



# Parent Newsletter

## HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME



What does research say about parents helping their child succeed in school? All parents can help their child achieve his/her full potential by spending time talking about school and by reading with their child.

When parents regularly read books with their child and regularly talk about things they have done during the day, student achievement increases. Your child appreciates when you show a genuine interest in what s/he is doing at school.

## Parent Engagement Committee Newsletter

*Welcome to the first Parent Engagement newsletter!*  
*Published every two months, the committee brings you suggestions, resources and links to support you in helping your child(ren) be successful at school.*

## Parent Resources

To prepare your child for success at school, make sure s/he is as healthy as possible when s/he sits down to learn. That means ensuring your child is eating and sleeping well and is able to recharge after school in a healthy way to prepare for the next day. The Fraser Health Newsroom has many tips/suggestions for parents in *Your Healthy Back to School Guide*: <http://news.fraserhealth.ca/News/August-2016/Your-Healthy-Back-to-School-Guide.aspx>

### Reading with your Elementary Child



**Tips for Families**

*Reading With Your Elementary Child* is available at all schools. The brochure, provided by the SD46 Reading Committee, highlights how parents and caregivers can support children becoming better readers!



## DPAC NEWS

Becoming involved in the school is a great way to meet other parents and to understand more about the many activities happening in the building! All parents have unique skills and experiences they can offer their local school. Contact the principal or the school PAC chair to find out how you can be more connected with the school.

The first DPAC meeting will be at Chatelech Secondary School Library at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 22nd. Join us for coffee, tea and treats! The group is chaired by Allyson Fawcus, parent at West Sechelt Elementary School – she welcomes your involvement!



### Parent Engagement Survey

In the spring we created an on-line survey to help us understand what parents were thinking. 312 responses were received: 48% elementary and 52% secondary. Each issue includes highlights and comments from voices across the district. Note: people could select more than one answer.

**Q14: What method of Communication do you prefer to receive regarding general school announcements?**

email: .....	95%	Text messages .....	17%
Newsletter .....	26%	Voice message .....	14%
School website .....	25%	Facebook .....	10%
Teacher's Blog .....	20%	Other	12%

**Q15: What method of Communication do you prefer for contact about your child?**

email: .....	81%	Text messages .....	17%
Phone call .....	55%	Other	15%
Note home/planners	29%		

#### Parent Comments:

"I like the face-to-face meetings. The teachers are very open and welcome me coming into the class after school and checking in."

"As long as I know my child's teacher does not mind me emailing her with specific questions or concerns and she in turn knows to email me if there is something to discuss, then I am happy."

### Feature Photo

What does parent engagement "look like" in the SPIDER program? Parents engaged on field experiences to the ocean.



#### How to Contact Us

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### Parent Engagement Committee

The committee membership represents diverse voices from across the school district: Patrick Bocking, Sarah Bradley, Sean Morton, Allyson Fawcus, Christa Rive, Tamara Forsyth, Jane Ostashek and David Barnum (chair). We welcome suggestions for future editions of this newsletter. The following committee goals have been established through thoughtful conversations:

- Increase the number of parents involved in SD46 schools.
- Rethink traditional school/system structures that affect parental involvement and engagement.
- Nurture child-parent communication in the home.
- Ensure communication strategies are effective.
- Deepen parental/caregiver engagement in students' education.