



Home of the Mighty Voyageurs

PITT RIVER NEWS

Principal: Todd Clarkson
www.sd43.bc.ca/pittriver

Vice-Principal: Carmel Smith
Phone: 604-942-0267

Community School: Heather Roemer
Phone: 604-464-0207

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

ILLNESS UPDATE:

Wow. What a trying week for everyone. Events started to unfold on Tuesday morning with a couple of kids coming to the office sick. It didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary until the afternoon when more kids became ill. At that point I contacted our District's Health & Safety Manager. We immediately arranged to have extra caretaking staff come to the school to disinfect and arranged a consultation meeting in the morning to reassess the situation. To be on the safe side, I made an announcement to all students encouraging them to stay home the next day if they felt ill and put a similar request on the school website.

On Wednesday, we had over 100 kids stay home. Some were ill and some decided to err on the side of caution. The good news is that only a hand full of kids went home because they weren't feeling well. After consulting with Fraser Health Authority officials it was determined that due to the nature of the outbreak and the pattern of illness that it was likely the Norovirus. Apparently, this has been evident in other parts of the community (i.e. cases in hospitals, etc.).

Once I received this information we prepared an information package to be sent home with the kids. We also sent this information to parents via email, and I posted it on the school website. In addition, we used our call out system to contact the parents of incoming grade 5 students to postpone the Parent

Night scheduled for that evening, and I contacted the Principals of neighbouring schools. Finally, we again had a disinfecting crew come in.

Thursday was another quiet day with only a handful of kids not feeling well. Most of the kids that were ill on Wednesday stayed home, but since the recommendations from Fraser Health indicate children with stomach flu-like symptoms, including vomiting and/or diarrhea, should not return to school until at least 2 full days (48 hours) after their symptoms have cleared, we sent home a number of kids that returned prematurely. I was in contact with District personnel and Fraser Health officials throughout the day providing updates. It was determined that the virus appears to be contained and that we should continue our course of action. The hope is that by Monday everything will return to normal. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and post updates on the school website.

Please review with your children the importance of hand-washing and not sharing things like water bottles, lipsticks, etc..

I want to thank all of you for your patience and cooperation throughout this trying, and somewhat unusual, ordeal.

Please feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Mr. T. Clarkson
Principal

DATE: May 10, 2010

CALENDAR 2009-10

(Reminder to check your Fridge Magnet regularly)

May 19 - PAC Mtg., 7pm

May 24 - Victoria Day—No School in session

May 26 - Spring Photos

May 26 - Grade 5 Parent inform meeting

In this edition...

- **Dates to Remember**
- **Principal's Message**
- **Electric Device Trial**
- **Other News**
- **Neighbourhood Happenings**

SUPER SALE ON 1G

FLASH DRIVES

ONLY \$5.00 EACH

AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE -

NO LIMITS TO

PURCHASE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES TRIAL:

Starting Tuesday, the students at Pitt River will be participating in a trial period relating to the use of electronic devices at school. The following information will be reviewed with all students on Monday:

New Electronic Device Policy: Trial Period (May 18th-June 30th)

Context:

Electronic devices, such as iPods and cell phones, have become a mainstay in today's society for youth and adults. These devices can be useful tools in the classroom in that they can be used for such things as web browsing, information sharing, voice recording, calculating, and so on. Many experts predict that in the next few years all students will use some form of handheld device in their classes as an integral part of their learning.

Our new school will be built with the capacity to maximize the use of technology so it only makes sense for us to start to move in the direction that many other middle schools have gone and relax our policy around the use of electronic devices.

Finally, students have expressed frustration at not being able to utilize these devices before school and during break times. Students work hard in classes for the majority of the day and want some freedom to choose their activities during their free time. Furthermore, some students maintain that they find listening to music to be helpful in terms of focusing during independent work. Providing students with the opportunity to utilize these devices in a positive, responsible way just seems like the right thing to do! It also provides us as educators with the opportunity to actively teach the socially responsible use of these tools.

Trial Period

Students will be notified that this change in policy will be in effect until the end of this year and then will be re-evaluated before finalizing a policy for next year. Both staff and students have expressed concerns about potential misuse of these devices so it will be up to the students to show that they can handle the responsibility.

*While some staff and parents felt that the use of cell phones wasn't really 'necessary' during break times, the fact that many of today's phones are all-in-one devices (including mp3 players) would make it too hard to monitor exactly what the phones were being used for at any given time. Consequently, we decided to start the trial with a full use model. This model is already in place in a number of middle schools in our district, as well as at Riverside, so we are confident that it can be successful.

POLICY:

Electronic devices (iPods and cell phones) can be carried at all times, but only be used in classrooms at teacher discretion. During break times, students can use the devices as long as it is in an appropriate manner.

General Expectations: Cell Phones should not be used for social calls; ringers must always remain on silent; any texting during break times should be in the form of information sharing or positive social messaging.

General Expectations: iPod volume must not distract others; earphones must be removed when speaking to an adult.

Inappropriate Use:

- Not following teacher instructions/classroom policy.
- Using the device in a negative way towards others
- Absolutely no photos/videos without teacher permission

Progressive Consequences for Inappropriate Use:

The first instance will result in the device being sent to the office where it can be picked up at the end of that day.

The second instance will result in an office referral and confiscation for a brief period; parents will also be contacted.

The third instance will result in loss of the privilege for a longer period of time (the length will depend on the circumstances).

*Any incident deemed serious enough could result in the immediate loss of this privilege for an extended period of time.

** As we are not mandating that students bring electronic devices to school, they do so at their own risk. The school assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, etc.

PITT RIVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS BROCHURE

The brochure for our 6-week day summer camp program for July and August is now available. Your child will be bringing home the brochure on Monday. It will also be posted on our website.

OTHER NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library staff would like to thank all of the students who have brought back their books. This year we have had a fair number of books go missing. If you happen to find a library book, would you please return it to the school. We would appreciate it.

Somehow I have purchased all the Pendragon series except #7 *The Quillan Games* and I have a student who is now reading #6. Do you have one you would consider selling to the library?

The Library is selling some old yearbooks. We have some from 1993/94, 94/95, 95/96, 97, 98, 2005 & 2008. If you or someone you know would like to purchase one please contact Ms. Wallach at Pitt River Library 604-942-0267. They will be \$10 each.

SUMMER SCHOOL BROCHURES

Summer School. Brochures are out. If you are interested in your child attending summer school, please pick up one of the brochures which are located just outside of the office.

BAND & CHOIR

All Band and Choir students will perform in their final night concert on Thursday, June 10 at 7 pm in the gym. All parents, family members and friends are invited. They will also be performing earlier in the day for the Grade 5s who will be here for "Gr. 6 for a half day" .

NEIGHBOURHOOD HAPPENINGS

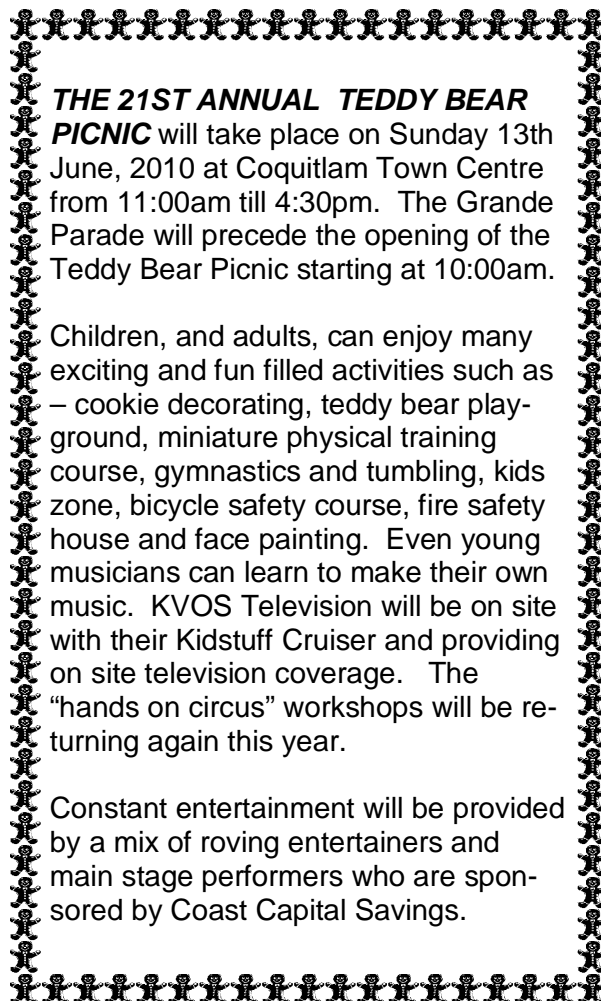


Pick up your GET ACTIVE card which gives you free fun: drop-in swimming, skating, gym and many other programs and activities! Look what you can do this spring and summer to stay active!

The Grade 5 Get Active! Card provides all Grade 5 students with free admission to drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium based activities. The Grade 6 Stay Active! Card gives students 12 admissions during the school year to participate in drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium based activities in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.

**For more information,
visit activeCoquitlam.ca
or call 604-927-4FUN**

**Grade 5
Get Active! Card
Grade 6
Get Active! Card**



THE 21ST ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR PICNIC will take place on Sunday 13th June, 2010 at Coquitlam Town Centre from 11:00am till 4:30pm. The Grande Parade will precede the opening of the Teddy Bear Picnic starting at 10:00am.

Children, and adults, can enjoy many exciting and fun filled activities such as – cookie decorating, teddy bear playground, miniature physical training course, gymnastics and tumbling, kids zone, bicycle safety course, fire safety house and face painting. Even young musicians can learn to make their own music. KVOS Television will be on site with their Kidstuff Cruiser and providing on site television coverage. The “hands on circus” workshops will be returning again this year.

Constant entertainment will be provided by a mix of roving entertainers and main stage performers who are sponsored by Coast Capital Savings.

Middle Schools Summer Fun! for youth

Place des Arts, 1120 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam

Registration is now open! Registration for Place des Arts popular Summer Fun! art camp is now open and may be done in person or online at www.placedesarts.ca. Summer Fun! runs for 5 weeks from July 5 to August 6. Half-day, week-long workshops in a variety of creative activities are available for youth ages 12 – 14 years. They include:

- Summer clay intensive
- Song writing
- Magazine production
- Woven wire: crochet jewelry
- Inspired writing
- Mixed-media mask making
- Graffiti
- Instant Theatre
- Fibre Arts Sampler
- Glee Club
- Digital Photography