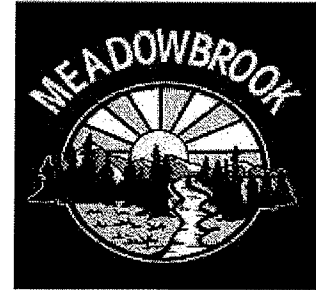


Meadowbrook News

JANUARY 2011



SCENT FREE SCHOOL

Dear Parents



Happy New Year! 2011 promises to be an exciting year and here at Meadowbrook, we're looking forward to it!

Over the next month, I will be acting as principal for both Meadowbrook and Riverview Park, while Mrs. Bawa is recovering from surgery.

Now that we have all settled back into our routines after the Christmas break, the winter term brings about a renewed focus on academics. At Meadowbrook, we believe that parents are our partners in education and your contribution is essential to your child's success at school.

Open communication between home and school is very important to us – if you have concerns or questions please feel that you can voice them freely. We welcome your perspective, your opinions and your ideas and value your support. All parents are encouraged to become involved in the school, either through assisting in the wide variety of activities that happen throughout the year, joining our wonderful and active PAC or helping out in the classroom. You are always welcome to stop by, but if it is difficult for you to get to the school, remember that your child's planner is a great tool for keeping in touch with classroom teachers and keeping on top of your child's progress. We appreciate all the wonderful assistance and enthusiasm our parents bring to the school.

Mrs. Maidens

Concert Kudos

I'd like to thank everyone for the great job done on our Christmas concert that occurred prior to the Christmas break. It was wonderful to see all our students on stage! Organizing these concerts takes a lot of time and effort, and I'd really like to thank our school staff for their contributions. In particular, we'd like to thank Ms. Chaikin and Mrs. Boss for working with our choir and a very special thank you to Ms. Citulec for coordinating our performances.



If you were unable to make the Christmas Concert or would like to have a copy of the performances, the PAC has DVD's available for \$ 5.00. Please let the office know if you would like to order one.

Kindergarten Registration

February is the month for September, 2011 registration of Kindergarten students. If your child will be five years of age on or before December 31st of 2011, registration across the District at elementary schools will occur February 8th, 9th and 10th. **IF YOU HAVE A SIBLING ALREADY ENROLED IN THE SCHOOL, PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE BEFORE REGISTRATION BEGINS.** As well, please pass the dates on to any neighbors with kindergarten-aged children. Birth certificates and proof of address records are required for registration. The School District will also make advertisements in the local newspaper about Kindergarten registration. Many questions parents have about registration are on line at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/>

Non Instructional Day - Friday January 21st

Friday, January 21st is a School-Based Non-Instructional Day and students do not attend school on this day. Our teachers will be attending a workshop on the Six Traits of Writing.

Middle School Placement for September, 2011

Parents of students in Grade 5 should look for a letter to be sent home with your child in late January notifying you of your child's middle school for September 2011. At Meadowbrook students who live in the catchment area of Meadowbrook will attend Hillcrest Middle School.

Cross Catchment Process 2011 – 2012

Parents have the right to choose the school their children attend subject to availability of space. Should you want to choose a school other than your neighbourhood catchment school you must submit a "Cross Catchment Form" as outlined below.

Features of the 2011-2012 Cross Catchment Process:

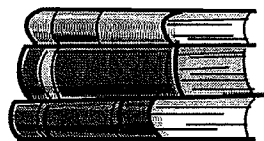
- There are two separate forms and processes:
 - Kindergarten Cross Catchment (February 7th 9:00 a.m. to February 18th 4:00 pm)
 - Grades 1-12 Cross Catchment (February 21st 9:00 am to March 11th 4:00 pm)
- The District is encouraging use of the electronic version of the application form accessed through the District website (www.sd43.bc.ca) beginning February 7th for the Kindergarten process and February 21st for Grades 1-12.
- Paper forms will also be available at all schools and on the District Website as of February 7th for the Kindergarten process and February 21st for Grades 1-12. All completed paper forms must be returned **in person or by mail** to the School District Office at 550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam V3J 6A7 by the closing date. **Faxed or email copies will not be accepted.**
- Process details:
 - Requests will be processed based on the **availability of space in schools** and on a **first come-first served basis**.
 - The system will automatically mark the time we receive the request for the online process.
 - The receptionist will mark the date and time of all paper copies as they are received at the front desk in the School Board Office.
 - The District will then enter the paper requests into the online system and record the appropriate date and time.
 - Principals will be able to access information about requests as they are received.
 - The process will close off promptly at 4:00 pm on February 18th for the Kindergarten applications and on March 11th for those in Grades 1-12.
 - The District response to cross catchment requests will be communicated in writing by mail as follows: Kindergarten (by March 11th), Grades 1-12 (by April 6th)



Important Information about Schools at Capacity:

A number of schools have reached capacity and it is anticipated they will continue to be in this position for the next few years. Therefore, based on lack of space, we want to clarify that the District will not be in a position to honour requests for cross catchment to the following schools:

Elementary: Asperwood, Bramblewood, Eagle Ridge, Glen, Glenayre, Panorama Heights and Pinetree Way **Middle:** Moody, Summit **Secondary:** Dr. Charles Best, Heritage Woods and Pinetree



Scholastic Book Fair

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Meadowbrook will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on February 16th and 17th. If you would like to volunteer for this exciting event please let Mrs. Maidens know by January 28th.

PAC NEWS

The next PAC meeting will be held on Monday, February 7, 2011 in the library. Everyone is welcome!

Inclement Weather Policy

Once again we'd like to review the district policy for closure of schools for extreme weather conditions.



"As a general expectation, parents are to be advised that schools are open. If parents believe the local conditions are unsafe, they may keep their child at home or arrange his/her early dismissal. If schools are to be closed before morning classes begin, an announcement will be made on local radio stations CKNW (980), CKWX (1130) and CBC (690) by 8:00 AM if possible."

If you decide that it is unsafe to bring your child to school because of the weather, or if you would like to bring them in later, please remember to call the school and let Mrs. Brito know. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Foundation Skills Assessment

All grade four students across the province will write the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment tests during January and February. The purpose of the FSA tests is to provide a snapshot of how well students are doing in reading, writing and numeracy.

We'd like to remind everyone that, "Attempting to rank schools or districts based on FSA results invites misleading comparisons that ignore the particular circumstances that affect achievement in each school". (B.C. Ministry of Education).

EARLY DISMISSAL: Student-Led Conferences:

On Wednesday February 16th and Thursday, February 17th, there will be an **early dismissal** for students at 2:00 pm. The **early dismissal** is to facilitate Student-Led Conferences on this day. Come early and check out the book fair .

January Math Corner

Setting the table and eating dinner can include a whole bunch of different math activities, especially skip counting (counting by 2, 3, 4...)

- How many plates are we going to need?
- How many knives, forks, spoons, glasses and so on?
- Have your child count out the cutlery that needs to be put on the table.
- Ask how many legs does the chair have, how many legs altogether, including the chairs and the table.
- If you have guests, have your child try to figure out how many plates and cutlery will be needed with the additional people.
- Ask how long it takes to eat dinner, perhaps even how long after they come home from school before he or she eats dinner, before he or she will go to bed. Count how long it takes for everyone to show up at the dinner table to eat.

Dates to Remember

- Pyjama Day January 14th
- Pro D Day - Jan. 21st
- January Hot Lunch Day - Jan. 28th
- PAC movie night January 28th
- Kindergarten Registration. – February 8th, 9th, 10th
- PAC Meeting – Feb 7^h @ 7:00 p.m.
- Student Led Conferences - Feb. 16th & 17^h **Early Dismissal 2:00 pm.**
- District Pro D - Feb. 18th -**School is closed**
- February Hot Lunch Day – Fri., Feb. 26th
- Formal Report Cards home – April 5th
- March Hot Lunch Day – Fri Mar 19th
- Last day of classes before Spring Break - Mar. 19th
- School back in Session – April 4

Community News

Parents of Students with Special Needs

Once again, we are very pleased to be partnering with SD43 Student Services to offer two very important annual information meetings in January. These meetings are intended to offer parents of students who have special needs an opportunity to hear from a panel of representatives including Student Services, school administrators, teaching staff and school counsellors. Together, we will provide information and answer questions about the middle or secondary school models, the transition process and what parents can do to prepare themselves and their children.

"It's Time to Talk About Middle School" will take place on **Thursday, January 20th 2011** for parents of students with special needs who are currently in Grade 5 and will be starting Middle School in September 2011.

Budget Presentations

The Board of Education invites public input into the 2011-2012 budget at the following Board meetings:

Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Feb. 22, Mar. 15
7:30 p.m.
School Board Office
550 Poirier St., Coquitlam

To appear as a delegation,
please contact
Gail Dowler at gdowler@sd43.bc.ca
or
604-939-9201, ext. 261

"Stepping Up to Secondary" takes place on **Thursday, January 27th 2011** for parents of students with special needs who are currently in grade 8 and will be starting Secondary School in September 2011.

Both meetings will take place in the gallery room at Winslow Center, 6:30 p.m – 8:30 p.m. **(Please note that parents who wish to attend either session must RSVP to Rachel at rlenobel@sfscf.org or 604-525-9494.)**

These sessions are always well attended and the feedback from parents is very positive. Please see the attached flyers for details. We would greatly appreciate it if you could add the information to your newsletters, print, post and distribute the attached flyers to parents, teachers, administrators and counselors in your school communities.

I have also included the flyer for the **Transition to Kindergarten** parent information night on **Thursday, January 13th 2011**, also from 6:30 – 8:30. Parents who wish to attend the Transition to Kindergarten must RSVP to April at aduffield@sfscf.org or call 604-525-9494.

Coquitlam Public Library

Coquitlam Public Library is offering a free drop-in session for all children aged 3-7. The children are welcome to join members of the Coquitlam Express hockey team at the Poirier Branch of the library on January 26 and/or February 9 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. to read books together.

IMPORTANT!!!
NEW TIME and DAYS
FOR SCOUTS ABOUT after school programs at
Meadowbrook

Amy will run Scouts about at Meadowbrook on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. She is going to restructure the program to accommodate the large numbers by dividing students as follows for the next session.

Jr.- K-Grade 2

Sr.- Grade 3- Grade 5

Tuesday

3-4 Scouts about Jr. Sports

4-5 Scouts about Sr. Sports

Wednesday

3-4 Scouts about Jr. Arts and Crafts

4-5 Scouts about Sr. Arts and Crafts