

26 November 2020

Good afternoon,

Lots of stuff to cover this week, so let's get to it.

Next Week's Events

It is difficult to believe that December is already upon us, but it is (now I *really* can't be in denial anymore that summer is over).

Our December activities will certainly look different than in previous years, but we're pulling out all the stops (as many of them as we can!) to infuse some holiday spirit into our days, beginning with Monday's virtual assembly.

We're planning theme days each Friday, starting with next Friday being *Red & Green Day* – when we encourage everyone to don their **red** and **green** wear for the day.

Annual Food Hamper Drive

Food collection for Christmas hampers will start on Monday.

The holidays can be particularly challenging for some families in our community and neighbouring communities. Coquitlam River Elementary has a long tradition of supporting those in the Coquitlam River and neighbouring communities by collecting non-perishable food items at the school.

Beginning on Monday, we invite those families who are able to send food items or gift cards with their students. Some suggestions include:

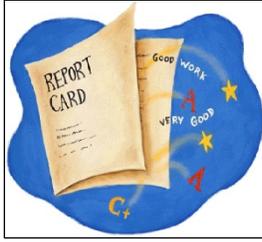


- Pastas/macaroni and cheese, pasta sauces
- Rice/barley/quinoa
- Canned soups, beans, fruit, vegetables, meat and fish
- Coffee/tea/hot chocolate
- Cookies/biscuits/crackers
- Peanut butter/Jams/Honey
- Pancake batter/syrup
- Gravy mix
- Baby formula/food
- Kleenex/toilet paper/napkins
- Dish/laundry soap
- Special Christmas treats (chocolates, cookies, etc.)
- Gift cards for grocery stores, department stores, etc.

Please do not send home made treats, baking, etc., as our COVID protocols prevent us from distributing non commercially packaged food. Please do not send alcohol products.

In the spirit of friendly competition, prizes will be awarded to the classes able to donate the most food!

Our donation period will be for the next two weeks until Friday, December 11th. Thank you for your support.



Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Interviews

Today, your children should have brought home a notice on which you can request a telephone interview with your child(ren)'s teacher, next Thursday, December 3rd, between 2:00 and 6:00 pm. If you would like to speak with the teacher, please send back the form by Tuesday, December 1st.

Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, December 2nd.

PJ Drive for Jams

Thank you again for supporting our fundraising drive for the West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation, for whom you raised \$894, allowing the purchase of PJ's and a cash donation.

Thank you to Ms. Westlands, Ms. Acorn and Ms. Triggs for their work organizing the event.

Mental Health Supports Information

In these challenging times, our mental health and the mental health of our kids can be a struggle. The district offered a parent workshop called "Understanding Worry," earlier this year, that very quickly filled up.

If you were not able to attend, the presentation is now available to be viewed on the [district website](#), by following the link below:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/mentalhealth.aspx#/=>

The [page](#) also contains resources for more information and support.

Youth Drop-In at Hyde Creek Youth Centre

The City of Port Coquitlam is offering Youth Drop-in times at Hyde Creek Youth Centre, Thursdays & Fridays from 3:00 – 4:00 pm and 4:30 – 5:30 pm. Pre-registration is required. See the attached flyer for more information.

Early French Immersion Catchment Area Changes Announcement

As mentioned in previous updates, the district reviewed changes to the early French Immersion catchment area and solicited feedback from the community. Those changes have now been adopted by the Board of School Trustees. Information can be found in the attachment or on the [school district website](#).

Traffic Loops Changes

At the request of the PAC, I asked the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam to visit the site and advise on traffic safety during drop off and pickup. As a result, ***the cities have now limited exit from both traffic loops to right turn only, from 8:30 - 9:30 am, and 2:30 - 3:30 pm.***

I ask that you are respectful of our neighbours when exiting the school so as not to create traffic difficulties in neighbouring communities.

I have observed even more difficult and dangerous situations in the traffic loops. I need to reiterate: ***there is NO parking in the traffic loops!*** I have seen parents park their cars not only blocking the curb lane but also *double parking* and blocking the roadway. This causes traffic to back up onto Shaughnessy and frankly, drivers have resorted to very dangerous maneuvers, putting children and families at risk.

Please! Let's all be considerate of one another and use those loops for *kiss and go* in the morning, and *hop in and go* in the afternoons.

COVID Protocol Reminders

As we are all aware, the provincial health officer introduced tighter restrictions designed to help curb the increasing number of COVID infections, especially in the Fraser Health region, of which we are a part.

We continue to work very hard to follow safety protocols to keep children and staff safe at school. You can support those efforts by remembering these important guidelines:

- Refrain from gathering on the school ground with children and families from outside your learning group, and leave the school grounds as soon as possible after dismissal
- Maintain at least *six feet* between adults and children from different classes and wear a mask whenever near or on the school grounds, when possible
- *Do Not* enter the school for any reason unless you have been asked to do so by a staff member. If you have an appointment with a staff member, please call from outside or wait outside at the appointed time to be met. *Any visiting adult in the building MUST be wearing a mask before they can be admitted.*
- Refrain from visiting other's homes during this period. This means saying *no* to sleepovers and even playdates for the next little while.

We are doing our very best to ensure our schools are able to stay open and stay safe. Please support that work by continuing to adhere to public health directions outside of school as well.

From the PAC

Hello CRE Families,

First off, we wanted to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported our 2 fundraisers. With these 2 fundraisers, we raised over \$3,700! Half of the proceeds from the Growing Smiles Fundraiser will be going to the Grade 5's. So thank you again for supporting our fundraisers!

The Growing Smiles Fundraiser will be delivered Friday, December 4th and will be available for pickup at 2:30-3:30pm and 6:30-7:30pm. Come find us under the overhang on the Kindergarten side of the school. Please be sure to pick up your orders as we will not be tracking down families for their orders.

The DFS Canada (Wrapping Paper) Fundraiser will be delivered Monday, December 7th. Pick up times and location TBD.

Our next fundraiser is with Provincial Spirits. Starting now until Monday, December 21st, orders placed online will have a dollar amount for every order donated to the PAC. Place your order at <https://www.provincialspirits.co> and use code CREPAC at checkout.

Thank you,
Your PAC Team