

# Meadowbrook News

*(Scent Free School)*

## JANUARY 2012



Dear Parents:

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday! It is sometimes challenging to get back into routines after a break. Your support at home is always integral to your child's success at school - from checking homework and planners to having conversations about the value of education, all those things you do are very important and much appreciated by all of us who work with your children.

There is lots of good news for our school in 2012. As I mentioned in December, the Coquitlam School Board has voted in favour of adding a district program of choice – Reggio Emilia – that will be open to our students and students across the district. The program will be offered at Meadowbrook Elementary, along with our current program and interested students will need to register. The initial plan is to offer the program at the kindergarten – grade three levels, but if a strong interest is there, grades four and five may be added.

I strongly encourage you to attend the district evening information meeting on January 17 at 6:45 at the Gallery Room at Winslow Centre (1100 Winslow Avenue in Coquitlam). Registration information for this program and others can be found on the school district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca).

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and I hope that many of them take advantage of it! Registration closes on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

About Reggio Emilia....

Reggio Emilia is an approach to education with guiding principles. The relationships between child and teacher, peers, parents and the community is integral to the philosophy. Children are viewed as powerful, capable and resourceful and parents are seen as true partners in their child's education. Learning is built on the interests of the child and teachers support in-depth projects that are developed out of student ideas and questions. The arts are integrated into daily activities and careful consideration is given to the look and feel of the classroom environment. Children's learning is made visible through regular documentation - photographs and transcriptions are displayed to review, assess and reinforce learning. We believe that this approach to education deepens child engagement, encourages self-regulation and stimulates the growth of the cooperative and creative skills our students will need for the future.

Here is a link to an informative video about Reggio Emilia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0mbvWEd61M&feature=youtu.be>

The UBC Institute for Early Childhood Education and Research also offers high praise, saying the Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education “has been widely recognized, its innovative programmes acknowledged by educators, psychologists, and researchers from all over the world as the most exceptional example of the highest quality early education that the world has ever seen.” Read more about that [here](http://earlychildhood.educ.ubc.ca/community/research-practice-reggio-emilia). <http://earlychildhood.educ.ubc.ca/community/research-practice-reggio-emilia>

## NEW !!!After School programs

Scouts About is back! They are offering two after school programs each week with a maximum of 35 students in each group.

Mondays: sports and games in the gym 3:00 – 4:00 - from January 9 to March 5 – \$15.00 for the term

Wednesdays: arts and crafts in room 9 3:00 – 4:00 – from Jan 11 to March 7 - \$15.00 for the term  
(There will be another term starting after Spring break, running until June on the same days for the same cost.)

Please register at the office as soon as possible – we can only take 35 students for each session!

## Coquitlam Recreation Centre Winter 2012 Program at Meadowbrook:

*This is a special arrangement with the Coquitlam Rec centre to provide our students with easy and affordable access to programming.*

### **Multi-Sport Games - 2 hours 3:00 – 5:00 on Thursdays Jan 12 – March 8**

This is a great program for children who want to play a variety of sports. This program features a variety of games and sports in the gymnasium lead by an instructor. Basketball, hockey, soccer, and gym games are just some of the sports that will be played. Emphasis will be on fun and teamwork. Program will take place both indoors & outdoors weather permitting.

**Barcode:** 382838 - 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Tuesdays, Jan 12 to Mar 8

**Cost:** \$18.00 for 9 weeks at Meadowbrook Elementary School - Gymnasium

Register online: [www.coquitlam.ca](http://www.coquitlam.ca) or call 604-927-4FUN (4386)



## Ready Set Learn

Ready Set Learn is being offered in the District starting January 16, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mundy Road Elementary for children ages 2 and 3.

### Non Instructional Day - Friday January 27<sup>th</sup>

Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> is a School-Based Non-Instructional Day and students do not attend school on this day.

## Kindergarten Registration

February 7-9 are the dates for registration of Kindergarten students starting school for September 2012. . If you know neighbours who have children who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31st of 2012, please inform them that registration across the District at elementary schools will occur February 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Complete information can be found online at <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/>.

## Foundational Skills Assessment

All grade four students across the province will write the FSA tests during the period of January 16 to February 24, 2012. The purpose of the FSA tests is to provide a snapshot of how well students are doing in reading, writing and numeracy. "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).

## January 2012 Community Information

### Family Day at PDA!

Sunday, January 15, 1:30-3:30pm

Gather up the family and tour exhibitions in clay and multi-media. Then participate in a variety of all-ages, drop-in style workshops based on these exhibits. Don't be intimidated by art, get engaged in it! Admission by donation. Reserve your spot by calling 604.664.1636.

### Day of the Arts: *Outer Space*

District #43 Pro-D Day: Friday, February 17, 8:45am - 3:45pm

Day of the Arts: *Outer Space* features a variety of visual and performing arts classes that will take you out of this world! Kids from Kindergarten to grade 5 can mold and shape aliens from clay, explore space and meet alien life through drama games, play cosmic beats on Japanese Taiko drums, draw & paint a sleek flying machine, build a 3D environmental space station and more. To view the full time-table and class descriptions, visit [www.placedesarts.ca](http://www.placedesarts.ca) or pick up a brochure at Place des Arts. Registration opens January 9 and may be done by phone at 604.664.1636, online at [www.placedesarts.ca](http://www.placedesarts.ca) or in person at 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam.

### Place des Arts Spring Break Camp

Monday, March 19 to Friday, March 23, 8:45am – 3:45pm

Place des Arts Spring Break Camp is back! This art camp offers a wide array of exciting activities in the visual and performing arts. Children in Kindergarten to Grade 5 choose one full-day block that runs Monday to Friday. Each block contains six classes of activities. Optional after-hours care is available until 5pm for a nominal fee. To view the full time-table and class descriptions, visit [Place des Arts' website](http://Place des Arts' website) or pick up the Spring Break brochure at the centre. Registration opens January 30 and may be done by phone at 604.664.1636, online at [www.placedesarts.ca](http://www.placedesarts.ca) or in person at 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam.

