



Birchland Elementary School

E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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Pink Day – fpearse@sd43.bc.ca

For this weeks newsletter I have decided to include part of a blog post from a friend and colleague Chris Wejr. Chris' post very articulately expresses similar beliefs to my own on the "Anti-Bullying Day" concept, and does a great job of providing some insight into what the staff at Birchland works towards every day. Please [click here](#) for the full post, available through Chris' blog called "[The Wejr Board](#)".

Kindness and Care : More than a single day effort – By Chris Wejr

As "anti-bullying day" approaches again this year, I get questions as to what we will be doing as a school for this [one day event](#). My response has been,

"As a school, we will continue to do what we do every other day: promote a culture of care, empathy and kindness through teaching and modeling. We will continue to try to [nurture the strengths](#) and interests in our students and help them to be more confident and [proud of who they are](#). We will also deal with bullying and conflict (2 very different things but often confused) in a serious but teaching/learning manner so the lacking skills are taught and the focus stays long-term."

Bullying is something that nobody should have to go through and when it occurs, we need to take this very seriously and deal with it very carefully. We also need to be proactive in what we do – we need to create the culture in which people are cared for and care for others. Now, I am not opposed to the intent of Anti-Bullying Day, as I am often blown away by the efforts of students and I believe we need to stand up to bullying, but I do think the focus is on the wrong thing: bullying. Whenever we focus on something, it grows. If we seek negatives in our life, we will find them. If we seek positives, we will find them too. Maybe we need to shift and focus on the positive qualities we want to see.

It is easy to put on a pink shirt and say that we are fighting bullying on that day... it is much more difficult to model, teach and create a culture in which kindness, care, and empathy is the norm. We probably would find it difficult to find someone who is NOT "anti-bullying" (or pro-bullying?) but maybe not have a difficult time to find students and adults who struggle to lead a life of care.

...[please click](#) here to read the full article.

Frank Pearse
Principal

School District 43 School Calendar Survey

The School District is seeking input on proposed school calendars for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. Please access the survey at www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx
The survey is available until **4:00 p.m. March 3, 2014.**

Grade 5 transition to Middle School

More information is available on our website under "transitions" or [click here](#).

Two Weeks at a Glance [\(Click for the full Birchland Calendar\)](#)

Please keep a close eye on the calendar as the next few weeks

- Friday, Feb 28
 - Field Trip – Div 3 & 4
 - Grab & Gab
 - Lockdown drill
 - Gr 5 Basketball practice @ 12:10 pm
 - Birthday Club for February
- Tuesday, Mar 4
 - Lunch Lady (optional)
 - Gr 5 Basketball Practice @ 2:55 – 4pm
- Wednesday, Mar 5
 - GOAL Clothing Giveaway
 - BPAC Hot Lunch – Sushi
 - Gr 5 Basketball Game @ Birchland 3 pm
 - May Pole Dance Practice @ 2:55 – 3:45 pm – CANCELLED/rescheduled to during school day
- Thursday, Mar 6
 - Running Club
 - Aboriginal Education Program
- Friday, Mar 7th; Gr 5 Basketball Tournament @ Minnekhada

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Safe Schools Task Force

Our district's Safe Schools Task Force is pleased to inform you that Kevin Cameron will be returning to our district in the New Year to speak with parents and all other interested members of our community. This will be part of the three series events entitled "Parenting our Kids in the 21st Century". The date is; May 15th (Charles Best) from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please plan to attend these very useful sessions. [Click here for more information.](#)

Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods

We invite you to visit our [Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods section](#) of the District website, which can be found under the News & Events menu, to learn more about the Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods initiative, the community engagement process, and an overview of the four properties under consideration.

School Meals Program

Once again this year School District 43 will be providing the School Meals Program at Birchland Elementary. All food preparation takes place within our school district and the meals are delivered to the school each morning. Order forms will be available on our website sometime this week, and we will send a note to parents when this happens.

The cost for each lunch is \$4, however, as this program does receive outside financial support, families can speak with Mr. Pearse to ask for this charge to be reduced or waived altogether.

**BPAC ANTI-BULLYING DAY
CUPCAKES**



Wednesday, February 26th

Thank you to everyone who donated cupcakes and volunteered their time!

Birchland Apparel!

Is available! Sample sizes are in the front foyer.
Orders due May 20th.
[Click here for form.](#)



BPAC Hot Lunch Program!

This year, BPAC is excited to offer online ordering for our Hot Lunch!

BPAC lunches are planned to run every two-three weeks, and 100% profit of our lunches goes directly back into our school! We have already enjoyed Chinese Food from Ming&Sing, Pizza from Freshslice! And Sushi (sushi Shelter 101). We have also set up a Dairyland account which allows us to offer 2% or Chocolate Milk with most meals.

Once your account has been created (click here to [create](#)), you can order online www.munchlogin.com Payments can be made online, or by cash or cheque payable to 'BPAC'

Upcoming Lunch Dates

- Mar 5th ; Sushi
- Mar 12^h ; Hot Dogs

If you have not already set up an online ordering account for your child, please visit the [Munch Account Page!](#)



Notice of a meeting of the members

BPAC Meeting

All welcome! Please help us plan our goals for the 2013/2014 school year! We will also discuss our Hot Lunch Program, Fundraising, and Upcoming activities.

When: Thursday, April 3rd

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Birchland's Library

Coffee & Tea will be provided

Hope To See You There!

on-sight childcare provided if needed, please RSVP to arrange Childcare to goncalves_stella@hotmail.com or sign up on the PAC Board

Community Information

The following groups have requested that we distribute information regarding their community events. Although some of these activities may take place in School District 43 Schools we do not organize or endorse these groups or organizations, we simply pass along the information.

District 43 Spring Break Camps 2014

School of "Wonderstanding" Day Camp: Tuesday, March 25 – 28

We are very excited to again offer School of "Wonderstanding" Day Camps for students Kindergarten - Grade 5 at the schools listed below. School District 43 is offering these camps in partnership with Simon Fraser University's Professional Development Program (PDP). These unique and very popular 4 day camps are staffed by student teachers. They run from 9 am - 2:45pm, Tuesday to Friday. The cost per child for the 4 days is \$60. Fun is guaranteed! Spaces are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment. Please note that this year we are offering, for the first time, a **French Language only Camp** at **Kwayhquitlum Middle School**.

Aboriginal Education's Red Wolf Spring Break Camp at Seaview: Tuesday, March 18 – 21

Seaview is also hosting a Camp during the first week of Spring Break. The Red Wolf Camp is sponsored by the School District 43's Aboriginal Education Department from March 18th to the 21st. This Camp is open to ALL students in our District from Grades 3 to 6. There will be lots of fun, games, crafts and recreation activities as well as Traditional Teachings. Lunch is provided daily. The cost is \$60.00. Camp Times: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Registration for all camps is available online at:

Red Wolf Camp: [Click Here to Register for the Aboriginal Red Wolf Camp](#)

Central Community School: [Click Here to Register for Central Camp](#)

Minnekhada Camp: [Click Here to Register for Minnekhada Camp](#)

Kwayhquitlam *French Language Camp*: [Click Here to Register for the French Kwayhquitlam Camp](#)

Seaview Camp: [Click Here to Register for Seaview Camp](#)

Happy Camping!!

Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Presents.....Welcome to Fun Lacrosse - bring lots of friends and smiles! Come out and try a new sport, make new friends and have fun! **Fun Lacrosse** is an introductory program aimed at 5 to 8 year old players to come out and experience the game at **no cost**. Sticks and balls are supplied by the association. **Players must bring their own helmets and gloves**. Location: Hyde Creek Gym -Dates/times: February 7, 14 and March 7, 2014 - 5:45 to 7:00 PM

CAUTION: Lacrosse is an addictive sport and children often badger parents to immediately sign up to experience the best sport in the world. For more information contact: tykes@pocominorlacrosse.com

Port Coquitlam Minor Softball – [online registration is now open for 2014 season!](#) Or www.pocominorbaseball.com
PCMSA has brought the Registration Fees down to better match those of our neighbouring Associations, and are refocusing the Association back to it's foundation– Our House Teams! If you register before February 1, you will receive our 2013 rates! On February 1 we raise the rates for 2014. This season we have teams available for Girls born from 2008-1995 and Boys born in 2008 & 2009. We are also hoping to bring back our Junior Ladies Team!

2014 Box Lacrosse Season - In Person Registration will be held at the Port Coquitlam Arena, 2150 Wilson Avenue in the Mabbet Room on January 18th / 9am – 1pm and February 1st / 9am – 1pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

TRI-CITY EAGLES FIELD HOCKEY CLUB has offered a field hockey program to younger players since 1991. The Spring program runs for approximately 10 weeks from April through until the end of June. There is a U-10 program for boys and girls that is divided into two age categories; "Mites" (2006 to 2008) and "Minis" (2004 and 2005), and a junior program U-11 to U-18 for those with 1996 to 2003 birth dates. [Click here for more information.](#)

Coquitlam Express – latest [newsletter](#) is available on line.