



Birchland Elementary School

E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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October 20, 2014

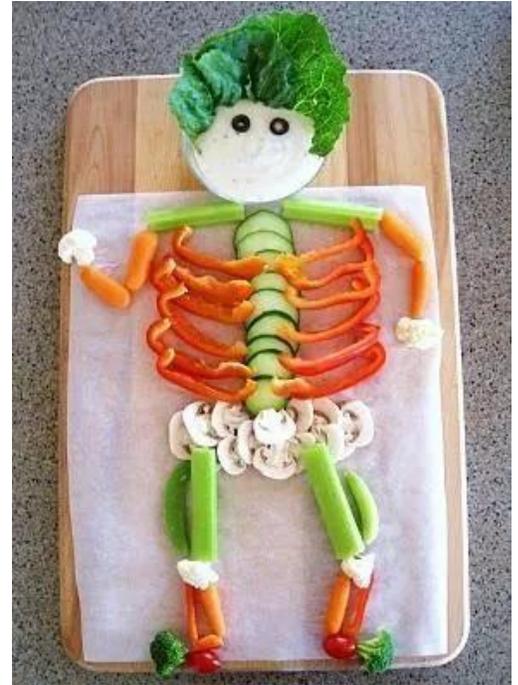
Principal of the Matter – fpearse@sd43.bc.ca

I find it hard to believe that Halloween is already upon us this year. Next Friday we will start out the day as if it's a regular day and then ask students to change into their costumes after lunch. This will allow us to still take part in our regular activities, and have regular recess and lunch breaks, and then have our costume parade and Halloween activities in the afternoon.

Speaking of costumes I would ask that you ensure your child's costume is appropriate for a school setting. To help ensure a safe school environment we ask that all weapons be left at home. Please also remember that some of our younger students can easily get frightened from very scary or gruesome costumes and that it may be best to 'tone the gore down a bit' for school.

After your children are finished their school day I am sure that many of them will be heading out trick-or-treating. Below are a few safety tips from the Canadian Government.

- Ensure your children to walk, not run from house to house and to stay on the sidewalk or at the side of the road facing traffic. They should only cross the road at the corner and look both ways before crossing.
- If you are driving on Halloween, be aware of children, drive slowly and enter and exit driveways and alleyways with caution.
- Give each child a flashlight to carry, to make them more visible to motorists and others. It is also highly recommended to include reflective material on your child's costume.
- Use make-up or face paint instead of masks. Improperly fitted masks can interfere with your child's vision or breathing. If you do choose a mask, make sure it fits properly and allows them to see and breathe properly.
- Tell your children to stay in well-lit areas and only visit homes that have their outside lights turned on. Make sure they know never to go inside homes or cars.
- Take a backpack along, to empty goodies into if the loot bag becomes too heavy.
- Tell your children not to eat any goodies until you have looked them over. Throw out any treats that are not commercially wrapped, have loose or torn wrappers or have holes in the wrappers.
- If you suspect tampering with any of the treats, notify the police.
- Serve dinner before your children go out, so that they will be less tempted to eat goodies along the way.



Have a safe and fun Halloween!

[E-Forms](#), Student Data Verification Forms and Planners

A notice was sent home recently regarding these three items. Please take the time to fill out the [online e-forms](#) and verify the information on the Data Verification Sheets (to be signed and returned to the office regardless of changes). Students in classes that receive Planners will also have received a note regarding payment for these books. The cost this year is \$7.50. These books run on a cost/recovery basis and thus we hope that all families are able to pay for the books.

Remembrance Day

Parents are welcome to join us for the Remembrance Day Assembly on Friday, November 7, 2014 at 11:00 AM. Under the direction of Mrs. Tjernagel, our grade 2, 3, 4 and 5 students will be singing and our K's and 1's will be candle lighting. Before the assembly students will also receive a poppy from the Royal Canadian Legion. If possible please send your child with a small amount of money to donate to the "Poppy Fund".

Two Weeks at a Glance

- Tue, Oct 21 – Early Dismissal @ 1:55
 - Tue, Oct 21 – First Session of R.E.A.L. Program @ 1:55
 - Wed, Oct 22 – Earthquake Drill @ 9:00
 - Thu, Oct 23 – Early Dismissal @ 1:55
 - Fri, Oct 24 – Pro-D Day (No classes)
 - Wed, Oct 29 – Grade 5 Swimming (1 PM)
 - Thu, Oct 30 – Running Club 1:45 – 2:45
 - Fri, Oct 31 – Gab and Grab @ 9:00 in Front Foyer – Everyone Welcome
 - Fri, Oct 31 – Halloween – Student wear costumes in P.M. – Halloween Activities
 - We will also host our October Birthday club sometime this week (Thanks to Coopers Foods, as always, for the cake!)
 - Mon, Nov 3 – Birchland E-News Published
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Gab and Grab

Traditionally on the last Friday of each month Mr. Pearse hosts "Gab and Grab" in the front foyer of the school from 9 – 10 A.M. At this time all parents are invited to drop by for a cup of coffee and a treat. There is no formal agenda but this is a great opportunity to connect with other parents and ask Mr. Pearse any questions you may have, or just drop by for free Starbucks coffee!

After School Programs

The REAL Program starts tomorrow (Tuesday, Oct 21st), the first two sessions will run an hour earlier due to our early dismissals. There is still room in this program, please see the attached registration form.

Many Parents have been asking about our after school programs this year. The All About Me program will still be happening this year, however due to a reduction in the grant from the United Way it won't be starting until after Christmas.

There is also a walking School Bus Program to Hyde Creek Recreation Centre – Register with Parks & Rec. More information under "Community Information" at the end of this newsletter.

ATTENTION GRADE 5 PARENTS

At the beginning of grade 5 we always ask as many parents as possible to ensure they have the appropriate volunteer forms filled out, and have driving paperwork completed if they may be able to drive for events. There will be a number of opportunities for grade 5 parents to volunteer and it is always best to have the paperwork completed in advance. If you have not already taken care of this please contact the office to find out what you need. ([Birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto: Birchland@sd43.bc.ca))

Running Club

Due to the early dismissal this Thursday there will be no running club this week. We will be back running next Thursday (Oct 30th). I am still looking for a few more parents to help out with this activity on Thursdays from 1:45 – 2:45. Don't worry, you won't need to run unless you want to! 😊

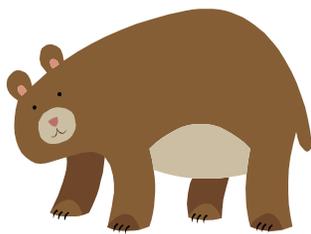
School Meals Program

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. The order form is available on our [website](#).

The cost for each lunch is \$4, however, as this program does not receive outside financial support, families can speak with Mr. Pearse to ask for this charge to be reduced or waived altogether.

Student Safety

As our students return to school this week, we ask that parents take time to discuss road safety with your children and help encourage them to be safe on their way to and from school. I was very happy to see the city install a new sidewalk on the west side of Larch Way, please encourage your children to use the new sidewalk as it will make walking down this busy street much safer.



At this time of the year, we are reminded that the beautiful, natural surroundings can occasionally bring bears into our neighbourhood. Please remember that the smell of food and/or garbage attracts bears and that they will stop and stay in a community if they are enjoying the reward of being fed. For this reason, we ask that students do not eat or discard snacks on the playground. Should a bear sighting occur on or near our school grounds, please be sure to let the office know. Our school also has a bear alert procedure that we review with our staff and students each year.

For more information on Bear Awareness, please visit: <http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/>

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.

Harvest Moon – October 23, 2014, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, at Kwayhquiltam Middle School. Please RSVP. [Click here for details.](#)

SPORTS AND SWIM - WALKING SCHOOL BUS (Parks & Rec / City of Port Coquitlam)- Birchland students - meet us at the entrance to your school and be part of the Walking School Bus! We will enjoy the walk to Hyde Creek where you will swim, have a healthy snack and then play sports! Please fill out a Participant Information Form. All schools may register- Meet in front of Birchland School. One Day options available. Please contact Parks & Rec (City of POCO) to register please 604-927-PLAY (7529) or <https://www.experienceit.ca/InternetRegistration/Start/start.asp>

BPAC Hot Lunch Program! **** ORDERING NOW OPEN****

BPAC lunches are planned to run every two-three weeks, and 100% profit of our lunches goes directly back into our school!

Set up your Munch-a-Lunch account NOW! Instructions and link:

All of our Hot Lunch menus are posted and ordered online. If you have not already set up an online ordering account for your child, please visit the [Munch Account Page!](#)

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 Lunches

- October 27: Papa Leo's Pizza
- November 3: Subway
- November 17: Ming & Sing
- December 1 – Hot dogs



Birchland Apparel!

Is available! Items are in glass cabinet.

[Click here for list & form.](#)



SAVE THE DATE!
Next BPAC Meeting
Wednesday, November 19th
6:30 pm
Childcare available –
Please email
goncalves_stella@hotmail.com
to book childcare at meeting.

Birchland PAC is on Facebook.

Stay in the loop, get reminders!

