



Working together. Ensemble, nous

travaillons.

ÉCOLE IRVINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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School District 43 (Coquitlam)
www.sd43.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have the pleasure of walking around the building or the playground and asking the students what they learned today! Often I get the answer 'lots of stuff' and I know that's true. I read some thank-you letters to the P.A.C, produced by Grade Four and Five students with the support of their teachers and I see that they are learning to be writers, learning to interview, and learning to be supportive friends. I

watched younger students listen to each other read and patiently coach one another through tough words and ideas.

Students get a chance every day to show their learning, not just through pencil and paper tasks, but through conversation, models and written work as well. The feedback they receive from their peers, their teachers and, most importantly, you, serves to guide them on to success. A good start may be "Good job!" but adding a comment

like 'I really liked the part about the swamp monster...you really described him well!' gives the child an idea on how to keep building up new stories so they are interesting to read. A comment like...'good start on that model, can you paint in more detail on the Haida house, let's look in the book together' will take them further in their learning. As a team, we can all support our learners' success!

Mme Darlene Proulx

January 18, 2012



Snowy Day fun!

New on staff!

Mrs. Kathy Flood is joining our staff as our new school counselor. She comes to us with 15 years of elementary counseling experience. She is very familiar with issues common to this age including friendship, anxiety, grief, divorce. She has already intro-

duced herself to classes and will be working with individual children, groups and classes and is available for parent consultation and referral. Her days at Irvine are Tuesdays and Fridays.

Welcome to

École Irvine!



Inside this issue:

School Goals 1 & 2	2
Bears and our role in the neighbourhood	3
Ready, Set, Learn!	3
K-news	4-6
Community news	4-6
Calendar & K Registration	6

School Goal 1: Home Reading 101

Reading with your child: What's a parent to do with "Home Reading"?

These days "home reading" is a common term and parents frequently ask questions about it. It can be a great experience or a chore, or even a little of both! Here's the scoop on "home reading":

It is meant to be a pleasurable experience between parent and child. In your house it may be a snuggle on the couch, a before the tuck into bed or get-together as dinner is simmering. It is not meant to be a "reading lesson" or a burden on the family. It is meant for the child to show you what they can manage independently and a time to have your attention. An additional benefit for many is developing a sense of responsibility for their books and their progress!

Usually "home reading" packages sent

home can take a few different forms. Some teachers send home plastic bags of books with numbers or labels on them. Other teachers send home photocopied series of books. Other students come home with library books or books chosen from classroom collections. Other teachers prefer to leave children to make choices with their. Usually the books will be just that, books, rather than a story collection or "reader" as we had when we were children. This is a way to make reading "authentic" for children. There is not one "perfect" formula for success, other than time in the company of a parent or guardian. In terms of guidelines, it could be a weekly program or "return the package when you've finished each one a few times."

Some parents express concern that the books sent home are too easy and request harder material. Students

spend hours in class focusing on their reading skills and it's hard work! During these "guided reading" lessons, students have the support of their teacher and concentrate on particular skills. Perhaps they are building connections, maybe visualizing or inferring but it's all hard work! When we send reading home, we want students to build on their love of reading. We want them to have successful experiences with their books.

For more about "home reading" and what it means for your child this year, please contact your child's teacher and chat about it.



P.j. storytime for Kindergarten students

This month I sent home an invitation for all Kindergarten students to bring their parents to the library for P.j. storytime.

It is a chance for us to work together to help parents strengthen skills as

the child's first and most important reading teacher.

January 24, 2012

École Irvine Library

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Kindergarteners, wear your P.J's and I will too!

Please confirm your attendance by sending an email to:

dproulx@sd43.bc.ca

Ready, Set, Learn!

The purpose of our Ready, Set, Learn!, program is to provide families of 3 and 4 year olds an opportunity to visit our school, meet the and network with community support staff, principals from neighbourhood schools and learn about the services available in the community and ask questions. In addition, the children will participate in play-based learning activities.

Ready, Set, Learn:

February 2, 2012

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m

North Port Coquitlam Area

Cedar Drive Elementary School

Ready, Set, Learn! Is an early childhood initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education, School District 43 (Coquitlam), the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Health.

School Goal #2: Social Responsibility

Bears and our Role as Good Neighbours

You may have read in the recent Tri-City News that a mother bear and her two cubs were killed recently. They had not yet gone to den and were wandering the area, becoming habituated to our neighbourhood. This was an extremely regrettable event and it saddens us all. Our school community was identified as being part of the problem. Perhaps we all need to "think big"; we should think about how we are all part of the problem and can all be part of the solution.

We, as a staff and family community teach our children how to protect and respect our environment and work hard to let them know what a special place we have. They watch the eagles fly overhead during recess and lunch and check out the salmon as well as the heron through the fence during spawning times. They are in awe of our environment and do truly appreciate how rich we are in this area. Every day, on our announcements, we say: "Take care of yourself, take care of others and take care of this place".

Some in our community have concerns that we have not been making enough effort in terms of "taking care of this place" and have brought their concerns forward. On two occasions this fall and winter the neighbourhood bears overturned our garbage barrels and helped themselves to a snack. We regret that happened and would like to bring your attention to improvements to Irvine we've made to improve the neighbourhood situation.

We have changed our custodial runs to include afternoon garbage clean-up of our 4 outdoor bins.

We remind children daily that it's best to dispose of garbage in the classroom before going outside to minimize garbage in the outdoor cans.

We have ordered new cans and lids to replace the ones in disrepair.

We continue to teach children how to use garbage cans in the community so they can learn to be part of the anti-litter solution and not part of the problem

We have organized classes to pick up garbage regularly in our schoolyard, helping them learn responsibility for their environment, even when they personally did not make the mess.

We ensure that our large garbage bins are locked when not in use.

We teach "bear aware" concepts and skills so our children will be thinking of how they can be safe and protect our wildlife.

All this said, we can always do better. We are presently considering a variety of ways to minimize garbage outside with an eye to making further improvements. We have canvassed neighbouring schools in similar situations for possible solutions.

The first Home/School approach we will try has a goal of REDUCING OUR LUNCHTIME GARBAGE:

FEBRUARY IS WE LOVE OUR PLANET MONTH: Litterless Lunches

-use containers or reusable bags

Reusable plastic juice bottles that can be washed at home

Students will bring home leftovers so please provide a bag or we can also reuse the container

Please use your city compost for leftovers.

Home preparation ideas coming soon!

Parents will get a great idea of what your child eats or leaves behind when the lunchbag comes back.



2012 Baseball Season Registration

Come join your friends for another exciting season of Port Coquitlam Minor Baseball. There are divisions available for **everyone** from four years to twenty-four years of age.

To register, please visit our website at www.pocominorbaseball.com. If you have any questions, please email registrar@pocominorbaseball.com.

Here are the levels of play that are available:

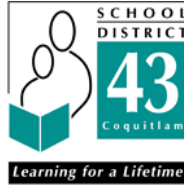
Division	Year Born
Blastball	2007
Rally Cap (T-Ball)	2005 to 2006
Tadpole	2003 to 2004
Mosquito	2001 to 2002
PeeWee	1999 to 2000
Bantam	1997 to 1998
Midget	1994 to 1996
Junior	1988 to 1993

In addition to offering on-line registration, we invite you to be a part of our **Registration Open Houses** being held on the following dates:

January 21 nd and 22 rd	9:00am to noon	Mabbet Room	Wilson Centre*
January 27 th	5:45 pm to 7:30 pm	Hyde Creek Gym	Hyde Creek
February 11 th	TBA	Spirit Week	see website*

*Wilson Centre is located at 2150 Wilson Avenue. The Mabbett Room is located directly above the concession. Hyde Creek is located at 1379 Laurier Avenue. If you would like to register at the Open House, please bring a copy of your player's birth certificate and proof of address with you (municipal taxes or utility bill, personal cheques are not accepted as proof of address). **Be sure to register prior to January 31, 2012 to get the 2011 rate.**

We look forward to seeing you at the Open Houses and to another exciting year of Poco Minor Baseball.



Port Coquitlam Parks and Recreation in
Partnership with Irvine Elementary
School introduces:

Rec Fun

Thursday's in the Gym

2:45 - 4:15pm

Session #1 Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 Cost \$20.85

Session #2 Feb 16, 23, Mar 1, 8 Cost \$27.80

Our goal is to offer an easily accessible, age-appropriate recreation program where school-aged children are provided with the opportunity to create friendships, have equal participation time, supervision of a caring recreation leader and develop their own unique skills in a fun, active and safe environment. We provide a fun recreation program after school hours.

To register ask/look for:

BEYOND THE BELL - Irvine Elementary

On line at www.Experienceit.ca or call 604-927-PLAY (7529)



Are you interested in the new Reggio Kindergarten program that will be offered in
School District 43 for Fall 2012?

Find out more about this interesting option for your child at :

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Reggio/Pages/default.aspx>

Our Mission

The Irvine community is working together to create a safe and nurturing environment that challenges and motivates our students and promotes lifelong joy of learning.

Ensemble, l'école Irvine et les parents joignent leurs efforts pour créer un environnement accueillant où la sécurité et le plaisir d'apprendre sont primordiales.



CALENDAR

- Jan. 18: Backwards Day (wear your clothes backwards!)
FSA exams start for most Grade 4s
- Jan. 24: P.J. Storytime for Kindergarten families @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the library
- Jan. 19: French Immersion Kindergarten registration
ONLINE @ www.sd43.bc.ca
- Jan. 20: Hot Lunch Day: Pizza!
- Jan. 26: Family Literacy Day: Please come and read with us from 9-9:15 a.m.
Recognition Assembly @ 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 27: Pro-D Day: School is closed
- Feb 7-9: English Kindergarten registration at office (register for PALS K workshops)
- Feb. 17: Pro-D Day: School is closed
- Feb. 24: Hot Lunch Day: Sushi / Subway
-

Kindergarten Registration and PALS (parents as learning support)

PALS is a school-based program for parents and their 4 or 5 year old children. The program is designed to enhance school readiness by providing children and parents with learning activities that can be followed up at home. The idea is that when parents have the opportunity to take an active role in their child's education, positive things happen. You will learn valuable ways to help your child by reinforcing skills taught at school. Children also see their parents in the school setting as partners with the school.

What happens at PALS sessions?

Schools host PALS sessions after Kindergarten registration. Each session is about 1 hour long and has a chance for participants and facilitators to work together and also enjoy a light, nutritious snack. The topic of the session is introduced and parents share their knowledge and insights. A specialist will share important information with families about the session topic. Parents and guardians work with the children for an hour on the activities related to the topic of the day. Songs or stories related to the topic are often introduced as well. At the end of the session, each child will receive a bag at the end of the sessions. Children must attend to receive a bag as items pertain to activities completed in the session.

Session Dates are as follows:

- **Wednesday, March 28, 2012**
 - Session 1: Fine Motor Skills from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 11, 2012:**
 - Session 2: Alphabet Skills from 1:00-2:45 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 25, 2012:**
 - Session 3 : Math Skills from 1:00-2:30 p.m.



Welcome to Kindergarten!
Please register for the sessions at the office when you complete your K registration!
