our website at: www.bgcvic.org

Peninsula Connections for early childhood
PCEC "1000 X 5"
Children's Book Recycling Project
Please help support our
community literacy initiative....

If you can donate gently used children's picture books, please leave them at Keating's school office. They will be forwarded to volunteers at the Saanich Learning Centre (old Saanichton Elementary) who process them for distribution to children and families on the Peninsula. For further information about the PCEC "1000 x 5" Project, please contact: Daphne Macnaughton, PCEC "1000 x 5" Project Leader dlmvictoria@shaw.ca

Ski & Snowboard for FREE this Winter:

Ski areas across Canada are opening their hearts and hills to over 500,000 4th and 5th graders, with an invitation to ski and snowboard for FREE this winter. All you need is a Grade 4 & 5 SnowPass, which is a coupon card offering 4th and 5th graders three complimentary lift/trail tickets and each and every one of the participating ski areas in the province and region where they live. Anyone who is currently in Grade 4 or grade 5 (or born in 2001 or 2002) is eligible for a Grade 4 & 5 SnowPass. Applications are also available at the front counters of Sport Mart, Sport Chek, Sports Experts and Intersport stores across Canada. Apply on-line at www.snowpass.ca

