



Riverview Park Elementary

Mrs. A. Young, Principal

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November and December 2023

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November	9	Remembrance Day Assembly, 11:05 PM in the Gym Hot Lunch (Subway), 12:25 PM
	10	School Closure Day – School Not in Session
	11	Remembrance Day
	12	Happy Diwali!
	13	Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday – School Not in Session
	17	Hot Lunch (Booster Juice), 12:25 PM
	20	School Gymnastics Begins
	24	Hot Lunch (Ming and Sing), 12:25 PM
	30	Last Day of School Gymnastics
December	5	Staff Meeting, 2:45 PM in the Library Learning Commons PAC Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Library Learning Commons
	8	Hot Lunch (TBD), 12:25 PM
	12	Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal Day
	13	Holiday Concert, 1:30 PM for Abdalvand to Li
	14	Holiday Concert, 1:30 PM for Lilley to Zhu
	15	Hot Lunch (Booster Juice), 12:25 PM Term 1 Learning Updates Published via MyEd
	21	Annual Pancake Santa Breakfast
	22	Last Day of School before Winter Break
January	8	First Day of School 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

And before you know it, we are at the mid-way point of November! How quickly these short, dark days seem to fly by, especially since the 'Falling Back' of the clocks this past weekend. And speaking of weekends, we have an extra long weekend for Remembrance Day this year due to the school closure day on Friday, November 10. This school closure day is across our entire district and in other districts as well, to ensure we adhere to a standard 180-day school calendar.

We kicked off the month of November with PJ Day but quickly turned our attention to more serious endeavours as we planned for our Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony. **A huge thank you to Mr. Jody Colbourne, Ms. Michelle Lange,**

Mr. John Colbourne, Ms. Bahar Ehsani, and to all our intermediate students for planning this important ceremony for our school. It was a meaningful, student-led event, and our students really rose to the solemn and serious occasion, making it a special gathering for us all.

Throughout these first few months of the school year, we have been working hard to continue to promote **our culture of Taking Care. At RVP, we take care of ourselves, each other, and this place. We work hard as a community to use our WITS to keep small problems small. When we use our WITS, we WALK away from a problem, we IGNORE someone who is bothering us, we try to TALK things out to find a solution, OR we SEEK out help from an adult.** In our work with children and conflict situations, we also help students think about how they may have contributed to growing a problem and how they can do things differently or better the next time, because while they can't always control the actions of others, they can control their own actions and choices. We encourage families to promote our culture of 'taking care' at home as well and we encourage families to model problem-solving in a way that keeps small problems small.

As well, we are working with our primary students in particular to remind them of the importance of **keeping their hands to self** and being mindful of the personal space of others. **Reinforcing the idea of 'hands to self' at home during sibling interactions or on playdates with friends will ensure students are hearing a consistent message.**

Along with promoting our community culture to support students throughout the school day and during less-structured outdoor play time, we have made a huge effort as a staff to introduce a variety of activities to engage students during lunch time play. **I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for our staff who have volunteered their lunch time to run a wide range of clubs and activities** including Guitar Club, Gardening Club, Uno Game Days, and Intramural Volleyball. We are adding Chess Club to the mix very soon. **None of this would be possible without the generous support of our PAC who continues to fund all these initiatives** – every time we ask for financial assistance, we are given the green light. Thanks and appreciation goes out to all our families who contribute to our many fundraisers that enable our PAC to be so generous. We are so grateful for your continued support.

Plans are already underway for our Holiday Concert Event, December 13 and 14. **Please read ahead for details and for concert date assignments.**

As the weather gets colder and we head toward winter, we are also heading into cold and flu season. **Please ensure you check your child's health daily to ensure they are well enough to attend school.** This is a critical part of our continued efforts to keep schools safe and healthy for students and staff.

And finally, **Diwali is celebrated by many members of our RVP Community this coming Sunday, November 12.** Happy Diwali to those families who celebrate this Festival of Lights, the triumph of good over evil in the world.

Warmest regards,

Anita Young

INFORMATION ITEMS

School Supplies and Planners

Please note that annual fees for school supplies and planners are now past due. If you have not yet paid these fees (\$45 per student for supplies and \$10 per student for planners), please do so as soon as possible. Reminder notifications have gone out to families this week. If you require financial assistance with school supplies this year, please contact me directly at 604-945-7004 or email me at ayoung@sd43.bc.ca.

Photo Retakes

Please note that photo retakes are now live on the Mountain West Studio website: <https://weborders.mountainwest.ca>
The order deadline is Wednesday, November 22, 2023 (late fees are applied after the deadline).

Report Cards/Learning Updates

Student 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 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.

Mice

You may be hearing from your children about fairly regular mice sightings in the hallways and classrooms of RVP. This has been an issue that we have been dealing with for some time now, but mouse sightings and activity really seems to have increased over the past few weeks, likely due to the colder weather. The district made arrangements for work to be done on our building this past week, installing door sweeps and filling holes and gaps along kickplates. Hopefully, this extra work throughout the building will make a big difference. Thank you for your patience as we address this ongoing problem.

PAC News

PAC Meetings are held regularly on the first Tuesday evening of every month, at 7:00 PM in the Library Learning Commons. Our next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5. Currently, the PAC is running two initiatives at RVP, including Spirit Wear sales and the Annual Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser. Please see details and deadlines below.

PAC RVP Spirit Wear

Your Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is excited to offer RVP Spirit Wear to our students again this year! Purchasing Spirit Wear is completely optional. Spirit Wear clothing will say "RVP" in white on the chest and be in our school colour, royal blue.

To order, *please pay online* using the Hot Lunch site (rvp.hotlunches.net). If payment is not made by Friday November 24, we will cancel your order.

There will be samples available outside the office to confirm sizing. Please note that all sales are final and we are unable to exchange sizes or issue refunds.

PAC Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser

Once again, our PAC is hosting our Annual Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support our Annual Holiday Hampers for families in need of support in the SD43 community.

Ordering is open now via the following link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/675253-107796>. All orders must be placed by Sunday, November 26. Chocolates will be ready for pick-up at RVP by December 8.

Once you enter your email address, you will need to register with your full name, telephone and create a password. This allows you to join the RVP Winter 2023 Campaign. Once you are signed up, you can access the online catalogue by clicking on 'Shop Online', then 'Use Marketplace'.

If you have friends or family who may want to order, you can copy your personal link at the top left corner of your page. This will ensure their order is connected to your account.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the fundraising coordinator, Tanya Adams at thamerton@gmail.com.

Holiday Concert – December 13 and 14

This year, we will be running two concert performances. Both performances will be within the school day, starting at approximately 1:30 PM on December 13 and 14.

We have over 250 students at RVP and just over 200 families. In order to accommodate these numbers, **we will provide 2 tickets for one performance for each family**. This will ensure that all families will have an opportunity to attend. **Each**

family has been assigned to a specific concert date – we need to ensure that we can balance attendance at each event so that we stay within our gym capacity fire regulations. Please see the list below to find out your concert date.

Concert Date	Attendance by Last Name *2 Tickets Per Family
Wednesday, December 13, 1:30 PM	Abdalvand to Li
Thursday, December 14, 1:30 PM	Lilley to Zhu

***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 will only print the specific number of tickets required for each performance. Tickets will be colour-coded for each performance to avoid confusion.**

Winter Weather Ahead!

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 closures 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.

While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

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

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.