**Salmo Secondary School**

PAC Meeting Oct. 22, 2019

Principal’s Report

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

*Vision: Focus. Learn. Excel*

**Highlights this month**

We have had many highlights this month! There have been several Salmo Spirit Cup Team building activities, during which students have worked together in teams to earn points while having fun. There was great energy around the September Champion Lakes event. Teams won points for many relay races and events. We also hosted the Terry Fox run in conjunction with Salmo Elementary School. Team points were awarded for a school wide game of Kahoot prior to the run. Afterwards, students from both schools ran around the mountain and met back at the high school for a hot dog lunch. Finally, Orange Shirt Day was an opportunity not only for learning about reconciliation and residential schools, but also for engaging in team work and using poetry skills. In teams, students were to choose between the themes “All things are possible” or “Overcoming Obstacles”. Teams then created poems on these themes using one word from each member. There were some great poems crafted and are on display in the foyer. Come in to see!

Our hot lunch and cafeteria program is up and running well. Each day is a new menu, and students can purchase lunch for a standardized price of four dollars. The foods program recently cooked up a wonderful turkey dinner which was enjoyed by all students and staff. It was a wonderful afternoon of connecting over food.

The federal election was an opportunity for students to learn about politics and responsible citizenship. The Social Studies 10 class led the school in the Student Vote event. They researched candidates, talked to classes about the election, and hosted a school wide election. They predicted a minority government, but with an NDP lead. It was good learning for all!

We also currently have the highest number of students in sports! Currently the girls and boys volleyball teams are practicing hard and competing in different games in surrounding communities. Come out sometime to cheer our teams on!

Finally, our teachers have had the opportunity to take advantage of many professional learning opportunities. Teams of teachers have been sent to workshops on inclusion, math and science instruction, as well as reading strategies and support. They are bringing back good learning to our teaching team, which is enriching our educational delivery.

**Projects in Process**

We have several project in process. We recently moved students off school property to smoke. It is against the law and school district policy for smoking or vaping on school property. We have worked with district staff and maintenance to determine a best off property location for students. Therefore, you may have noticed some students smoking at the front of the school. We recognize that this is more visible and are working with students regarding respectful behavior towards our community members and representing our school well. We will be working with students this year on issues of tobacco use and addictions.

The fluorescent sign on the front of the school, which was purchased by PAC, will need to be moved. There has been an ongoing conversation with community members regarding its location. School administration will be working with PAC members to determine a more suitable, highly visible location. Discussion will be had regarding the types of advertising it will promote, of course always prioritizing the learning of children in the community.

Finally, we are in process of submitting a grant for $5-$15,000 from MusicCounts Band Aid program. We are hoping to expand our music offerings to our student body and this grant will assist in purchasing new instruments.

**Moving forward**

Now that the school year is well underway, a priority is to make Salmo learning visible. There is great learning going on in our school and we want to get the word out! Ways we plan on doing this includes a new website to be launched soon. This will be the portal for all of our information and will be kept up to date. We will also post news releases, and host district events. We are exploring partnerships with the community and have begun to work more closely with the elementary school. The TV in our foyer is kept up to date so when you are in next be sure to watch what students have been up to!

We are looking forward to bringing to our school digital media and mental health supports. We have been working closely with district personnel to plan digital media training and education on topics such as social media, app usage, media addiction, and online bullying/harassment. There will also be parent information nights on these topics so watch for more information to come!

Our mental health supports will include district support from our mental health and addictions coordinator. We also will be continuing services to students in counselling and art therapy. Mentorship and groups will be provided for specific groups such as SOGI and ABED.

**Coming Up…**

1. Salmo Facilities Meeting October 29 – Please join us this evening! District personnel will be here to share information on plans for our school buildings.
2. Halloween for Hunger – October 31 we will partner with the elementary school to collect food donations for the food bank. Then there will be some fun Halloween activities at the school
3. Remembrance Day Assembly – November 7 – Please feel free to join us!