



Birchland Elementary School

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Ms. Lisa Salloum, *Principal*

NEWSLETTER # 3

October 17, 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome

We are elated to welcome three new staff members to our Birchland family. Mrs. Kerri Johnston is our new Grade 1 & 2 teacher in Division 6, Ms. Lynette Keno is our new Teacher Assistant, and Ms. Alexia Soukas is our new counselor, who will be with us on Thursdays each week.

The Generosity of Central Community

We were very touched to receive a heartfelt donation last week from Central School and their Parent Council in response to the loss that we experienced with our playground equipment in August. On behalf of our entire community, we thank our kind neighbours for their compassion and generosity! We will use the funds to support the acquisition of playground equipment for our students and look forward to celebrating the restoration of our adventure playground in the near future!

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.

Ms. L. Salloum — Principal



**Next meeting:
Wednesday,
October 19th at
6:30 pm in the
library**

DID YOU KNOW????

- On Tues. October 25th, we will be joining thousands of students across Canada in their commitment to spend at least 15 minutes playing outside, in the fresh air, as a celebration of the "Take Me Outside" campaign! www.takemeoutside.ca Please join this effort by finding at least 15 minutes to enjoy the outdoors that day!
- Our upcoming Pro-D Days (October 21st and November 1st) are for teacher learning – students are not in attendance on Pro-D Days.
- BC Shake Out – We are participating again this year in the Great BC Shake Out on October 20, 2011 at 10:20 a.m. British Columbians will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great British Columbia Shake Out, the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history!



PHOTO DAY

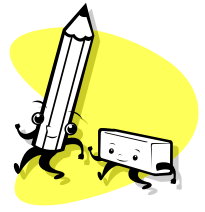
Wednesday, October 19th. A reminder will be sent home that includes the option to choose your poses and background.

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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We used Creative Children for the first time this year. We would appreciate your feedback (positive or areas of improvement). Please contact our office at 604-941-3428 or [Birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:birchland@sd43.bc.ca)





West Coast Recess / Lunch is a term that we have 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).** *It would also be helpful to pack an extra pair of clothes (pants, underwear, socks and shirt) - just in case.*

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.

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. **It is especially important that families in Mrs. Rutherford and Mrs. Baruffa's classes be careful not to send any foods containing peanuts with their children to school as there will be sharing spaces with students with severe allergies.**

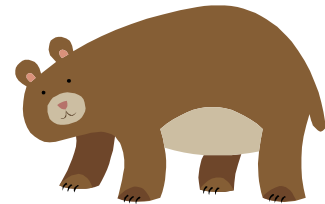
For more information or for some ideas about "peanut-free" options for lunches, please contact our main office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

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.

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/>



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 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

Birchland's School Calendar 2011- 2012

October	
19	Individual & Class Photo
21	Pro D Day (Provincial) No School
26	Theme Day –PJ Day

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

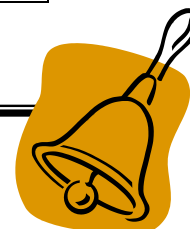
February	
10	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly
15	Theme Day –Red/Pink and/or Stuffy Day
17	Pro D Day (District) No School
24	Jump Rope for Heart Day 9 am-12 pm in the gym

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 POST PONED
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

School District No. 43 Elementary School Meals Program

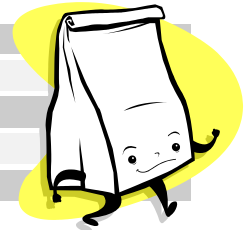
Over the course of the past year, the school district re-organized the elementary school meals program, in an effort to provide a greater number of schools with nutritious lunches. Birchland is pleased to be part of this program. All food preparation will be done at Centennial Secondary's teaching kitchen, 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 **Monday, October 24th** 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.

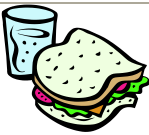


Order form is the next page. If you wish to order lunches for September, please complete the form and return it to the office by **MONDAY, October 24th** with a cheque.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM CENTENNIAL SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER FORM

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



NOVEMBER 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 <i>Pro D Day NO SCHOOL</i>	2 Chocolate Milk Deli Meat on Whole Wheat Kaiser Cookie Grapes	3 Fruit Juice Potato Salad with Turkey Grapes Pudding	4 White Milk Ham on Multigrain Bread Cookie Fruit Salad
7 Fruit Juice Tuna Salad on Multigrain Bread Sun Chips Fruit Yogurt	8 <i>Lunch Lady Please place order with them if you wish to participate</i>	9 Fruit Juice Egg Salad on Whole Wheat Kaiser Fruit Stick Pudding	10 White Milk Chicken on Multigrain Bread Granola Bar Apple Sauce	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY
14 SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	15 <i>Lunch Lady</i>	16 White Milk Chicken Taco Cookie Apple Slices	17 Fruit Juice Turkey on Whole Wheat Kaiser Veggies & Dip Pudding	18 Chocolate Milk Tuna Salad on Multigrain Bread Cookie Orange Slices
21 Fruit Juice Deli Meat on Whole Wheat Kaiser Veggies & Dip Fruit Yogurt	22 <i>Lunch Lady</i>	23 Fruit Juice Chicken Caesar Salad Veggies & Dip Pudding	24 Chocolate Milk Ham & Cheese on Whole Wheat Kaiser Cookie Peach Cup	25 Fruit Juice Turkey on Multigrain Bread Banana Fruit Yogurt
28 White Milk Tuna Salad on Whole Wheat Kaiser Cookie Fruit Salad	29 <i>Lunch Lady</i>	30 Chocolate Milk Chef Salad with Ham & Turkey Cookie Orange Slices		

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.**
- November Lunches: 15 @ \$5.00 = \$75.00
- Please make cheque payable to the school "Birchland Elementary".
- Orders due to office by **Monday, October 24, 2011.**