



December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As we finish up the final term of the 2016 calendar year, we want to take this time to send our sincere appreciation to everyone in our school community for all of their efforts in making Thompson a great school. Our students continue to demonstrate learning in all areas, but most importantly they are becoming strong socially responsible citizens. We are looking forward to supporting our students in the new-year and we are looking forward to continuing to work with families to build a strong community. We wish everyone a relaxing, fun filled holiday and all the best in 2017!

Thompson Staff

**Announcements/Upcoming Events**

**Gr. 7 vs. Teachers Volleyball Game**



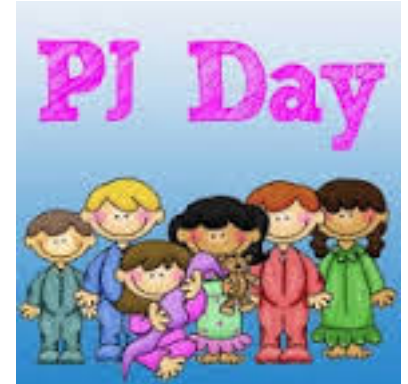
On Friday, **December 9th** Student Leadership will be hosting a Grade 7 vs. Staff volleyball game. All students are invited to attend. Admission

to the game will be a **toonie**. All donations will go to support the Richmond Christmas Fund. Please come out and cheer on the staff and students.



**School Spirit Day:**

On Friday, **December 16<sup>th</sup>**, Gr. 7 student leaders will be hosting our traditional Pajama and Stuffed Animal spirit day. Everyone is encouraged to show their Thompson school spirit by dressing in their PJ's and bringing a stuffed animal with them to school.



**Winter Concert**

**Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The school will be holding a Winter Concert from 1:15 – 2:30 pm. Please come and join**

**us for a fun filled afternoon of entertainment, performances and our traditional whole school sing a long.** For those who can't make the Thursday afternoon performance there will be an open dress rehearsal performance on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> that parents and family members are welcome to attend.

**Band Concert**

Our grade 5, 6 and 7 band have been working hard this term. We will be having a band concert on **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm** and again at **6:30 pm** in the gym. We hope to see everyone there.

**Thompson Choir at Gilmore Gardens**

Our very own Thompson Choir under the direction of **Ms. Duthie** will be visiting Gilmore Gardens on **December 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 – 2:45 pm** to perform Christmas favourites for seniors.



**Report Cards and Various other Changes for Staff this Term**



This year there have been a number of changes for staff across the district. These changes have brought new opportunity, but also some challenges with them.

As you are aware staff are beginning to implement a re-designed curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity for all involved in education to move from a content - based curriculum to a curriculum based on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills and process such as critical thinking and creativity. It also provides flexibility and students with an opportunity to pursue personal interests.

In August the Ministry of Education sent out a new reporting order that will bring reporting in-line with the re-designed curriculum. Teachers are being asked to write reports, submit comments and report grades in a new format using a completely different program. The overall report card will communicate most of the same information as the previous one did. It has taken a while for the program to be fully developed at it is quite different. All teachers have received training on the new system. As a result all schools will be sending report cards home at a later date. **For Thompson this will be Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

In addition to the implementation of re-designed curriculum and a new reporting order, staff has also been introduced to a new e-mail platform and a completely new way of communicating with school and district staff.

Our teachers and staff have done a fantastic job of navigating these changes. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we worked through them.



Winter break this year starts on December 17<sup>th</sup>. School will be in session on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Thank You**



At the PAC meeting on November 15th, the committee approved the purchase of many items that will benefit the educational experiences of the students at Thompson School. The following items were approved: fine arts performances, gymnastics program, outdoor

**PAC News**

learning area, library books and a band cart. Additional standing items included money for field trips, busses and classroom funds. Thompson Staff and students would like to thank the PAC at Thompson for their generosity and support.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **January 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:50 am** in the staffroom.

All are welcome and invited to attend.



The PAC is looking for a **traffic safety coordinator** to help organize parent helpers to supervise in the parking lot before and after school. If you are interested in helping out, please let the office know.

PAC fundraising letter has been sent home. We would appreciate receiving your donations by **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** if you require a tax receipt for 2016.

<b><u>December Calendar</u></b>	
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Professional Development Day (No school in session)</b>
<b>December 6</b>	Band Concert – 1:30 and 6:30 pm
<b>December 8</b>	Family Teams
<b>December 9</b>	Staff vs. Grade 7 Volleyball Game
<b>December 12</b>	Div. 3 & 7 – Skating at Minoru
<b>December 13</b>	Thompson Choir visit to Gilmore Gardens
<b>December 14</b>	Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal 1:15 – 2:30 pm
December 14	Report Cards Home
<b>December 15</b>	Winter Concert – 1:15 – 2:30pm
<b>December 16</b>	Japanese Hot Lunch Day / Pajama and Stuffed Animal Day
<b>December 17 – January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Winter Holidays</b>	
<b>January 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Re-Opens for second term</b>	