**Salmo Secondary School**

PAC Meeting Nov. 19, 2019

Principal’s Report

*Mission: “We focus on excellence for all learners in a nurturing environment”*

*Vision: Focus. Learn. Excel*

**Highlights**

There are several highlights to report this month.

In expectation for the federal election, the Social Studies classes participated in a school based “Student Vote” initiative. They researched the candidates, visited other classes to promote the candidate platforms, and hosted our own election. Salmo Secondary students closely predicted the results of the election! It was a great learning experience for all and raised awareness of political issues and process.

We concluded the month of October with an activity packed Halloween day. There were Salmo Spirit Cup contests and activities in the gym, and students put their best effort into the costume contest and pumpkin decoration. A highlight was joining with Salmo Elementary School with the Halloween for Hunger food drive. Between the schools over 1,000 pounds of food was collected for the local food bank.

The Remembrance Day Assembly was a beautiful student planned event. All aspects of the assembly were student planned and lead. There were acknowledgements of local fallen soldiers, as well as recognition of the contributions of local and national indigenous soldiers. Local legion members and bagpipers were in attendance. There were musical presentations, including an indigenous drumming song to begin. Many thanks to our student orgranizers! Our school also had representation at the community Remembrance Day service and were on hand to lay wreaths and read a poem.

We had a special visit by the school district principals and vice-principals this month. We hosted their monthly meeting and were able to present highlights of our school to them. There were a few students who presented their work on place based learning in English, as well as their student vote initiative. Our very own rapping group also performed one of their original songs. All principals and vice principals enjoyed getting to know our school better through the initiatives of our students.

We had a very exciting and entertaining evening of music by the Playmor Junction Band. It was an educational event as they introduced various types of instruments and music. All members of the audience were involved and a highlight was being able to sit on the stage with the musicians. Admission was by donation and $230 was raised for our music department. Thank you for your support!

Our volleyball season wrapped up successfully with tournaments around the district. Congrats to our coaches and students!

At the meeting, a couple of questions had been raised. First, a concern had been raised about our transportation budget, and if we would have enough for the year. I am happy to report that we still have 82% of our budget let for the year. This will be plenty available for our sports teams to participate in tournaments, as well as opportunities for place based learning.

Secondly, there was a question regarding the election process for student trustees. We have two student trustees in our school who represent our school with student voice at the district level. Student trustees may serve up to two years, beginning in Grade 11. The process for election of trustees involves an application and interview process. For more information, please see the student trustee guidelines posted on the SD8 website: <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/node/36861>

**Projects in Process**

This month was our digital media awareness initiative. Scott Rothermal, the SD8 Safe Schools manager, visited the school to talk to the students about digital media, safety, and responsible use. All classes received age appropriate instruction on how to be responsible and were able to ask questions. We will be continuing this initiative with classroom based supports as the year continues.

We have continued to initiate and support our outside community services and supports. Working with our school based team and community groups, we have been able to offer counselling, art therapy, SOGI groups, and ABED directed support to students.

We have been and will continue working towards developing our relationship with Salmo Elementary School. We hosted the first combined staff meeting to promote school collaboration and relational support as well as the Halloween for Hunger project. We look forward to planning more combined activities throughout the year.

Finally, teachers have continued engaging in professional development on the topic of inclusion, and have been learning how to create lessons and environments that are inclusive of all students’ academic, social and emotional considerations.

**Moving forward**

We are currently building our new website! It will be released soon and we are excited to share this with you. It will be a hub of information for you and we hope will facilitate increased communication between home and school. Watch for more information to come!

We are looking forward to increasing student involvement in the community. Already students have volunteered at various community events and we are looking for more opportunities for students to give back to their community while also accruing their hours for graduation. Please contact us if you would appreciate student support!

Mental health supports will be further explored through the assistance of Javier Gonzalez – the Schools Mental Health and Addictions Coordinator. He will be working with staff, parents and students on aspects of mental health and addictions. We hope to offer further education series to parents on the topics of digital media, mental health, and addictions in the upcoming months.

Finally, basketball season has started! Games start next week. We have seen an increase of students involved in sports and we expect to see a good turn out on our teams this winter. Encourage your son/daughter to get involved!

Coming up:

Dec. 5 – Grad Meeting 5:30 pm

Dec. 20 – Winter concert 12:15pm

Dec. 21-Jan 5 Winter break

Jan 6 – Classes resume