



# Birchland Elementary School

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Ms. Lisa Salloum, *Principal*

## NEWSLETTER # 4

October 27, 2011

### Dear Parents and Students:

#### Halloween Costumes

We know that our students look forward to the fun and excitement of Halloween each year and that many are already planning their costumes. We request your cooperation in ensuring that your child's costume is appropriate for elementary school and that props associated with the costume are left at home for safety's sake.

#### Halloween Day - Monday, October 31st

We will have our traditional costume parade in the afternoon, beginning at 1:20pm. It is expected that students bring costumes that are easy to change in to, and that they *do not change into their costumes until after the lunch hour is over* (once their teacher has returned to the classroom). Any additional information specific to your child's class will be communicated to you by their teacher.

**Pro D Day - Just a reminder that students do not attend school on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> ☺**

#### Playground

The work has started to rebuild our playground. The area is fenced off while the work is in progress. The crew has predicted that the playground will be up and running by the end of next week, if all goes as planned!

*Ms. L. Salloum — Principal*

# BPAC

**Next meeting:  
Wednesday,  
November 16<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30 pm in the  
library**

### REMEMBRANCE DAY AND SCHOOL CLOSURE

The school will be closed for Remembrance Day on **Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### DID YOU KNOW????

- Mrs. Rutherford/Mrs. Crawford's class (Division 7) enjoyed a pizza lunch yesterday, courtesy of the BPAC, to celebrate being the top sellers in the Entertainment Book Fundraiser?
- Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> our school participated in the "Stop, Drop and Read" Campaign?
- Last week, we participated in the Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill along with 530, 000 other participants!
- Photo orders will be arriving soon. They are due back to the office by Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.



## PLEASE HELP LOOK AFTER YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL

Our school is an important place in our neighbourhood and we all want to do everything we can to eliminate vandalism on school grounds. Schools are most at risk on weekend evenings especially when the weather is good.

### What You Can Do

Keep your eyes and ears open for suspicious activities on the school grounds. Signs of trouble include late night trespassers and the gathering of unorganized groups of people.

Everything you see and hear helps. Note the physical characteristics and clothing of individuals. If you see automobiles, jot down license plate numbers.

Report All Suspicious Activities to the Vandal Watch Tip Line

# 604-927-7600

*Call immediately when something raises your suspicions, do not wait for the damage to be done.*

### Your Call is Anonymous and Confidential

No one will ask for your name or phone number. The Tip Line is available 24 hours a day. Security personnel will investigate and will take action or involve the police. Do not get involved in a confrontation yourself.

**KEEP THE TIP LINE PHONE NUMBER HANDY. MAKE SURE THE PHONE NUMBER IS GIVEN ONLY TO RESPONSIBLE ADULTS.**

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### Animals on School Grounds

We recognize that for many of our students, their pets are important members of the family and they enjoy having them accompany them on their walk to school. However, we are asking families to be respectful of the fact that not all of our other students feel comfortable in the midst of unfamiliar animals, regardless of whether or not the animal is leashed. With this in mind, we ask that you refrain from bringing your pet within close proximity of the school while students are gathering before school or leaving at the end of the day.

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### School Arrival and Dismissal

To assist us with the safety, wellbeing and supervision of students, we ask that:

- Students enter and exit through their classroom outside door or designated door as determined by their teacher.
- Front doors are used by parents or guests and only by students if they are accompanied by an adult, or if it is an emergency.
- Children are not sent to school prior to 8:35 a.m. unless special arrangements have been made.
- Children are picked up promptly at the end of the school day (2:55 p.m.). Older students who have their parents' permission to walk home should go directly home to check in with an adult before going out to play.



## School Closure due to weather conditions

In the event of heavy snow, ice or extreme temperatures, a decision on school closures will take place as soon as possible after 6:00 a.m. that day.

- Check the district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca) beginning shortly after 6:00 a.m.
- Be sure to hit Refresh when checking back
- The district website posting is official – there is no need to call the school or the Board office after viewing
- tune in to CKWX 1130 AM, CKNW 980 AM or CBC 690 AM for updates

## STUDENT SAFETY



We ask that parents take time to discuss road safety with the children in order that they are careful on their way to and from school.

At this time of the year, we are reminded that the beautiful, natural surroundings can occasionally bring bears into our neighbourhood. Please remember that the smell of food and/or garbage attracts bears and that they will stop and stay in a community if they are enjoying the reward of being fed. For this reason, we ask that students do not eat or discard of snacks on the playground. Should a bear sighting occur on or near our school grounds, please be sure to let the office know. For more information on Bear Awareness, please visit the following website:



<http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/>

# Birchland's School Calendar

## 2011- 2012

November	
1	Pro D Day (School Based) No School
11	Remembrance Day
14	School Closed
15	School re-opens
16	Theme Day – Backwards Day

December	
7	Theme Day – Winter White Day
9	Report Cards go home
15	Christmas Concert 7-8 pm
16	Last day before Winter Break

January	
3	School Reopens
18	Theme Day - CraZy Toque or hat Day
27	Pro D Day (School Based) No School

February	
10	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly
15	Theme Day –Red/Pink and/or Stuffy Day
17	Pro D Day (District) No School
24	Jump Rope for Heart Day 9 am-12 pm in the gym

March	
7	Theme Day – Green Day
9	Last day before Spring Break
12-23	Spring Break
26	School Reopens
27	Report Cards go home

April	
6	Good Friday
9	Easter Monday
20	Pro D Day (District) No School
25	Theme Day – Jersey Day

May	
3	Early Dismissal @ 1:55 pm Writer's Workshop 1:55-2:55pm & 6-7 pm <b>POST PONED</b>
16	Theme Day – Halloween in May
21	Victoria Day

June	
1	Sports Day
7	Parent Volunteer Tea 9-10 am
13	Theme Day – Student Choice
28	Last day of classes
29	Administrative Day/School Closes

### Bell Schedule

8:50	Students enter (bell)
8:55	Instruction begins (bell) PA announcements Attendance to office
10:25	Recess begins (no bell)
10:40	Recess ends (bell)
11:55	Lunch period begins (no bell)
12:15	Students may go to play
12:40	Lunch period ends (bell)
2:55	Student dismissal

