



Birchland Elementary School

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Ms. Lisa Salloum, *Principal*

NEWSLETTER # 2

September 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

This has been an unusual school start-up, but for a very positive reason! We were elated to welcome more students into our Birchland community during registration week than we had originally anticipated! This allowed us to reorganize our students into smaller class groupings, and to welcome an additional primary teacher into our school! Once again, we thank you for the patience and support that you demonstrated as we worked through this process.

We would like to say a special thank-you to our friend, Tony Prophet, who brought his musical instruments and his talent to share with us on the afternoon of Friday, September 9th. Our students dazzled us with their incredible performances (and lack of stage fright) as they took turns being part of the show!

I am also pleased to announce that the replacement equipment for our playground is on order and should arrive within the next six weeks! We are extremely thankful for the support of our school district's maintenance department who are doing a tremendous amount of work in managing the restoration process!

Ms. L. Salloum — Principal

BPAC

Please consider joining BPAC this year. First meeting is **Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30 pm**

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For those that placed orders with Creative Children, they were distributed to students throughout the second week of school.

DID YOU KNOW????

- Each year, Walmart stores throughout Canada choose a school through their "Adopt a School Program" as part of a commitment to the communities it serves. This year, the newly built Walmart in Port Coquitlam chose Birchland as their partnering school. We have not yet made plans together, but will keep you posted....
- Mrs. Williamson, our multi-talented secretary, will be facilitating the Fruit and Veggie program this year. For those new to our school, the Fruit and Veggie program offers nutritious, fresh recess snacks to our students once every two weeks.
- Mr. Malcolm Key will be joining us as the Cultural Teacher of the Aboriginal Education program, beginning next week. He will be replacing Mr. Yellowfly who has accepted a different assignment for this school year.
- Beyond the Bell starts today; for registration, please contact City of Port Coquitlam, Parks and Recreation.

Peanut and Food Allergies

On behalf of the students in our school who are allergic to peanuts, we ask all families to be mindful of this as they choose their lunch menus and/or bring snacks or treats to the school. Your child's teacher will inform you of significant allergies that may be present within the classroom.

For more information or for some ideas about "peanut-free" options for lunches, please contact our main office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

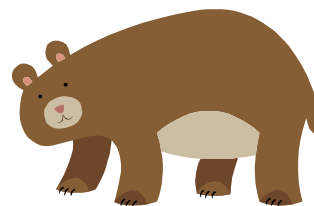
If your child has an allergy to peanuts or to another substance, please be sure that our staff is aware of it. Also, be sure to ask us about our Medic Alert program.



West Coast Recess / Lunch is a term that we had adopted to describe our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor breaks right through the rainy season! **Please help to assist your child in dressing appropriately for the weather (rainboots, rain jacket and indoor shoes).**

STUDENT SAFETY

As our students return to school this week, 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/>

School Entry

Students enter and exit through their classroom outside door or designated door. Front doors are to be used by Parents and Guests only – they are not to be used by students, unless they are accompanied by an adult, or if it is an emergency.

Please do not send your child to school prior to 8:35 a.m. unless special arrangements have been made.

Birchland's School Calendar

2011- 2012

September	
14-28	Entertainment Book Sale by BPAC
21	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
23	Pro D Day (District)

October	
19	Class & individual Photo
10	Thanksgiving (school closed)
21	Pro D Day (Provincial)

November	
1	Pro D Day (School Based)
11	Remembrance Day
14	School Closed
15	School re-opens

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

January	
3	School Reopens
27	Pro D Day (School Based)

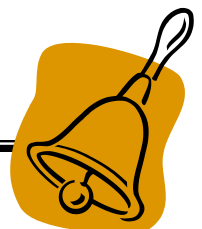
February	
10	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly
17	Pro D Day (District)
24	Jump Rope for Heart Day 9 am-12 pm in the gym

March	
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)

May	
3	Early Dismissal @ 1:55 pm Writer's Worksho9p 1:55-2:55pm & 6-7 pm
21	Victoria Day

June	
1	Sports Day
7	Parent Volunteer Tea 9-10 am
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

REMINDER TO RETURN IMPORTANT FORMS

Student Emergency Release Form (green) - In the case of an emergency or illness, it is critical that we have accurate information about your child in our records. The first week of school, we sent a **Student Emergency Release Form (green)** home. This form is completed every year, however, this year we ask that you complete the form as usual but write new/changed information in a different colour pen.

Page 7 from Planner (white) - Also, please take the time to complete the form on Page 7 in the student planners or handbook with our payment of \$10.00 (Grades 1 to 5 only) as soon as possible.

Student Information Verification Form (yellow) - This information is from our student database system. Please review it *carefully*. If there are any changes, please print them clearly in the appropriate location. "Emergency Contacts" (Page 2) should be other than you (parents / guardians). You are always the first one contacted if your child is absent or ill. If we are unable to reach you then we contact those listed in the "Emergency Contacts".

MEDICAL FORMS

If your child has a medical condition or could require administration of medication at school, please contact the secretary for the appropriate forms.

School District No. 43 Elementary School Meals Program

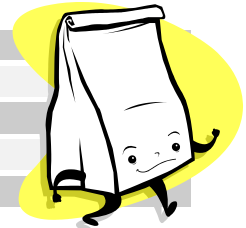
Over the course of the past year, the school district re-organized the elementary school meals program, in an effort to provide a greater number of schools with nutritious lunches. Birchland is pleased to be part of this program. All food preparation will be done at Centennial Secondary's teaching kitchen, under the direction of the teaching chef and elementary school meal co-ordinators. The meals will be delivered each morning to our school.

Attached to our newsletter is the menu for the month of September. The meal program is currently offering complete service for the month of September. Orders are due to our office by **Thursday, September 22nd** and cheques are payable to our school "***Birchland Elementary***". We are aware that for some of our families, September can be a difficult month financially. We are able to support a reduced lunch program and ask that you contact your child's teacher or the principal, if this is the case. For further information, please call Ms. Salloum, Principal at Birchland Elementary.


Order form is the next page. If you wish to order lunches for September, please complete the form and return it to the office by **THURSDAY, September 22nd** with a cheque.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM CENTENNIAL SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER FORM

School's Name: Birchland Elementary School
Student's Name:
Grade:
Division:
Teacher:



OCTOBER 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 White Milk Deli Meat on Multigrain Bread Cookie Apple Slices	4 <i>Lunch Lady</i> <i>Please place order</i> <i>with them if you</i> <i>wish to participate</i>	5 Chocolate Milk Egg Salad Wrap Sun Chips Fruit Salad	6 Fruit Juice Roast Beef on Multigrain Bread Cookie Fruit Yogurt	7 White Milk Taco Chicken Salad Cookie Pear Slices
10 THANKSGIVING DAY	11 <i>Lunch Lady</i> <i>Or bring your own</i>	12 Fruit Juice Salami on Whole Wheat Kaiser Cookie Orange Slices	13 White Milk Egg Salad on Multigrain Bread Veggies & Dip Peach/Mango Sauce	14 Fruit Juice Chicken Caesar Salad Grapes Pudding
17 Chocolate Milk Roast Beef on Multigrain Bread Cookie Apple Slices	18 <i>Lunch Lady</i>	19 White Milk Tuna Salad on Multigrain Bread Granola Bar Peach Cup	20 Fruit Juice Sausage, Cheese & Crackers Trail Mix Fruit Yogurt	21 PROVINCIAL NON- INSTRUCTIONAL DAY
24 Fruit Juice Turkey & Cheese on Multigrain Bread Granola Bar Pudding	25 <i>Lunch Lady</i>	26 Fruit Juice Ham & Cheese on Multigrain Bread Cookie Fruit Yogurt	27 Chocolate Milk Salami on Whole Wheat Kaiser Cookie Fruit Salad	28 Fruit Juice BBQ Chicken Wrap Veggies & Dip Pudding
31 White Milk Roast Beef on Whole Wheat Kaiser Sun Chips Apple Sauce				

PLEASE NOTE:

- **WE DO NOT GUARANTEE A NUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT. ALL OF OUR BREADS AND BAKED GOODS MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS.**
- **NO SUBSTITUTIONS TO MENU ITEMS.**
- October Lunches: 15 @ \$5.00 = \$75.00
- Please make cheque payable to the school **“Birchland Elementary School”**.
- **Orders due to office by *Thursday, September 22, 2011.***