Principal’s Message:

Hello Reimer Parents, Students and Staff!!

Fall is here and Christmas is right around the corner. In fact, there are only about five weeks left until the Christmas break. We have had a very busy start to the year, and report cards are just around the corner.

** GRADE 8 CAMP PARENT MEETING TONIGHT – NOV 13 – AT 6:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY. **

** PAC MEETING TONIGHT – NOV 13 – AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY. **

Events before the break to mark on your calendar:

- November 14th: Photo Retakes
- November 26th: Parent / Teacher conferences 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
- November 27th: Parent / Teacher conferences 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM, 12:30PM – 2:15 PM
  Please contact your child’s teachers to set up an interview time with them.
- November 28th: Non-Instructional Day – no school for students
- December 1st: Term 2 Begins
- December 9th: Report Cards home

Response to Intervention (RTI) at Eugene Reimer

Teachers at Eugene Reimer have been putting a strong emphasis on reading comprehension and math over the past years, using the Response to Intervention framework. The key principle in the framework is that there is a clear shift from time for lessons and units being constant and learning is variable, to learning being constant and the time it takes for students to learn is variable. In essence, students will receive extra time to help them learn when they are struggling to learn a key outcome. So far, the results are very positive in that many students are learning with the extra help. The students know about the RTI framework and they understand we are taking steps to ensure they learn.

More about the RTI framework at Reimer can be found at the following link: [http://www.sd34.bc.ca/blog/guest-blog-interventionists-work](http://www.sd34.bc.ca/blog/guest-blog-interventionists-work)

Middle School Conference

Reimer Teachers are presenting at the Middle School Pro-D Day Conference on Nov 28th! Reimer teachers have been presenting to teachers and administrators on how to improve student learning for the past couple years. At this year’s Middle School Conference, 7 Reimer teachers and Mr. Gabriel are presenting the following topics:

- Reg Gabriel – The RTI Framework
- Nerlap Sidhu – Struggling with Engagement? Become A SIOPer K-12
- Lorri Taylor & Sue Duggan – Response to Interventions (RTI) – A look inside an Abbotsford district grade 6 classroom implementing RTI
- Steve Twele, Rimpal Bamara, Michael Whalley, Sukh Bains – Ventures into Math RTI in Middle School – The Teachers Perspective
Grade 8 News

Time has flown and we are now well into November! Despite a slow start to the year, the grade 8 team at Reimer has successfully completed many things. All students have taken the Stanford and Vernon tests in both English and Math. These tests are designed to help the teachers truly understand where your child is academically. These scores help to ensure that each child is being met at their level and that scaffolding and other interventions can take place to help bring success.

Homework and Agenda Use
Your child should be using his or her agenda on a daily basis. This is to help him or her organize and develop a plan for homework and time management. The amount of homework does increase in grade 8 and your child should have approximately 60 to 90 minutes for homework every night, although there may be times were the majority of work has been completed in class. Encourage your child to also read for at least 30 minutes per night.

School of Character
Our school is a school of character and we are discussing and implementing how to be empathic. Ask your child what empathy means to them and discuss family or friend examples that show empathy.

Grade 8 activities
With the late start of the year, we have not yet had an opportunity for a grade wide activity in grade 8. Please watch for a permission form soon.

Academics and Activity Go Hand in Hand
If you want young students to do well in reading and math, make sure that they also move.

– Dr. Hillman, University of Illinois.

Eugene Reimer Middle School is one of the only middle schools in the district that provides daily Physical Activity. Our schedule includes a P.E. block one day and a fitness block on the other. Your child must bring proper clothing and footwear EACH day. Statistics show that the more active a young person is physically, the more active their brain is! We are excited to see what your child will accomplish this year – both academically and physically.

Grade 7 News

Grade Seven is running smoothly with our second year of looping. It was great to come back from a long summer break and not only see familiar faces but also get right down to work.

Literature Circles
In Language Arts this term, all four divisions are working on Literature Circles. In this unit, the students are placed in reading groups where they read an assigned number of pages each week and then complete a comprehension activity. Afterwards, the students meet in their groups to share their questions and opinions and read their summaries. It is wonderful to watch our students discussing literature with passion.

Election at Reimer
In addition, students from divisions 9 and 10 are actively learning about Government. They will also be running a school-wide election on Friday, November 14, 2014. Several students will be assigned jobs such as Voting Officers, Voting Clerks, Deputy Elections Officers and Enumerators. We are proud to see our students taking their responsibilities seriously and we are very pleased with their mature attitude.

Every Reimer student will be able to vote that day and experience Democracy in Abbotsford! We hope that we taught our students the importance and responsibility of voting by experiencing the democratic process firsthand.
Grade 7 News Continued

Project Climbing Centre
On Tuesday, November 18, divisions 7, 8, 9 and 10, will be travelling by school bus to Project Climbing Centre. This safe and exciting field trip will enable our students to experience over 9000 square feet of climbing surface.

Final Thought
As always, we thank our parents for their support and encouragement. We realize that parents, teachers and students working together create the best learning experience for the child.

Grade 6 News

The hallways are alive with the joyful sounds of our newest Ravens. Students in grade six have been busy establishing routines and getting used to new expectations at Eugene Reimer Middle School.

To facilitate excellence and ensure that students are able to be successful at Eugene Reimer, organization is an important focus for this year. One of the tools utilized extensively is the student planner. This will be one of the primary means of communication between home and school. Please check the planner nightly for homework assignments, test dates, and important reminders. Regular homework practices are necessary to ensure that your child will be successful this year.

In addition to the rigorous of the classroom, students can also look forward to having a lot of fun during our grade 6 team challenges. Our first challenge was an addition based math challenge. Students from all divisions were mixed into carefully selected teams and work cooperatively to earn points for their team. The winners of our first challenge were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DIVISION</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>COLOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thirbir Brar</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daksh Sohi</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harkirat Kang</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Ho</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Garcha</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajan Kang</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurpreet Virk</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maia King</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>yellow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, to ensure that students stay healthy, we have asked all our Ravens to be extra vigilant regarding hand washing and cleanliness. Students have been asked to wash their hands whenever possible and use hand sanitizer to minimize the spread of germs. Teachers would also like to remind students to bring a personal water bottle for drinking. As well, students are reminded to bring a Kleenex box to class as indicated on our school supply list.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school regarding your child’s progress. Congratulations on a marvelous start to the year grade sixes!
Black House News
The black hallway has had a busy start to the year. First we started with our best efforts to make a difference in the lives of people fighting cancer, as we fundraised for the Terry Fox run. Team Black worked hard and raised $340.00 as a team. The teamwork continued into the next big event for Black. The Halloween Pep Rally proved to be a team building event for house black as they bound together to pull out a win over the two other hallways.

This month, with the city elections going on, the Black hallway has decided to take this real life education opportunity and bring it into the classroom. The Black hallway, led by Ms. Taylor, will be hosting a Student Vote on Friday, November 14th. This serves as a reminder to all to get out and practice your democratic rights!

Finally, team Black has once again made plans to sponsor a local family in need this Christmas season. Team Black will be working to raise money throughout the months of November and December with bake sales and candy grams to help with their efforts to sponsor a family. Team Black serving with Reimer Pride!

Silver House News
With the late start to the year, it took a while to get our “House Team” up and running again. For our first event this year, the silver hallway had a potluck breakfast on Friday October 20th. Students did an amazing job bringing in a variety of breakfast items and also completed a get to know you worksheet where they got to meet and interact with students from other classes and grades. The silver hallway has a great tradition of participating and competing in house activities such as intramurals, theme spirit weeks, and competitions. We are off to a great start with our Terry Fox donations.

Red House News
As the school realigned itself to facilitate our new house system, the lower East wing of Reimer gave birth to the Red House. In year two of this exciting venture, we are elated to report that the red team continues to be innovative and exciting. It is comprised of Mr. Piper, Mrs. Craven, Mr. Whalley and Mr. Dhaliwal. There are approximately 120 students who belong to the Red House from grade 6 and grade 8. To ensure that all students feel a connection to the red team there have been a number of initiatives undertaken. These have include a field trip to a farm to assist the food bank, a potluck breakfast and two afternoons devoted to interacting with students from different grades.

At this point we are very happy to report that the Red House is working hard to accumulate house points. The Red House has been earning lots of points through lunch time intramural competitions and contributing to the Terry Fox Run.

Looking to the future, students will further be developing relationships with their peers, through more shared meals, activities and field trips.

Athletics

Grade 7 Girls Volleyball
A special thank-you to Ms. Jurcic for coaching the Grade 7 girls’ volleyball this year. There are 16 dedicated and enthusiastic girls who have shown great sportsmanship. The girls have won their fair share of games. They will be entering 2 tournaments on Friday, November 7th at Abby Middle and on Wednesday, November 13th at Fraser Middle. Game times will be at 3pm. We would like to wish the girls the best of luck.

Grade 8 Girls Volleyball
A big thank-you for Ms. McPhee for coaching the grade 8 girls’ volleyball team this year. She has an excellent squad of 15 girls. The girls are in a competitive league. The girls have lost several very close games this year. They have shown great
improvements in their skills and team play. The girls will wrap-up their season in a tournament on Friday, November 7th at St. John’s Brebeuf.

**Wrestling and Basketball**

In the winter, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to participate in the upcoming sports teams. There will be grade 6, 7, 8 wrestling for girls and boys, grade 7 and 8 basketball teams for girls and boys.

**Athlete of the Month**

At Eugene Reimer Middle School, a special recognition is awarded monthly to a male and female athlete. They are nominated by his/her sport’s coach. The athlete must excel in sportsmanship, performance, leadership, work ethic on and off the field. These individuals are often dedicated, hardworking, positive role models, who value teamwork and a passion for the sport.

**Coaches/Volunteers Needed**

Eugene Reimer Middle School Athletic Department would like to invite and involve parents/guardians as supporters of our athletic programs. There is no doubt that parental presence improves the level of performance and opportunities for students. It also gives parents the opportunity to participate in this important stage of your child’s growth. At our school, we strive to provide a very participatory and competitive athletic program.

We would like to offer a variety of sports to our students, but are in need of coaches this year. If you can help or begin any activities feel free to contact me anytime via e-mail or phone at rimpal_bamara@sd34.bc.ca or at 604-504-5343.

Sincerely,

Rimpal Bamara
Athletic Director

**Intramurals**

Screeching sneakers, heavy breathing, and excellent volleyball skills were staples of the recent intramural activities taking place in the Reimer gymnasium at lunchtime. There have been some tremendous competitions which have seen a number of thrilling last minute victories. At this point each division is working hard to secure their place in the finals of our volleyball championship. Stay tuned for the results of the action which will be detailed in our next newsletter. Winning divisions will be able to celebrate victory for their class and also assist in adding points to their respective house colours. Each day all students who participate for their house colour are given a point for playing and the victorious classes are given extra points. At this point in the year, the silver team is leading, followed by black and then red. The next activity slated for intramurals is handball. As always, participation is the key to success!

**Lunch Clubs**

For choice time during lunch hour, students now have the option of attending the Art Club or the Me to We club. The Art Club is for students who love to draw, paint or express themselves through other artistic media. The Me to We club is for students interested in helping others through locally based and global projects. Both are fun and interesting ways to spend a lunch hour.
Robotics

In grade 7 robotics, students are expected to use critical thinking skills to solve problems while learning to write computer pseudocode that instructs a “Mindstorms Robot” to perform specific tasks. During the first half of the term, students experiment using their robots unique features and sensors in a freestyle manner. Students use the video trainer to learn computer programming skills and to develop competence at these tasks. A further important component of the course is developing team skills and communication skills while working in small groups. The skills learned using this program will be transferable to the real world if students choose to continue their studies in the field of technology.

In term two, several grade 6 classes as well as two grade 7 divisions will have the opportunity to learn these new technological skills. In grade 6, the focus is on working on developing communication and problem solving skills within a team. They will learn how to build a lego robot by reading a pattern and following directions using a video trainer on a computer. They will learn basic programming skills and work through 5 challenges in order to complete the course. In grade 7, students build on their previous knowledge of the “Mindstorms” lego program. They expand their use of the computer program and are challenged to become more creative in their approach and design of their robots. They continue to work on improving their critical thinking and problem solving skills in order to solve more complex challenges.

Students in division 9 & 10 are currently learning and working with the “Mindstorms” robotic kits this term. Next February & March, Eugene Reimer Middle School will be holding a “Robotics Skills Challenge” competition which will give students the opportunity to form teams and enter to win a chance to represent our school at the “Skills Canada Competition” held in Abbotsford each spring. We look forward to seeing our students excel and learn using this new field of technology.
Youth Care Worker

My name is Silvia Warraich, and I am a Youth Care Worker here at Eugene Reimer Middle. I work with students if they have any issues or concerns; help them if they are facing low self-esteem, provide them with social and emotional support, and help them in solving friendship concerns or other school issues as needs arise. In addition, I also arrange different educational presentations, programs and groups in school, such as drugs, alcohol, anti-bullying, healthy relationships, youth safety, teen mentoring programs, etc. I work Monday to Friday from 11:30am until 2:30pm.

Please feel free to call me or see me if you have any concerns; together we can make a very successful, excellent, and a fun-filling school year for children!

Sincerely,
Silvia Warraich
YCW @ Eugene Reimer
604-504-5343

Student Vote Election Comes to Reimer

Students in divisions 9 and 10 are participating in a program called “Student Vote”. This program offers students the opportunity to experience the electoral process and to develop civic responsibility by learning about the importance of voting in federal, provincial and civic elections.

They have been studying the rights and responsibilities of citizens, the voting process, and the structure of government in Canada. On Friday, November 14 these two divisions will be holding a mock election in which all students and staff are invited to “vote” in a “Student Vote” election. This election mirrors the actual civic election that will be held on Saturday, November 15. Students will go through the same voting experience as their parents including choosing who they want to represent them as mayor of Abbotsford and city councilors. They will learn how to mark a ballot, have their names checked off a “voters” list and be guided through the voting process. Students in division 9 and 10 will act as Voting Officers, Voting Clerks, and Scrutineers. The results of the vote will be released on Saturday, after the actual polls close.

Students can visit the “Student Vote” website at studentvote.ca to view the election results from Eugene Reimer Middle School Saturday and compare them to the actual results of the civic vote.
WELCOME PARENTS!!

WED NOV 26 – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

THURS NOV 27 – ALL DAY

PLEASE SET UP A MEETING TIME WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER