



Arthur Stevenson Elementary

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December 2025 Newsletter

Message from Ms. Farquhar:

Hello families,

November has been a vibrant full month of learning and collaboration! Including valuable lessons related to Remembrance Day and the month's theme of "Love (and caring)" as it pertains to the Grandfather Teachings from *Eagle*. In sports, all of our volleyball teams had a fantastic season and benefitted from the coaching efforts of staff and parents alike. And now, we're already excited for Basketball to kick off in January, and we anticipate more great examples of teamwork and sportsmanship. A huge shoutout to our students for the success of our 4th Annual Entrepreneur Fair, a wonderful demonstration of student learning and community support.

Looking Ahead to December; although short, December is packed with festive events and important initiatives!

Winter Concerts: We eagerly await our two special Winter Concerts. Please see the information below for details on performance times and attendance.

School Initiatives: We are focusing on giving back to the community this month with a Food Bank drive and a collection of hygiene items for the homeless. We sincerely appreciate any donations you are able to contribute.

PAC Family Movie Night: Mark your calendars for December 12th! Our fantastic PAC is hosting a Family Movie Night.

Raffle Baskets: The PAC's annual raffle is underway! A list of requested donation items for the various themed baskets was sent home via email and hard copy. The funds raised from these baskets directly benefit our students by helping us purchase updated technology and equipment. Thank you for considering a donation!

Report Cards: Hard copies of Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home with your child on December 12th. Please return the empty envelope the following week.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to your child's success. We look forward
With gratitude,

Your Proud Principal,
Kirsten Farquhar (she/her)



Arthur Stevenson Elementary School – You Belong Here!

Winter Concert:

We're excited for our winter concert! There will be two showings:

Wednesday, Dec 16th at 1:15

Thursday, Dec 18th at 1:15 pm

Doors will open at 12:45

There is limited seating, so we are suggesting families with last names starting with A-K to come to the Dec 16th showing and families with last names L-Z to come to the Dec 18th showing. Naturally, if the date opposite is the only one your schedule can accommodate we will still welcome your presence. We request that you stay for the whole performance. We hope to see you there!



Report Card Pick-Up:

Report cards are scheduled to go home at the end of the day Dec 12th

Winter Weather is Upon Us:

As the cold rolls in, please send your students with adequate outerwear. Students are still encouraged to be outside for recess and lunch. We will keep an eye on the temperature and adjust our outside time (come in early or have an inside day) if it gets too cold. -15 is our approx. threshold for adjusting outside times.

School Fees:

This is a reminder to parents that school fees are now past due! Please contact the office or your classroom teacher if you require assistance with fees.

Message from School Board Office regarding Transaction Fees:

We understand there have been some concerns and feedback from parents regarding the district's online transaction fee rates.

After a review of the transaction fee price structure with SchoolCash Online, the District will be reducing its transaction fee rates to a 2.5% charge for online payments.

On December 5th, the District will be working with SchoolCash to update the system's programmed rates for payments made online. This will require all current

fees to be deleted and recreated under the new rate structure - online and cash payments cannot be processed during the transition on December 5th. Please also expect limited availability to pay online during the week of December 6th-12th. Between December 15th to January 31st, 2026, the District will be working to process refunds to families who paid online, reducing their net charge to 2.5%. These refunds will be processed to the card used to make the original payment. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this process.

School Messenger/Safe Arrival:

Parents are asked to please report student absences before 8:30 am on the day of the absence. Planned absences can be reported in advance. To report an absence you may choose to:

- Call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- Access the following website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or
- Download App from iTunes or Google Play



Communication with your Classroom Teacher:

We all appreciate effective communication and yet sometimes, as busy parents, we may think what will be a "quick chat" before the morning bell or immediately afterschool as kiddos are packing up, is actually a topic that deserves a longer, private conversation. This can be true as information gets shared and more questions come to mind. We want to hear from you and support your child! Therefore, if you have questions about your child's programming or progress or you have a concern to raise with the teacher, I recommend that you reach out to the teacher (email or phone) to arrange a time in which you can connect with each other. This way, your conversation can take place without distraction or being rushed. Naturally, if you have a simple "process" related question such as due dates, supplies needed for an activity etc - feel free to mention these in passing at pick up and drop off when you see the teacher.

Purdys Chocolates

Thank you to all who participated in the school library fundraiser. Please be reminded that orders can be picked up on Thursday, December 11th between 2-3pm.



Food Drive

Our school has two initiatives that we are participating in and are looking for donations if possible:



Giving Hope Today

Please give non-perishable food items this year.

List food items:

Canned soups, boxed pasta, dried pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables /fruit granola bars, cranberry sauce, chips, crackers, dried meats: pepperoni sticks, beef jerky, cookies, rice packages, pudding, ,jello, tea, instant coffee, crystal light /juice singles, bottles of water, nuts, peanut butter (or other nut butters), jelly /jam, oil

Also, as a Christmas treat, consider giving:

Chocolates, candy / gum, fruit gummies, batteries

***Gift card: Coffee places - Timmy's or MacDonalDs**

Along with a nice Christmas card with an uplifting message

Hygiene for the Homeless

Please consider giving any of the following unused or unwanted items:

(Both full size & smaller travel sizes are appreciated)

Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, hairbrush /comb deodorant /antiperspirant, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, soap, shampoo /conditioner, hair spray /gel, hair products, razors, shaving cream, perfume /cologne, make-up moisturizing cream, nail clippers, lip gloss, gum.

*Gift card: Coffee places - Timmy's or MacDonalDs

Along with a nice Christmas card with an uplifting message

Also,

Mittens, scarves, toques, socks

To make these care packages for the homeless, please send:

-shoeboxes, gift bags, stockings

For our last week of school before Winter Break we will be having some fun spirit days:

Monday, Dec 8: Slippers and Holiday socks

Tuesday, Dec 9: Red/and or Green

Wednesday, Dec 10: Winter hats, scarves and mittens

Thursday, December 11: Snowflakes

Friday, December 12: Holiday Sweaters

Friday, December 19: Pajama Day

Lost & Found:

This is a reminder to label your child's personal belongings so we can get them back to their rightful owners. The lost and found is getting full, please stop by and take a look! We will need to empty out our space in the new year.

P.A.C. – Parent Advisory Council: arthurstevenson.pac@gmail.com

The next P.A.C. meeting will be held Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the Library. All parents are welcome!

Family Movie Night – The Grinch

The PAC will be hosting a Family Movie Night on **Friday, December 12th** in the school gym. Doors open at **5:30 p.m.**, and the cost is **\$5 per family**. Please pre-order your entry under "Fundraiser" on the Munch-a-Lunch website.

A concession will be available, with the following items for purchase:

- Chocolate bars, chips, candy bags – **\$1.50 each**
- Hot dogs – **\$2.50**
- Pop, Gatorade, popcorn – **\$1.50**
- Water – **\$1**

Families are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs for comfortable seating. We look forward to a fun evening together!

Hot Lunch Orders:

***If your student is away and you would like to pick-up their hot lunch, please email the PAC at aseshotlunch@gmail.com or you can call the school.**

***** Winter 2026 section will be open to order approximately December 7th*****

December 2nd: Senor Froggy Mexican

December 9th: White Spot

December 16th: Chopped Leaf

Message from Inclusive Education:

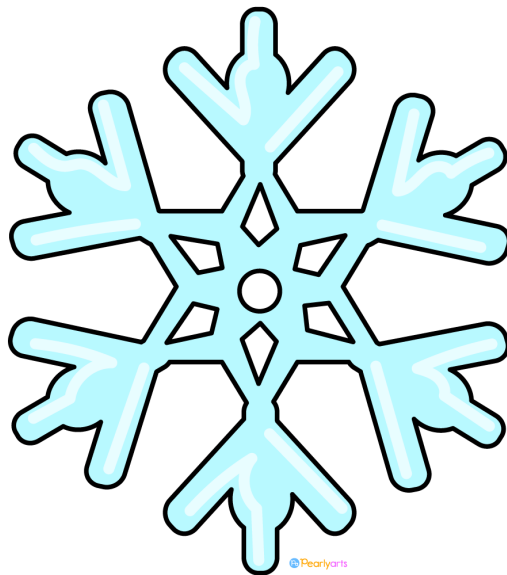
Presented by Child and Youth Mental Health Eating Disorder Clinicians

Join Child and Youth Mental Health Eating Disorder clinicians as they examine eating disorders, what they are and what you can do.

In this session, you will:

- Examine what an eating disorder is
- Review the signs and symptoms to watch for
- Explore what to do and how to respond
- Identify supports available in the community

This workshop will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.



Interior Health Newsletter

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

December 2025



HEALTHY EATING

Neurodiversity and Eating Disorders

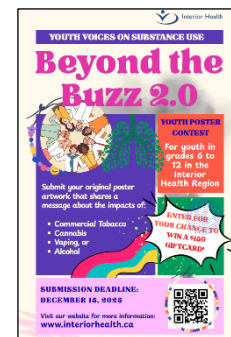
Eating disorders are complex mental health conditions that affect individuals across all ages, genders, and backgrounds. Neurodivergent children and youth may be at increased risk of exhibiting disordered eating behaviours or developing an eating disorder. EmbodyBC has resources for parents and professionals. Check them out here: [Neurodiversity and Eating Disorders - a guide for parents & professionals](#)



LEGAL SUBSTANCES

REMINDER: Beyond the Buzz 2.0

Just a reminder the submission deadline for the **Beyond the Buzz Poster Contest** is **December 15, 2025**. Click [here](#) for all the details.



MENTAL HEALTH

Recognizing Self-Harm: How to Support Your Child

Self-harm is when someone intentionally hurts themselves to cope with difficult emotions. It's a way some teens express or manage intense feelings, not necessarily a desire to end their life. It's natural to feel shocked, confused, guilty or angry when you find out that your child is self-harming. Check out resources to learn more about self-harm and how you can help. **Remember: You're not alone, and neither is your child. With the right support, things can get better.**



See the resources here:

[Talking About Self-Harm: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers | Kelty Mental Health](#)

PHYSICAL LITERACY

Outdoor play

Outdoor play is a basic childhood need and taking risks is a necessary part of play. Whether jumping in a pile of leaves, climbing a tree, or playing street hockey, children are often happiest when playing. These kinds of experiences are a lot less common for kids today. **Check out UBC's [OutsidePlay](#) which has resources for parents, ECEs, and teachers on outdoor play.**



Keep non-sporty kids moving

There are kids who would prefer to draw than to dive. Kids who prefer to read than to run. And kids who prefer to investigate than to inline skate. Just like the clothes you prefer to wear, sport and physical activity is a matter of personal choice and taste. But no matter how much a kid likes sport or not, being active and moving everyday is good for all kids. So how do you get your non-sporty kid to be active? **Try these [tips](#) from Active for Life to incorporate what they love with movement.**

Winter at Privato



Visit
www.privato.ca/winteratprivato
to purchase your tickets and \$5
from every purchase will be
donated to the school

Use code **ArthurPrivato2025**

- Open fire pits
- S'mores kits available
- Photo areas
- U-cut Christmas trees
- Indoor seating available

- **Hayride:** Hop on a festive hayride through our beautiful winery and out to the scenic pine grove. Once there, take a peaceful stroll among the trees, or choose your very own Christmas tree to take home (available for purchase).
 - **Santa's Attic:** Step into Santa Claus's one-of-a-kind attic for a magical meet-and-greet! Bring your own camera or phone to capture unforgettable holiday photos with Santa. (Furry friends are welcome, too!)
 - **Hot Chocolate:** One Free hot chocolate for all children 18 and under
- Little ones under 1 year old get in for free!

November 23rd to December 21st

Weekends Only

Hay Rides: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

Santa's Attic: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m

Tasting Room: 10:00 to 4:00 p.m

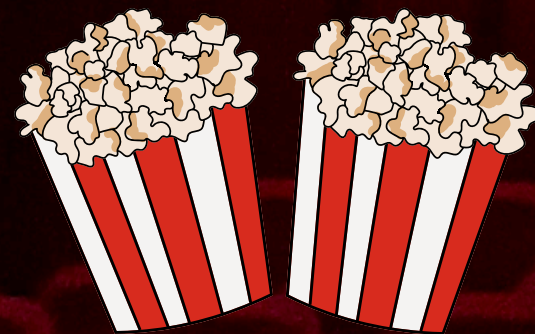


A.S.E PAC PRESENTS
Family Movie Night



THE GRINCH

FRIDAY | 12 DEC | DOORS OPEN AT 5:30



\$5 A Family
Bring your family/friends a cozy blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy!

Concession available please pre-order through the munchalunch.com website.