

# SCIDES Newsletter to Students and Parents

January 2017

South Central Interior Distance Education School  
Previous newsletters can be found at <http://www.scides.org/home/news>



## Dates to Remember:

- \***January 3, 2017** – SCIDES office re-opens
- \***January 9, 2017** (until Feb 17, 2017)  
FSA testing begins. contact Colleen Mullin for more information: [cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \* **January 17, 2017 6:00 pm**  
**SCIDES PAC meeting** – contact Colleen Mullin for phone number to the teleconference.  
[cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \***January 18, 2017** - Kengard Learning Centre  
Smudging - 9:00 am to 10:00 am  
Soap Stone Carving – all day  
Contact Leona Dumont for information: 250-378-2157 or [ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \***January 19, 2017** - Culture Camp study session in Merritt. Contact Leona Dumont for information: 250-378-2157 or [ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \***January 20, 2017** - UBC Education Career Fair-  
Call SCIDES for more information:  
<http://teach.educ.ubc.ca/students/career-fair/>
- \***January 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2017- Provincial Exams** (English 12, Communications 12). Please see this link for more information or call SCIDES to speak with an advisor:  
<https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/>
- \***January 25, 2017** - Kengard Learning Centre  
Smudging - 9:00 am to 10:00 am  
Basket Weaving – all day  
Contact Leona Dumont for information: 250-378-2157 or [ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \***January 26, 2017** – Merritt Civic Centre  
First Nations Drumming  
11:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Contact Leona Dumont for information: 250-378-2157 or [ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:ldumont@365.sd58.bc.ca)
- \***January 31 & February 1 2017**  
First Aid course all day – both days  
Contact Robert French: [rfrench@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:rfrench@365.sd58.bc.ca) or 1 800 663 3536

## Contact us:

**Direct:** 250-378-4245  
**Toll free:** 1-800-663-3536  
**Fax:** 250-378-1447  
**Website:** <http://www.scides.org>  
**Mail:** P.O. Box 4700 Station Main  
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
**Address:** 2475 Merritt Avenue Merritt, BC  
**Principal:** Ms. Colleen Mullin (local 1208)

## January is Reading and Writing Month

(from the SCIDES Website Blog)

Happy New Year! We hope that 2017 will bring you happiness, health, and inspiration. For this month's blog post, we want to help you kick start your inspiration, with 31 journaling prompts. Write your heart out, then come back to read through it, and get inspired to take action.

Set a timer for 10 minutes, pick a prompt, and start writing unfiltered. Whatever comes to mind, write it down. Don't worry about grammar or editing (yes, we said that), just get your thoughts onto paper. You're only writing this for yourself, not for marking!

If you get into a habit of journaling, you're in good company. Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, and Mark Twain regularly wrote in their journals. And journaling is not a thing of the past, people like Lady Gaga and Jennifer Aniston are avid note takers.

Journaling is a great way to clear the thoughts from your mind and make room for fresh ideas and inspiration.

Use the link below to get a list of the prompts to get you started:

<http://scides.org/contact-us/blog/entry/january-is-writing-and-reading-month-at-scides>

## Congratulations to the Govardhana Academy in Venables Valley!

As a result of their submission of their greenhouse project to the BC Green Games, the students have won the Early-Bird prize. The team won a program from the Planet Protectors Academy – a digital-led classroom experience that teaches kids about important environmental issues. The program, "Keep Cool", teaches about climate, energy and transportation.

Great work Venables team!

\* SCIENCE FAIR \*

It's that time of year again! If you are interested in participating in this year's Science Fair, you will need to get started on your project right away. Your project must be completed by Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017. For more information, please contact SCIDES Principal, Ms. Colleen Mullin by email, [cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:cmullin@365.sd58.bc.ca) or by phone, 1-800-663-3536.

Check out these websites for suggestions and ideas:

[www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)

[www.all-science-fair-projects.com](http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com)

<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/>

### Family Literacy Week in Merritt January 23, 2017 to January 27, 2017

Event: COME READ WITH ME  
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017  
Time: 5:30PM to 7PM  
Place: Merritt Civic Centre  
For: Grade one parents/caregivers and their grade one student  
Cost: FREE  
Register: Email [literacymerritt@gmail.com](mailto:literacymerritt@gmail.com) or phone 250.378.7844 by Wednesday, January 18th

*Free book, snack and fun with your grade one student. Parents learn ways to support their young reader at home.*

Event: TECHNICAL LITERACY FOR SENIORS  
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017  
Time: 10AM to Noon  
Place: Merritt Library  
For: Senior students and volunteer tutors of all ages  
Cost: FREE  
Register: To register for this event, ongoing sessions, or to volunteer tutor, email [literacymerritt@gmail.com](mailto:literacymerritt@gmail.com) or phone 250.378.7844

*Volunteer tutors of all ages support Seniors as they delve deeper into their computers, notebooks, phones, e-readers and more. Ongoing sessions to follow this event.*

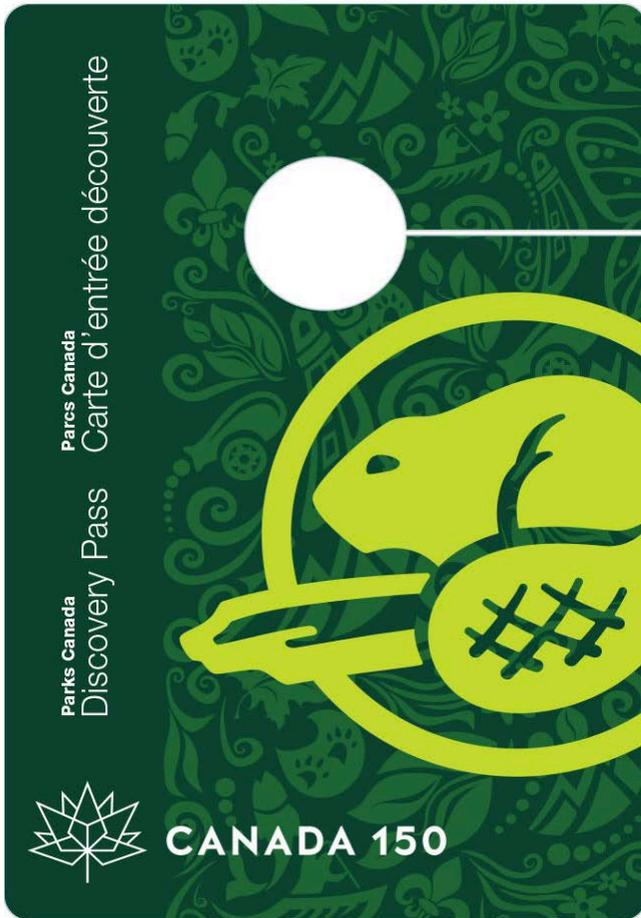
Event: FAMILY LITERACY FUNFAIR  
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017  
Time: Funfair 3:30PM to 6:30PM  
Parade from Civic Centre to Arena 6:30PM  
Place: Merritt Civic Centre  
For: Families  
Cost: FREE (Accepting new or gently used books by donation for the Bright Red Bookshelves)

*A free literacy themed funfair for families. Games, books, face painting, crafting, puppet show, storytelling and more. Soup and sandwiches by donation. Children 12 & under should be on the lookout for the Centennials mascot during the funfair to collect their free game ticket. At 6:30PM the mascot & friends will lead a parade to the arena for game night.*

## PARKS CANADA

As part of the 150-year celebration, Canada's National Parks are free this year. Use the link below for more information and to obtain your free 2017 Parks Canada Discovery Pass.

<http://www.commandesparcs-parksorders.ca/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?storeId=22953&urlLangId=-1&productId=524528&urlRequestType=Base&langId=-1&catalogId=53407>



For all of 2017 this pass gives you unlimited opportunities to enjoy National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and National Historic Sites across the country!



SCIDES: LIKE us on  
Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/scidesbc>



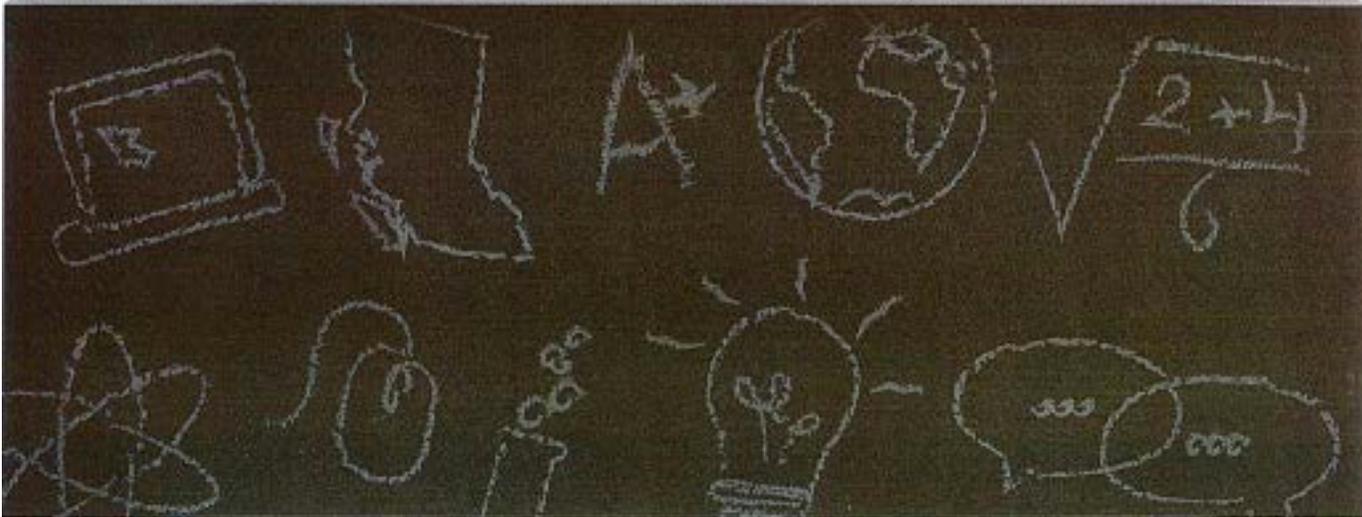
[om/scidesbc](https://www.facebook.com/scidesbc)

### We are here to help.

*Phone, email, drop in . . . we take great pride in our service to students. Specialist teachers, tutors, advisors and clerical staff are all here to make your experience with our school a positive and productive one.*

# Your Kid's Progress

Have Your Say on Report Cards



British Columbia's new school curriculum is making sure students are ready to succeed in our changing world. The Ministry of Education wants parents to share how they want to learn about their child's progress from kindergarten to Grade 9. Everyone welcome.

ATTEND A COMMUNITY MEETING TO LEARN MORE

**HENRY CRUBE EDUCATION CENTRE**  
245 Kitchener Crescent, Kamloops BC:  
**Monday, January 30th, 2017 5pm-8pm**

For more information please visit:  
[engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/](http://engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress/)



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



## *Update on B.C.'s New Curriculum from Education Minister Mike Bernier*

November 29, 2016

Dear Parent,

The world is changing and B.C.'s new curriculum is critical in making sure your child is connected with the skills he or she needs to succeed in this changing world. We have just announced important updates on B.C.'s new curriculum – on how it will be implemented in grades 10-12, and on the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) written in grades 4 and 7.

### **Grade 10-12 curriculum implementation**

Teachers, principals and trustees asked for more time to work hands-on with the redesigned draft curriculum in grades 10-12 – and we agree. The extra time means teachers can try out the draft curriculum and provide feedback before it is fully implemented in the 2018/19 school year. The new curriculum is already fully in place in the earlier grades.

The extra year makes sense because the graduation years are more complex than the K-9 years. They are tied to provincial exams. They are connected to post-secondary choices. We are making sure that we get the Grade 10-12 redesigned curriculum right for students, ensuring their future success in post-secondary and the workforce.

When it comes to provincial exams, we have mapped out which old exams and new exams will be written and when. The most important thing is that new or old, our standards remain high, testing remains rigorous, and combined with in-class exams we will be thoroughly testing student knowledge. Detailed exam information can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info>

### **Foundation Skills Assessments**

Along with our new curriculum, we are enhancing our Foundation Skills Assessment that students in Grades 4 and 7 are required to write under B.C.'s *School Act*. The FSA measures reading, writing and math problem-solving skills that students have gained over several years of learning and provides critical information for parents, for teachers, and for the education system.

Starting next year, students in grades 4 and 7 will complete their FSAs in the fall instead of the spring. This means you and your child's teacher will get results earlier – and that means any necessary actions can be taken sooner. More information on the new FSA can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment-reporting/new-foundation-skills-assessment>

Additionally, we will be giving parents like you a snapshot of the FSA results in broader school reports. You deserve to know how your child's school is succeeding on a variety of fronts – and we will include that information to provide a complete picture.

Together with teachers, our new curriculum is making sure that your child learns the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, while also engaging the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they'll need to succeed in college, university, and the workforce.

Thank you,

Mike Bernier Minister of Education