



Our newest registrations with excellent attendance!

Birchland Elementary

Mr. D. Shannon, Principal

Telephone: 604-941-3428

Website: [Home - Birchland Elementary School](http://www.birchlandelementaryschool.ca)

"We belong. We care. We matter."

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October	21	Stay and Play - Birchland Gym 9:30-11 (please see the attachment for information about this program)
	22,29	After School Program - Indoor Soccer in the gym 2:40pm-4:00pm
	23,30	After School Program - Cartooning in the Multi-purpose room (MPR): 2:40pm-3:40pm
	24	Professional Development Day (provincial)
	29	PAC Meeting 7:00pm
	31	Halloween Parade
November	3	Hot Lunch - Red Robin
	4,18	Stay and Play - Birchland Gym 9:30-11 (please see the attachment for information about this program)
	5,12,17,26	After School Program - Indoor Soccer in the gym 2:40pm-4:00pm
	6,13,20,27	After School Program - Cartooning in the Multi-purpose room (MPR): 2:40pm-3:40pm
	7	Picture retakes
	7	Grade 2 hearing screening
	7	Remembrance Day Assembly 11:30am in the gym
	10	Professional Development Day (school based)
	11	Remembrance Day
	17	Hot Lunch - Subway

Principal's Message

At the top of the page, I mentioned our newest registrations and their excellent attendance over the past few weeks 😊. This leads to an important discussion about the importance of regular attendance at school. I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention early in the school year because regular attendance (in general) has become a serious concern in our school district, and in the schools in north Port Coquitlam. There are times throughout the year when I meet with other administrators from elementary, middle, and secondary schools (from north Port Coquitlam) and one of the biggest concerns we are seeing across all our schools, at each level, is absenteeism.

Attending school on time and on a regular basis is a life skill. It teaches punctuality, the importance of working hard, and commitment to the task at hand. These are important life skills to teach our children from an early age. As they practice these skills, they will become habits which will be a part of who they are. These life skills can have a profoundly positive effect on their success both now, in the future, and most importantly, beyond their schooling.

We know that there will be times when students are sick and we thank you for keeping them home when they are sick, so that it doesn't make its way through the classroom and school. However, some schools are reporting large numbers of students who are missing many days of school. This can have a serious impact on their learning especially if it is happening each year. Please see the attachment provided with this newsletter that looks at attendance, warning signs, and things that can be done to maintain good attendance. We want to be doing our best to ensure that students are at school to give them the greatest chance to reach their potential.

I'd love to be able to report to you that the attendance of our students is better overall than other schools in the district. It would also be something that I'd be proud to share with my colleagues the next time we meet and this topic is brought forward by those who have concerns.

Thank you,

Dennis

Halloween Parade

It's almost Halloween!! As we have done in the past, Birchland will be having a Halloween parade so that parents and students can see the many costumes that will be flooding the streets in our neighbourhood on October 31st. One change from last year is that we will be having our parade in the morning (instead of the afternoon). This will allow parents to remain at the school after drop off and watch the parade as it makes its way through the building.

Once Breakfast Club is over, we will clean up and set up the gym for our parents so that they can see all the costumes from all the classes because all classrooms will make their way through the hallways, through the gym, and then back into their classes. Parents, please make your way to the gym. There will be seating available for you!

Please note that there are considerations that we have to make as per district Halloween directives. Please note the following:

- Full face masks are not to be brought to school. Wearing full masks limits your view and we do not want students tripping, falling, or getting hurt
- Please leave all accessories at home and save these for the trick or treating. We do not want accessories lost or broken
- Any weapons or violent parts of costumes must also remain at home

We want things to be fun at school. For many students, the lead up to Halloween is already exciting and if an item gets lost or broken, it can easily elevate and/or overwhelm them, leading to a much less fun day. One final point - if you feel the need to ask if a costume is or is not okay, chances are it isn't.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Hot Lunch Dates

We had our first (PAC) hot lunch today and have the following hot lunch dates confirmed for the rest of this term:

Nov 3 - Red Robin

Nov 17 - Subway

Dec 1 - Domino's Pizza

Dec 15 - McDonald's

A big thank you to Crystal Messenger for organizing these hot lunch days for us!

Absences/Early Pick Up

Thank you to everyone who is using our absence report to record their child's absences, lates, or early pick up. Absence report (found here): [AbsenceReportForm - New Form](#) If you are unable to access this form, please send us an email at the following address: birchland@sd43.bc.ca. This email will be received by our secretary and myself. If you wish to include your child's teacher, you may, but it is really important to include the office staff so that we can be certain when your child is away.

If your child needs to be picked up early, you can use the same absence report (above) and then let us know the early dismissal time (in the comment section). Thank you for your attention to this.

Breakfast Program

A reminder of our "set" menu:

MONDAY - Cereal, oatmeal, fruit, milk.

TUESDAY - Egg-Based (e.g. breakfast sandwiches, French toast), fruit, milk.

WEDNESDAY - Pancakes with yogurt and berry sauces, milk

THURSDAY - Cheese-Based (e.g. grilled cheese sandwiches, quesadillas, mini pizzas), fruit, milk

FRIDAY - Smoothies and toast.

Our intention is to try and make this consistent each week, BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU CAN CHANGE ON ANY GIVEN DAY DUE TO LACK OF TIME OR PRODUCT.

West Coast Recess and Lunch

At Birchland, we will be going outside at recess and lunch unless the weather is extremely bad or there are potential safety risks. This means that we will be outside virtually every day. Please make sure that your child is prepared each day to go outside.

District / Community News

COBS Has Done It Again! This time, their community support is three times as tasty. With **one more campaign** running from now until **November 12th**, you'll have plenty of chances to shop local *and* give back. Stop by **COBS at Oxford Market** to see how your purchase helps support your community and the PoCo Foundation.

Not to mention, these freshly baked, delicious, and healthy loaves make the perfect school lunch - your kids and community will thank you for it! No crumbs left behind guaranteed!

From OCT. 16 until NOV. 12, \$1 from every **Large Loaf Country Grain bread** at Oxford Market COBS will benefit the PoCo Foundation