



Birchland Elementary School

E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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Principal of the Matter – Frank Pearse (fpearse@sd43.bc.ca)

NEWS FLASH: BIRCHLAND GOES GREEN!

Last week our school officially kicked off our new Recycling and Green Waste Program. We now have a Green Waste bin from the City of Port Coquitlam and a Recycling bin that we will use for recycling hard plastic (Yogurt Containers, Fruit Cups, etc.).

On a daily basis this program is being championed by the Birchland Green Team, which is comprised of grade four students who volunteered to give up some of their lunches and help out (If your child is in grade 4 and would like to participate please make sure they let me know)!



Currently the program is up and running in Mr. Cummings, Mr. Sung, and Mrs. Quarin's room, but soon it will be set up in the rest of our classes. In order to keep our Green Waste Bins clean we are using newspaper to fold pail liners as suggested on the city of Port Coquitlam's website. If your family receives the Vancouver Sun at home and would be able to donate your used papers to the school please contact me (fpearse@sd43.bc.ca) as we will be needing papers every week.

I would also like to send out a huge Thank You to Mrs. Nikula who has been working hard to run our recycling program over the past few years. It is hoped that our new program will make her job a lot less 'sticky' and hopefully we will get 100% of the recyclable containers being properly recycled!

Christmas Concert – Save the Date

Our school's Christmas/Winter concert will take place on Thursday, December 20th, 2012. There will be two performances, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. Please ensure you keep this date open on your calendars and we will confirm the exact times in our next newsletter.

Our Friends at Starbucks!

As I am sure you are aware Birchland has a wonderful relationship with our local Starbucks stores and is very appreciative of the support they have provided us in the past. As part of the grand opening of the new "Fairmont Village" Starbucks between Walmart and Canadian Tire there will be a "Friends and Family" event that will most likely take place on Wednesday, Nov. 28th. During this event Starbucks will be accepting donations in lieu of payment for your order, the great part of this for Birchland is that they will donate ALL MONEY COLLECTED ON THIS DAY directly to Birchland Elementary School! Please watch for more information on this exciting event in our next newsletter.

Fun-Mobile visits Birchland

Our students were very happy to have a visit from the Participaction Fun Mobile this morning. Students had the opportunity to dance and play with different playground equipment at Recess and during class time this morning. The Fun-Mobile is touring the province working to encourage families to turn off the screens and get outside to play! Print material will be sent home with all students this week.

School Photo's

Please remember to have the photo order forms returned to the school by tomorrow, Nov. 6th! If you would like your child to have retakes this year please send back the form with "Retakes" written on it. Retakes will take place on Nov. 15th starting at 1 PM.

If you have feedback on the photo process this year, please feel free to send it along to me via e-mail (fpearse@sd43.bc.ca).

PAC News – birchlandpac2011@hotmail.com

UNWRAPPED EVENT

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for Coquitlam's Center's "Unwrapped" Holiday event please contact Alison Habetler at Alison@habetler.ca or 778-322-6106. Tickets for the event are only \$10, and 100% of this money goes directly to our school! The event takes place on **Tuesday, November 20th, 2012 from 7:00 PM – 10:30 PM at Coquitlam Centre!**

FAMILY PHOTO NIGHT

Family Photo Night will take place on Tuesday Nov 20th between 3 PM and 9 PM. Once again we are please to have Matt Kennedy taking the photos this year. [Please click here to see the flyer for more information.](#)

HOT LUNCH DAY – Pizza Hut

Our PAC will host a hot lunch day, provided by Pizza Hut, on Wednesday Nov 21st. Order forms will go home by Wednesday, Nov 7th and will be due back by Thursday, November 15th.

BOOK FAIR

The first Scholastic Book Fair of the year will be taking place between Nov 16th and Nov 20th. Students will have the opportunity to buy from the book fair during school time and during a few lunch hours. The book fair will also be open at 8:30 AM on Nov. 16th and from 6-8 PM on Nov. 20th.

Grab & Gab

At the end of October we hosted our first ever Grab and Gab at Birchland. It was great to have the opportunity to connect with the parents that were able to make it to the event. Please mark the date below on your calendar and plan to drop in for casual conversation, some snacks and Starbucks coffee at our next Grab and Gab. A huge thank you to Starbucks for donating the coffee for our inaugural event!

Friday, November 30th at 9:00 A.M.

Join us in the Foyer for a coffee, treat and an opportunity to grab some food and gab with us about kids, school, or any other topics of interest.

Rain Drops Keep Falling on my Head!

As I am sure you noticed last week was a little bit damp! As per usual there were a number of students who (re)learned valuable lessons about the consequences of running through, stepping in, and belly flopping in puddles at recess and lunch time.

Friday



Monday



As you can tell by the above picture (taken of the same student in the same spot) conditions on our playground can change very quickly. Please take a look at the “West Coast Recess” information (below) that has been in every Newsletter this year and help ensure your child is adequately prepared to enjoy the outdoors in the wet weather!

West Coast Recess



West Coast Recess / Lunch is a term that we have adopted to describe our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor breaks right through the rainy season! **Please help to assist your child in dressing appropriately for the weather (rain boots, rain jacket and indoor shoes).** *It would also be helpful to pack an extra pair of clothes (pants, underwear, socks and shirt) – just in case.*

October Birthday Club

We recently hosted our October Birthday club which was a great success (yes, by great success I do mean that I managed not to set off the fire alarm and evacuate the entire building!). As always a huge thank you to Coopers for donating the Birthday cake and writing all of the students names on it, it means so much to them when they each see their name on the cake.



About Dogs, Peanuts and Bad Weather

Dogs:



We recognize that for many of our students, their pets are important members of the family and they enjoy having them accompany them on their walk to school. At the same time, we understand that other students are not comfortable around pets and have a fair amount of anxiety when they are near. With this in mind we ask that if you do have a pet walk with you to school please ensure that they are on a leash, and that they are under control at all times.

Peanuts:

On behalf of the students in our school who are allergic to peanuts, we ask all families to be mindful of this as they choose their lunch menus and/or bring snacks or treats to the school. **It is especially important that families in Mr. Cummings, Mrs. Baruffa, Mrs. Rutherford, and Mr. Miyanaga/Mrs. Crawford's classes be careful not to send any foods containing peanuts with their children to school as they will be sharing spaces with students with severe peanut allergies.** These teachers have sent specific classroom procedures to the families in their rooms, please consult with your child's teacher if you have specific questions.



Bad Weather:



In the event of heavy snow, ice or extreme temperatures, a decision on school closures will take place as soon as possible after 6:00 a.m. that day.

- Check the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca beginning shortly after 6:00 a.m.
- Be sure to hit Refresh when checking back
- The district website posting is official – (Please do not call the school to tell us your child will be away)
- Tune in to CKWX 1130 AM, CKNW 980 AM or CBC 690 AM for updates
- Please refrain from calling the school to ask if we are open.

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

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

Nov 6 – Lunch Lady (participation optional)

Nov 7 – Reading Link Challenge

Nov 8 - Aboriginal Cultural Program

Nov 8 – Remembrance Day Assembly

Nov 9 – School not in session

Nov 12 – School closed for Remembrance Day

Nov 13 – Lunch Lady (participation optional)

Nov 15 – Photo Retakes (1 PM)

Nov 15 - Aboriginal Cultural Program

Nov 16 – Bookfair starts

Birchland is Looking Good!

If you have been around the school recently you will notice that our entire school (including roof and sidewalks) has been pressure washed, and all exterior walls, door, trim and shutters have been repainted. We chose slightly different colours and are very happy with how the building turned out. This, combined with the lighting upgrades that took place inside the building over the summer, has our students feeling really good about their building.

As our building is looking so good I ask that you continue to be vigilant if you see any suspicious activity around our building. [The complete Vandal Watch flyer can be found here.](#)

Report All Suspicious Activities to the Vandal Watch Tip Line

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.

BC Hydro Safety Brochure – Please see the attached brochure [here](#) for more information about electrical safety for your children.

School District #43 Coquitlam offers Vocational Programs. It is our aim to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. Check out our new Health Care Assistant program! We have classes in business, computing, health care assistant, medical/dental office assistant, **and more** to meet either your personal or professional learning needs. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

Beyond the Bell at Birchland – This program is offered by Port Coquitlam Parks and Recreation in Partnership with Birchland Elementary. School introduces: Art Attack. Tuesday's 2:45 – 4:15 pm. [See flyer](#)

Session 3: Cartooning **101941 Nov 20 – Dec 11 \$27.80**

To register, please contact POCO Parks & Recreation.

Scouts Canada. Please join the 9th Poco Beavers (5-7 years old) Meetings @ Cedar Drive Elementary School (3150 Cedar Dr) on Mondays. Girls are welcome! For more information, please contact 778-322-6106 or alison@habetler.ca.

Some people grumble because roses have thorns; I am thankful that the thorns have roses.

- Alphonse Karr