



*Welcome to South Central Interior Distance Education School!  
This newsletter accompanies our first report card for elementary  
school students.*

## Elementary News



Greetings from SCIDES!

As we move into the holiday season, we hope you have found the first four months of school to be a rich and rewarding educational experience for you and your children.

As parents, you have embarked on a brave adventure in choosing to school your children at home. It is through your parental involvement that your children will learn to organize and practice for success. You have a wonderful opportunity to participate and share in all those essential conversations about learning and learning experiences with your children. By now, you will have developed a sound relationship with our dedicated elementary teachers. Please communicate with them often. They are your guides to creating success.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet our Special Education team. They continue to find and develop new resources as our partnerships in local communities grow. They are always willing to listen and to help find solutions.

We are always interested in your thoughts and concerns. Please contact us anytime!  
Wishing you all the best in the holiday season.

Al MacKay-Smith  
Principal  
amackay@scides.ca

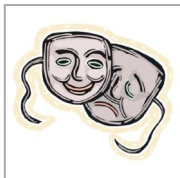
Susan McRae  
Vice Principal  
smcrae@scides.ca



# Fall 2007

During the fall, we have been busy with our home visits. We always enjoy meeting our students and their families! Setting a course for the year is critical for student success.

**Reminder:** If you have not signed your child's course overview, please do so as soon as possible. You may send it in with your child's next submission of work.



## Fine Arts

We've been to:

Beauty and the Beast (Kamloops)  
&  
The NutCracker (Kelowna)

It was wonderful to share these two fantastic performances with our students and their families! A special Thank You to both Lynn Newhouse and Steve Soames for organizing these special events☺

Next, we are looking at organizing a ski trip sometime in February. Information about this next activity will be distributed sometime after the holiday. Stay Tuned!



## Really...?



<http://www.snowpass.ca>

If you're in grade 5, or 10 years old (born in 1997), this is your lucky year – you and your grade five friends can ski and ride for free this year with a SnowPass.

Get up to **3 free** lift ticket coupons at each of the participating ski/snowboard areas giving hundreds of chances to ski/ride for free!

Check it out at the address shown above. This link is sponsored by the Canadian Ski Council.

## Fitness Forms

Maybe, getting fit is a theme for this year! Have you handed in your Fitness Tracking forms? Remember, you can't get a PE grade without them. Send one in with your next school submission.

## Parent Advisory Council

At the December PAC meeting, Lynn Newhouse and Yvonne Novakowski attended to offer suggestions to assist parents and students to achieve success with Distance Education. It was an excellent sharing of the minds as parents, students and the teachers offered ideas to help families succeed with their learning challenges. The consensus was that your family needs to find what works for you. Some thoughts:

- Collaborate with your child rather than confront
- Look at the long term goals for education when your child is struggling with motivation in a subject
- Work on a regular school schedule of 9-3
- Support your child by reading through the work the night before to anticipate any areas of challenge (elementary)
- Be involved in your child's program so that you understand how it works
- Go over assignments that come back after marking to look at successes and areas to focus on

Working with your child is a wonderful opportunity to share in their successes and their learning.

Join us at our next PAC meeting from the convenience of your home.

January 30<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00 pm

Call or email Al MacKay-Smith to find out how to connect.

# Foundation Skills Assessment

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills tests are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial performance standards.

The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in public and provincially funded independent schools.

## **FSA Administration Dates:**

- **For 2008: February 4 – 15**

We will be in contact with those parents and students in Grades 4 and 7 prior to the writing of this assessment to establish our writing times and procedures.

Further information and sample test questions may be found at:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/)

Have a wonderful holiday break. We look forward to reconnecting with you beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

