



Riverview Park Elementary

Mrs. A. Young, Principal

Telephone: 604-945-7004

Website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/riverviewpark>

December/January 2023-24

In learning and in life, we at Riverview Park Elementary are responsible, kind, and curious.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December	5	PAC Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Library Learning Commons
	7	First Day of Hannukah!
	8	Hot Lunch (Quesada), 12:20 PM
	13	Holiday Concert in the Gym, Red Ticket Required for Entry, 1:30 PM
	14	Holiday Concert in the Gym, Green Ticket Required for Entry, 1:30 PM
	15	Last Day of Hannukah! Term 1 Learning Update (and IEPs and AIPs) Published in MyEd
	18	Toque and Scarf Spirit Day!
	19	Red and Green Spirit Day!
	20	Holiday Sweater Spirit Day!
	21	Santa Hat Spirit Day! Santa Breakfast, 9:00 AM
	22	Festive PJ Spirit Day! Last Day of School Before Winter Break
	December 25 – January 5	Winter Vacation
January	8	School Re-Opens After Winter Break
	9	Staff Meeting, 2:45 PM in the Library Learning Commons PAC Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Library Learning Commons

Principal's Message

December is upon us and holidays are just around the corner already. December is typically a time of gathering and celebrating, sharing festive treats, and singing and that is just what we are planning to do!

At the heart of this season of sharing and caring, is **the spirit of giving**. As in past years, the RVP PAC would like to help families in need of community support in the SD43 district by **collecting donations for a number of family Christmas Hampers**. A School Cash Online Notification will be sent out to all families who are able to make a cash donation to support our annual Adopt-a-Family Fundraiser.

The **Kindergarten Elves are back this year**, with a twist. SHARE has reached out to our entire SD43 School Community requesting a focus on cash donations in lieu of non-perishable food items. Please read ahead for more information.

Ms. Bahar and the students and staff are working hard to prepare our **Holiday Concert this year**. We look forward to welcoming families in person to our school gym in the lead up to the holidays.

There are many cultural holidays celebrated in the month of December throughout the world. While many families may be celebrating Christmas this coming holiday season, we also have families from Mexico who will celebrate **Feast Day of Our Lady Guadalupe on December 12**, families who will be celebrating **Hannukah from December 7 to 15**, families who mark the **Yule or Winter Solstice which begins on December 21**, and the week-long **Kwanzaa holiday, December 26 to January 1**, for families of African heritage. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season, however you spend it. I am hoping for peace and calm and time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to 2024. I do hope you are able to connect with your family and friends this holiday season.

Best wishes!

Anita Young

INFORMATION ITEMS

HOLIDAY CONCERT – DECEMBER 13-14

Our Annual Holiday Concert is just around the corner! **Tickets for this event will be sent home this coming week**. Please review your assigned concert date below.

Concert Date	Attendance by Last Name *2 Tickets Per Family
Wednesday, December 13, 1:30 PM (Red Ticket)	Abdaland to Li
Thursday, December 14, 1:30 PM (Green Ticket)	Lilley to Zhu

Each family will receive two tickets for their assigned concert date. Tickets will be in a Ziploc baggie and stapled to student planners.

- For families who have more than one child attending RVP, **tickets will be sent home with the oldest child.**
- For families with twins, **tickets will sent home with the child in the lowest division number.**

Please Note: If the assigned concert date does not work for your family, please find another family who is willing to trade concert dates with you. **If you are trading concert dates with a family, you will need to physically trade tickets with the family as we have only printed the specific number of tickets required for each performance and tickets are required for entrance to the concert.**

Tickets are colour-coded for each performance to avoid confusion.

- **RED** tickets for Wednesday, December 13
- **GREEN** tickets for Thursday, December 14

Due to fire regulations that limit our gym capacity, we cannot accommodate more people than the number of tickets that have been issued. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Our Annual Holiday Concert will be held in our school gym and will start at 1:30 PM. **We ask that families line up outside as we will have families enter via the side gym doors. Student leaders will be collecting tickets at the door.**

Please note that the usual parking rules apply. Unfortunately, we do not have public parking available on school property other than the few spots in the turnaround and the designated handicap parking in the Staff Parking Lot for families who are eligible for handicap parking. We encourage families to walk to the event or to park on a nearby street that allows for public parking. The driveway must remain clear for emergency vehicles in the event of an emergency.

With cold and flu season in full swing, and these large gatherings occurring right before the holidays, we want to ensure we don't create an environment that spreads cold and flu throughout our school community. If you are not feeling well and are experiencing any cold or flu symptoms, we ask that you not attend the performance.

Thank you for your support. We are excited to host this community event for our families.

SHARE FOOD DRIVE AND KINDERGARTEN ELVES

Every year, our Kindergarten teachers coordinate our annual RVP Food Bank Drive. Typically, we have enlisted the help of our Kindergarten Elves to regularly visit the classrooms throughout the month of December and collect donations of non-perishable food items for SHARE to distribute to local Food Banks. This year, **SHARE is asking for schools to focus on cash donations** for many great reasons:

- In past years, SHARE has received large quantities of damaged and expired food that has to be sorted by SHARE staff and volunteers and then sent to landfill/compost/recycling;
- There is a significant drain on volunteer resources to handle the pickup, sorting and storage of the food items;
- Increasingly, there is a mismatch between the items most needed by those we serve (culturally specific items such as lentils and rice), and the items that are donated; and
- There are large amounts of non-perishable and typically less nutritious food items that are donated, versus SHARE's current focus of providing meat, milk, eggs, fruit, and vegetables to families visiting the Food Bank.

When SHARE receives monetary donations, they use those funds to buy items in bulk (thereby increasing the purchase power of every dollar donated) and to focus on what is most needed – this means meal supplements for seniors, fresh fruits and vegetables for families, infant formula for babies, and culturally appropriate items for everyone.

Our Kindergarten Elves will be back, visiting classrooms the week of December 11 to 15, collecting coins for the Food Bank from students. If you are able to send coins to school with your child during this week, we would greatly appreciate it!

If families would prefer to make a donation to the SHARE Food Bank online, a School Cash Online Notification will be going out this coming week. You can make a donation via School Cash Online and we will ensure these donations are sent to SHARE on behalf of the RVP Community.

PAC NEWS

PAC Meeting – December 5 at 7:00 PM

PAC Fundraiser Update

Purdy's Chocolates

Thank you so much to our RVP Community for supporting this year's Purdy's Chocolates Fundraiser. Thank you so much to Ms. Tanya Adams for coordinating this year's fundraiser. Chocolates will be available for pick-up at school this coming week.

PAC Adopt-a-Family

RVP has committed to helping families in need of community support in the SD43 district this holiday season. **If you are able to support this year's Adopt-a-Family initiative, please consider donating online via School Cash Online. A notification will be coming out this week.**

PAC Santa Breakfast

Our pancake breakfast was a huge highlight for students for the past couple of years, so the PAC has decided to continue this tradition this December. On Thursday, December 21, every student will receive a pancake breakfast and juice. Pancakes will be delivered by 9:00 AM. There will be an opportunity to place an order on the Hot Lunch site to help cover the cost of the pancakes/drink. Every student will receive breakfast, regardless if an order is placed or not. Each child will ONLY receive one order of pancakes.

LEARNING UPDATES/REPORT CARDS

Learning Updates will be published in MyEd on Friday, December 15. Please ensure you are able to access the Family Portal in MyEd according to the instructions that have gone home this fall. There will be no paper copies of Term 1 Learning Updates. The only way to access these reports is through the Family Portal in MyEd. If you have any difficulty logging into the system, please contact me via email at ayoung@sd43.bc.ca.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS (IEP) AND ANNUAL INSTRUCTION PLANS (AIP)

In addition to Learning Updates, all IEPs and AIPs will be published in MyEd on Friday, December 15. **For those families who have children with an IEP or AIP, please watch for an additional published report in MyEd on Friday, December 15.**

STAFFING UPDATE

After three-and-a-half years, our **Indigenous Youth Worker, Sally Sheehan had her last day at RVP this past Friday, November 24.** While we will really miss our dear Miss Sally, the schedule changes make a great deal of sense for her as she will be able to spend more time at fewer schools. In her place, **we welcome Ms. Ashleigh Fauteaux.** Ashleigh, we look forward to working with you at RVP! Welcome!

CATCHMENT LETTER FOR GRADE 5 STUDENTS

All parents of Grade 5 students will be receiving the annual Catchment Area letter this month which will indicate your child's catchment Middle School based on the address we have on file. If your address is incorrect and you believe your child should attend a different school, you must contact the office as soon as

possible so that the documentation on file can be updated. This is an important part of our process for transitioning students in Grade 5 to their new school for September.

MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI)

SD43 has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

This year, the MDI will be administered to students in Grade 4 across the school district. An information letter was sent to parents of Grade 4 students via email with more details about the questionnaire and our timeline for completion.

GRADE 4 FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA) UPDATE

The Grade 4 Foundation Skills Assessment results for your child will be returned to parents prior to the holidays.

PLANNING FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Plans for the upcoming school year are already underway. Please see the overview below for information on Kindergarten Registration, the Cross-Catchment Application Process, and Programs of Choice Options. For more detailed information, please visit www.sd43.bc.ca where you will find more information under top tabs 'Schools' and 'Programs'.

Kindergarten Registration

Children who are five years old on or before December 31, 2024 may enter school in September 2024. Kindergarten registration will be held between February 6, 2024 and February 8, 2024 via online forms. These online forms will be available on our school website at the time of registration.

Kindergarten Registration Process for Children with Special Needs

In the interest of providing a well-defined entry procedure for this very important group of new students, we ask that parents of children with special needs register using the on-line registration form as do all families. **As well, parents should contact the school directly to inform them of their child's needs.**

Cross Catchment

Parents sometimes wish for their children to attend a school that is not their catchment school. In such cases, a Cross Catchment Application is required after registering at their catchment school. School District 43 uses a random draw process for Cross Catchment applications (using in-district priority, then out-of-district).

Cross Catchment application forms, along with more information about the process, can be accessed online at [CROSS CATCHMENT - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://sd43.bc.ca). The Cross Catchment process is open from Friday, February 9, 2024, 9:00 AM to Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 4:00 PM.

Programs of Choice

SD43 offers Programs of Choice for families who may be interested in different learning opportunities for their children. These include Early French Immersion (Kindergarten Entry), Late French Immersion (Grade 6 Entry),

Early Montessori Program (K-5), Late Montessori Program (6-8), Mandarin Bilingual Program (K-12), and the Reggio Influenced Program (K-5).

Programs of Choice – On-Line Applications for Kindergarten

The online application process for Kindergarten Programs of Choice opens on January 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM and closes on January 17, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The link to the application will be posted on the district website in January: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca>

Parents must apply within this time period in order for their child to be considered for placement. Late applications are NOT accepted. Selection will be done by a random lottery draw with priority given to younger siblings of students who will be attending the Program of Choice at the same school in September 2024.

Children who are not successfully placed will be on a waitlist and must register for Kindergarten at their catchment school. Parents who currently have a child attending a Program of Choice and wish their upcoming Kindergarten child to enter must still apply and indicate “Confirmation of Sibling Status applies.” **Failure to do so will result in the incoming sibling not getting into the program.** For more information on Programs of Choice, please visit: [Programs - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

Late Programs of Choice – On-Line Applications for Middle School

The online application process for Late Programs of Choice for Middle School opens January 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM and closes January 17, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The link to the application will be posted on the school district website in January: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca>

Parents must apply within this time period for their child to be considered for placement. Late applications are NOT accepted. Selection will be done by a random lottery draw with priority given to younger siblings of students who will be attending the Program of Choice at the same school in September 2024.

Children who are not successfully placed will be on a waitlist. Parents who currently have a child attending a Program of Choice and wish their upcoming child to enter must still apply and indicate “Confirmation of Sibling Status applies.” **Failure to do so will result in the incoming sibling not getting into the program.** Students currently enrolled in Grade 5 Montessori must apply if they wish to continue in Grade 6 Montessori. For more information on Programs of Choice, please visit: [Programs - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

WINTER WEATHER

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 AM** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 AM via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic Congestion at Drop-Off and Pick-Up – IMPORTANT Safety Reminders!

Our morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up has been very busy, especially on rainy days. **The traffic congestion has been challenging and, in some cases, unsafe for children.** Please do your part to help ease congestion as much as possible by remembering our drop-off and pick-up rules included in this update below.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety Reminders

Please review the following important safety rules and please help us keep all our children safe by following these rules every day, even when you are in a hurry.

- 1. Drop-Off/Pick-Up Lane:** Please remain at your vehicle at all times during drop-off and pick-up and when in the drop-off/pick-up lane.
- 2. Parking and Round-About:** The five parking spots in the round-about are the only places where parking is permitted. At no time are parents permitted to leave their cars in the round-about area and students are not to be taken to the cars that are waiting in this area. When waiting in the round-about, cars are to proceed to the pick-up lane when space becomes available.
- 3. Through Lane:** Please do not drop students off or pick students up while stopped for traffic in the through lane. Cars pull out quickly and unexpectedly and this is a concern for student safety.
- 4. The Quick Goodbye:** As much as possible, when in the drop-off lane, ensure your child is ready to go and can exit the vehicle without your assistance. Even the extra minute or two that is required when parents need to exit the vehicle and assist students can really slow things down and add to the congestion.
- 5. Street Parking Option:** Avoid the congestion all together and park on one of the streets close to the school and walk the rest of the way.
- 6. Delayed Pick-Up:** For families with older children, you may wish to delay your pick-up at the end of the day by a few minutes to allow for congestion to clear. Sometimes, a matter of 5-7 minutes can make a significant difference in reducing traffic congestion.

Thank you very much for your support of these important safety rules during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. If you have a family member picking up your child, please be sure to explain the safety rules associated with drop-off and pick-up.

