

DICKINSFIELD FLYER

December 2017 "Together We Fly Higher" "Ensemble Nous Volons Toujours Plus Haut"

Website: <http://dickinsfield.fmpsdschools.ca/> Facebook: École Dickinsfield School
Twitter: @Dickinsfield App: École Dickinsfield School

Principal's Message

Question Parents Ask

"Continuous Quality Improvement: What is École Dickinsfield doing about integrating technological education?"

Today as I went by the computer lab I saw some highly engaged and excited Gr. 4 students busily involved with an online tool called EarSketch that uses music to teach the programming languages of Python and JavaScript. EarSketch's appeal is that it allows students make their own music.

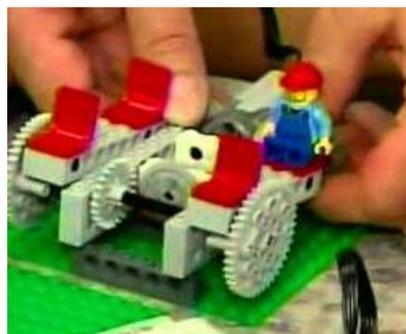
It's incredible to see young kids writing code that let them do things that are common in music production software like taking an audio clip and creating a rhythm, or adding an effect or some reverb to make cool music! That's just one of the innovative things that are happening at our school.

In our Tech Academy students are currently getting ready for video production as we work with our green screen, while others are learning how to program robots. Finally, I have just received word that the number of registrations that have poured in for the after school program being offered at our school every Tuesday from January 16th to Feb 20th has necessitated the addition of another class. More information about this program can be found in the following pages of our newsletter.

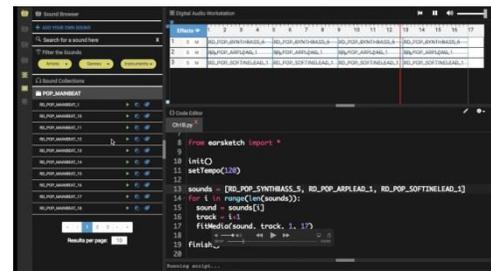
Robot following kid's commands



Bricks for Kids



EarSketch



"How does École Dickinsfield help children learn the attitudes and behave that will make them successful at work when they leave school?"

The kinds of attitudes that are important in the workforce are first learned in the early years. In order to be a good member of any team you need to respect and accept others; you need to be a good listener and a good worker- working independently and with others. Behaviours that are

first learned at school are also important in the work for being punctual and on task; and perseve4ring even when things are tough. Other positive attitudes we teach are promoted through the Leader in Me and the 7 Habits, as well as virtues such as self-control and integrity, commitment, not complaining; an attitude of humility rather than superiority; and generosity rather than envy of others' success. How does École Dickinsfield do in this regard? Each year, Alberta Education surveys Gr. 4 students and their parents. Accountability results from May 2017 came back as follows

Performance Measure	Results (in percentages)					Target	Evaluation		
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.	72.1	88.7	83.1	72.9	88.8		Very High	Maintained	Excellent

Paul Smith, Principal

IS IT THE FLU OR A COLD?		
SIGNS	COLD	FLU
High fever		✓
Cough and sore throat	✓	✓
Body ache, headache and tired		✓
Sneezing	✓	
Stuffy nose	✓	✓
Breathing problems		✓

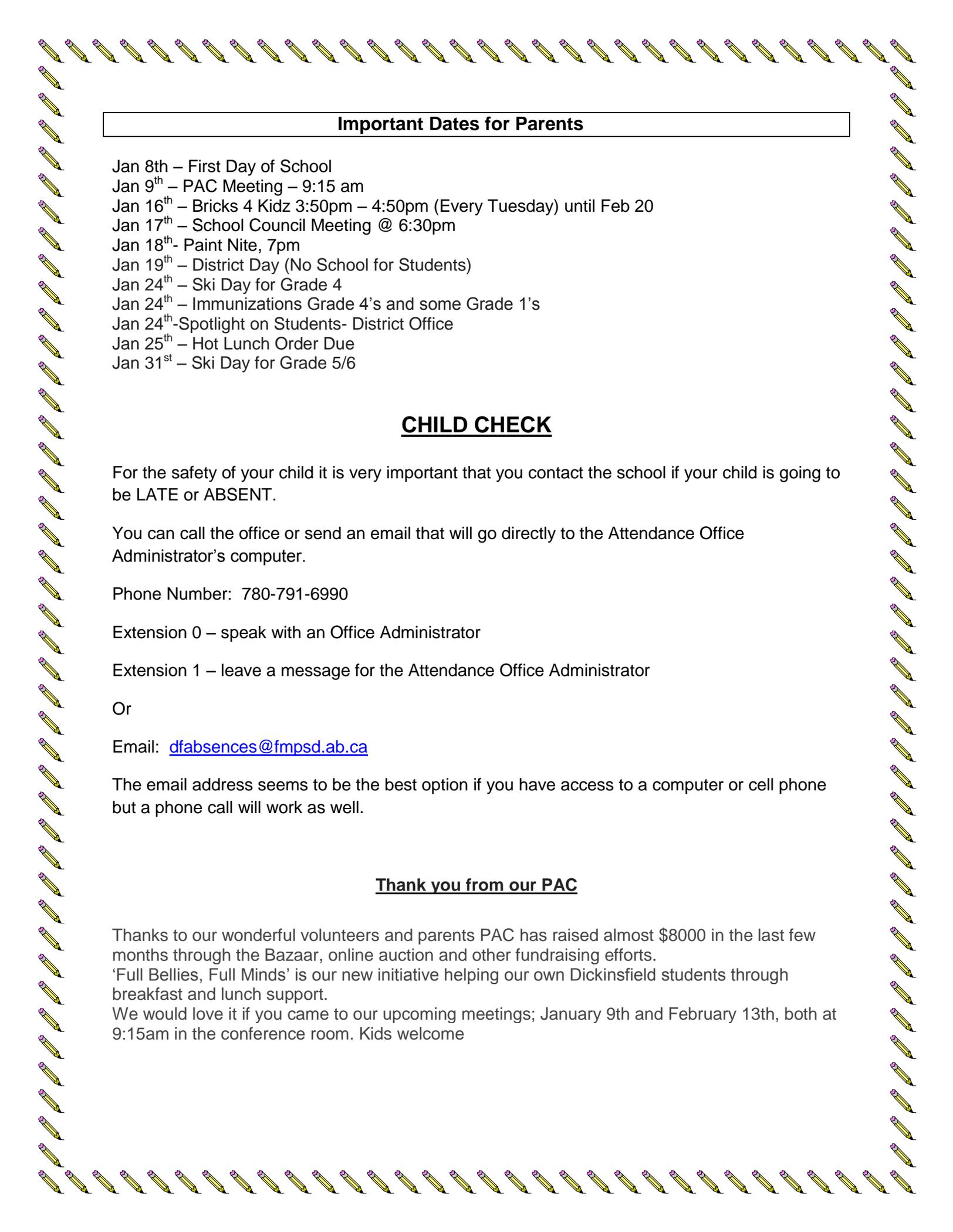
Please don't send your kids back to school too early!
 This week some students have been sent to school and it is apparent that they are not well

If a child is coughing very badly, has a fever or is throwing up, they need to stay away from others until they are well.



Paint Nite

A limited amount of tickets are still available for Paint Nite on January 18!
 Please see the link for more information. We hope to see you there.
<https://www.paintnite.com/events/peaceful-beach-afternoon-at-ecole-dickinsfield-elementary-school-10031821>



Important Dates for Parents

Jan 8th – First Day of School
Jan 9th – PAC Meeting – 9:15 am
Jan 16th – Bricks 4 Kidz 3:50pm – 4:50pm (Every Tuesday) until Feb 20
Jan 17th – School Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
Jan 18th - Paint Nite, 7pm
Jan 19th – District Day (No School for Students)
Jan 24th – Ski Day for Grade 4
Jan 24th – Immunizations Grade 4's and some Grade 1's
Jan 24th -Spotlight on Students- District Office
Jan 25th – Hot Lunch Order Due
Jan 31st – Ski Day for Grade 5/6

CHILD CHECK

For the safety of your child it is very important that you contact the school if your child is going to be LATE or ABSENT.

You can call the office or send an email that will go directly to the Attendance Office Administrator's computer.

Phone Number: 780-791-6990

Extension 0 – speak with an Office Administrator

Extension 1 – leave a message for the Attendance Office Administrator

Or

Email: dfabsences@fmprsd.ab.ca

The email address seems to be the best option if you have access to a computer or cell phone but a phone call will work as well.

Thank you from our PAC

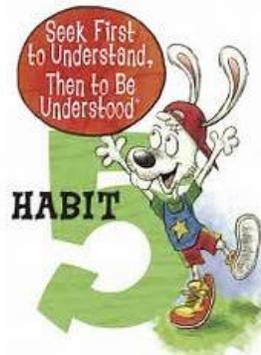
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and parents PAC has raised almost \$8000 in the last few months through the Bazaar, online auction and other fundraising efforts.

'Full Bellies, Full Minds' is our new initiative helping our own Dickinsfield students through breakfast and lunch support.

We would love it if you came to our upcoming meetings; January 9th and February 13th, both at 9:15am in the conference room. Kids welcome

Leader In Me - Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood

Habit 5 is all about communication, To understand someone, you must first listen to them; however, it is unfortunate that most of us don't know *how* to listen. When people talk, poor listeners certainly don't listen with their hearts and their eyes, and sometimes they don't even really listen with their ears!



Good Listening

Listening With Your Eyes, Heart, and Ears - 53% of communication is body language, 40% is tone/feeling, and 7% is words. To hear what other people are really saying, you need to listen to what they are *not* saying.

Understanding the Perspective of Others - Many people look at conversations as a competition. In reality, since both are coming from a different point of view, both can be right. Try to see the situation from their perspective.

Practice Mirroring - Think like a mirror; it doesn't judge and it doesn't give advice. It reflects. Mirroring is simply repeating back in your own words what the other person is saying and feeling. Mirroring consists of repeating meaning, using your own words, and being warm and caring. You also need to really desire to understand others in order to use mirroring effectively. Your attitude is the lurking mass of ice underneath the surface.

**Seek First to Understand,
Then to be Understood!**

Poor Listening

Spacing Out - When you are talking to someone and they ignore you because their mind is on something else.

Pretend Listening - When you are talking to someone and they aren't paying much attention. They pretend by saying various phrases like "yeah" and "sounds great."

Selective Listening - When you were talking to someone and they only paid attention to the part that interested them.

Word Listening - When you were talking to someone and they were only listening to your words, not the emotional composition behind them.

Self-centered Listening - When you are talking to someone and they only see what you are saying from their point of view.

Judging - When you feel someone is judging you instead of listening to you.

Advising - When you are talking to someone and they give you advice from their own experience instead of seeking to completely understand you.

Probing - When you are talking and they ask you questions that you aren't ready for yet.



After School Program

Bricks4Kidz is an optional after school program that teaches an aspect of Science, Technology and/or Math.

Starting in the new year, parents may enroll their Gr. 1-6 child in this 6 week program

- When: every Tuesday from January 16th to Feb 20th
- Where: École Dickinsfield School
- Time: Tuesdays, 3:50-4:50
- Cost is \$72.00 – Bricks4Kidz will accept Visa, MasterCard or an e-transfer to eseggie@bricks4kidz.com . Pay online when you register...You do not pay in the school office as this program is independent of the school.
- Register at:
<https://my.bricks4kidz.com/index.php?action=classdetail&record=190797>
- Area of focus: Energy is Everywhere!
- Note: All parents are responsible for ensuring their child's pick up in a timely manner from the school at 4:50.

Energy is Everywhere

Energy is essential to almost everything we do, from the lights in our homes and classrooms to the gasoline that fuels our cars. This unit explores many sources of energy from wind, and solar power energy to biofuel and fossil fuels. **Students have fun learning, building, and playing, and getting started with hands-on engineering fundamentals using Lego-type bricks to build motorized models!** If you have any questions please contact:

Ann Seggie

Bricks4Kidz, Fort McMurray

email: eseggie@bricks4kidz.com

Phone: [780-799-0636](tel:780-799-0636)

École Dickinsfield School Council

Mark your calendar in the New Year!

Next School Council meeting: **Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018 at 6:30pm**

- In the school Library
- Presentation: ***Accountability Pillar Results: Provincial Evaluation of Our School's Performance*** by Mr. Paul Smith
- Regular meeting to follow

The Accountability Pillar is a report that is prepared by Alberta Education that is intended to measure school authority and individual school performance, as well as, student achievement. It is a tool which can be used to highlight areas of success and areas that need improvement for a school. These results are presented to the community to ensure our education system remains open and accountable. Mr. Smith will be presenting the Accountability Pillar results as they pertain to École Dickinsfield School at our January meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please email us with any questions or comments, including any suggestions that you might have for future presentations, at dickinsfieldschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

BOTTLE DRIVE!

Please remember that we are having our annual bottle drive on Saturday, January 13, 2018. Please drop your bottles off at the school or at the bottle depot in Taiganova between 9.30 and noon. The recycle team are once again choosing to donate the funds to the Pediatric unit at our local hospital. It seems to have become a wonderful, Dickinsfield tradition to support this unit, how proud I am off our students!

If you would like us to pick the bottles up for your house please email me with your address. It would help if you can leave the bottles at the front of your house, this makes pick up quicker and easier.

I am looking for a parent who is willing to help transport the bottles from school to the depot between 9.30 and noon, if you are able to help for any amount of time, please contact Mrs Webb at karina.webb@fm-psd.ab.ca or call the school and press extension 4.

Thankyou.

Mrs Webb



Clothing Donations Wanted

Sometimes children have accidents and end up with wet clothes, or throw up and need a change of clothes. In those cases our office ladies provide pants or tops, etc., if they have the correct sizes on hand. However, we are missing pants and T-shirts in the larger sizes. If your child has outgrown his/her clothes, please keep us in mind. Donations of clean children's clothing in good condition will be gratefully accepted.



A Note from Music

All the kids did such a fantastic job at the Holiday Concerts! Way to go! Thank you to all our performers, backstage helpers, public speaking leaders, teachers and our parents who helped out!

It's almost Recorder time! In the New Year (likely February) grade 4-6 students will be learning the recorder. If your child does not have a recorder, we will be purchasing them for \$10 in January. If you choose to purchase your own, Angel and Aulos recorders are recommended (please do not purchase any clear plastic recorders as the sound quality is greatly reduced.) If you have a recorder from before the fire of 2016, please wash it in hot soapy water (or even the top rack of the dishwasher) before playing it again.

Happy Holidays to all our families!

-Mme. Chantelle



LATE OR ABSENT PROCEDURE

If your child is going to be late for school, will not be able to attend or if you know of a vacation coming up it is very important that you contact the School Office.

There are a couple of options:

Call: [780-791-6990](tel:780-791-6990) and press 1 to leave a message for the Attendance Secretary
Or email: dfabsences@fmpsd.ab.ca

The information required when calling or emailing is as follows:

- **Child's first and last name**
- **Child's grade and/or teacher's name**
- **Reason for the late or absence**

When leaving a voice message it is very important that you please speak slowly and clearly.

Your child's safety is of great importance to the school, so letting us know when there will be a late or absent is appreciated.



SCHOOL BUS MONITORING



Dear Parents of school bus students:

The following is a website that Sparksman has set up to let parents know of any delays or other issues with the bussing. Please make note of this website and use it to monitor your child's bus.

www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca

