

17 December 2020

Good Afternoon,

Let me begin by saying thank you for how you have continued to support our school and community over these first few months of the school year.

When I got the phone call last spring, inviting me to come be principal of Coquitlam River Elementary, it was very quickly followed by calls, texts and emails telling me how great this school community is. It's normal to get those kinds of messages after a new appointment, so you take them with a grain of salt: everyone says nice things after you get moved!

And were they ever right.

This time last year, we were looking ahead to a New Year with our usual sense of optimism and hope, especially those who would be sending their children to school for the first time. No one envisioned a school year so vastly different than what we've come to know or expect.

And still this community and staff has rallied, continued to support the school and each other, and helped us to continue to provide the stellar learning community we all know and love. So, once again, thank you for your continued support, your attention to COVID-19 protocols and safety measures, and your enthusiasm for your children's learning.

And now.... down to business!



Last Day Tomorrow

Friday will be our last chance to say *adios* to 2020 (and good riddance!). Students are invited to come comfy, PJ's will do, as we wrap up Christmas activities and prepare for the holidays. We will again have a *soft dismissal* at 12:00, for those who want to get a jump start on the holidays.

Greetings from the New Minister of Education

Please see the attached letter from the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education.

COVID-19 Notifications Over the Holidays

We are hopeful that we will not have to do so, but if required, Fraser Health will continue to provide COVID-19 notification letters over the winter break. SD43 will continue to support Fraser Health by forwarding these letters to staff and families during the break, if necessary. A reminder that if you have questions with regard to COVID-10 or the contract tracing process, to please either contact the COVID-19 Call Centre at (604)918-7532 or call HealthLinkBC at 811.

Also attached is a letter from Fraser Health to school communities forwarded on behalf of Patricia Gartland, Superintendent.



It May be Winter but Spring is Coming – that means Softball!

Port Coquitlam Minor Softball is open for registration. Please see the attached flyer, inviting registration for softball season, along with contact information for any questions you might have.

Kopf's Korner

Our counsellor, Ms. J. Kopf, usually keeps a bulletin board in the school lobby with helpful information for families. Since families don't currently have access to the building, she has asked if she can periodically share information here – which I am happy to do!

1. **Making the Most of the Holidays:** Many parents and caregivers are wondering what to do about the holidays this year. Nobody wants to disappoint their kids, especially in the midst of so many other losses and changes. Tips and strategies for ways to still have a successful holiday season.

https://keltymentalhealth.ca/blog/2020/11/making-most-holidays?utm_source=Campaigner&utm_campaign=December_2020&utm_content=Kelt_y_Newsletter&cmp=1&utm_medium=Email

2. **Supporting Children and Youth with ADHD During Covid-19: Webinar**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGLn14QMXbg&feature=youtu.be>

Sleep is the Best Meditation

Or so they say - sometimes, it seems kids don't get that message!

If your child is struggling with nighttime anxiety or has trouble going to bed and sleep, you are invited to attend a Free Sleep Webinar, hosted by Hazel Trembath Elementary School. See the flyer attached 'Sleep Workshop January 2021' for more information and links.

Kindergarten Registration Reminders

Registration for September kindergarten begins *early* in the New Year and there are important dates and processes you *must* follow in order to ensure your kindergarten child is ready for enrollment.

Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) – if you wish for your child to be in French Immersion kindergarten, you **must** complete a French Immersion application, *even if your kindergarten student has an older sibling already in French Immersion at Coquitlam River!* Kindergarten French Immersion applications of siblings already in French Immersion at Coquitlam River are given priority in the application process but you **must** apply during the application period. Failure to apply means your child *will not* be considered for early French Immersion.

French Immersion Kindergarten Applications Opens:	Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 am
French Immersion Kindergarten Applications Closes:	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4pm

Please see the attached programs of choice brochure from the school district, or visit the [Programs of Choice page](#) on the school district website. From there, you will find a link to the [French Programs Page](#), which provides further information.

English Kindergarten Registration – If you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in the English program in September 2021, the process is different this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. You must download a fillable registration form from the school district website. Fill out the form, save it to your device and email it back to CoquitlamRiver@sd43.bc.ca

English Kindergarten Applications Opens:	January 27, 2021
English Kindergarten Applications Closes:	February 4, 2021

Message from the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

Dear members of our school communities,

The Board of Education appreciates and recognizes your many and valuable contributions to our school communities. With that in mind, we wish to invite you to participate in the 2021-22 Budget Process.

The [2021-22 Budget Process – Stakeholder Consultation Guide](#), is a comprehensive document regarding the budget process and includes the many way you can provide feedback to the Board of Education.

We invite you to share your input at our first budget meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, in advance of staff preparing the budget. Your input can help shape the budget proposal for the Board of Education to consider in April 2021.

In addition, we welcome your attendance at any of the three stakeholder information and feedback events in April, or through email (budgetfeedback@sd43.bc.ca) or mail.

Please visit the SD43 Budget website at www.sd43.bc.ca/budget to:

- Learn about government funding and allocation;
- Learn about the SD43 budget process;
- Learn about [Directions 2025](#), the School District's vision;
- Engage in the consultation by asking questions about the budget;
- Expect responses to your concerns and input; and
- Contribute ideas that align with the goals and objectives from *Directions 2025* on how to address the opportunities and challenges.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Thank you for Supporting Our Food Drive

We were nearly overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity in this year's Christmas Food Hamper Drive. This may have been our best year ever! Special congratulations to Ms. Veer's, Division 5, Grade 3 class, who led the school in collecting non-perishable goods and other household necessities. Madame Starr's Division 12 and Ms. Bourget's Division 3 classes also collected amazing amounts of donations, along with all the rest of our wonderful students and families who were able to contribute.

A special thank you to our Education Assistants team who spent many hours sorting and boxing up of donations, under the leadership of the extraordinary Cathie Westlands. Ms. Leaf was instrumental in keeping track of the donations as they came in, and helping our top donors celebrate their hard work. Ms. Acorn and her team of *Incredibles* worked each day to collect donations and help coordinate the sorting and compiling for food hampers. Thank you all!

I honestly did not know what to expect we would be to raise this year, given the challenging year for many. And the Coquitlam River community came through in droves! We were able to support a number of families in our own school community, in addition to a great number more in neighbouring communities who are facing particular struggles this year.

Congratulations to everyone for demonstrating what a caring community Coquitlam River is!

Grade 5 Graduation Planning

Attention Grade 5 parents that have a child/children graduating from CRE June 2021....

We need to have parents on board to help with fundraising, yearbook, swag bag, what do you imagine your child's graduation to be, etc..

This graduating class is an important milestone at CRE as the first French immersion class will be graduating.

We have been running zoom meetings as we are unable to meet in person.

Our next meeting will be on January 21 at 7:00pm. Mark your calendars.

You can attend by phone, video, or audio. The link will be up on Facebook groups: CRE Parents and CRE grade 5

We will send more info in the new year.

If you are not on Facebook, please watch for flyers and emails from the school about the graduating class.

From the PAC

Hi Everyone,

Our Provincial Spirit's fundraiser is wrapping up on Monday, December 21st. Be sure to get those online orders in by close on the 21st.

Just go to <https://www.provincialspirits.co> and add 'CREPAC' to the Discount Code section at checkout.

The next PAC meeting is the first week back: Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3631963770?pwd=Rzh6bFo4SE1SaE1aSUXxK2RQN1U0QT09>

Meeting ID: 363 196 3770

Passcode: 7vhdmB

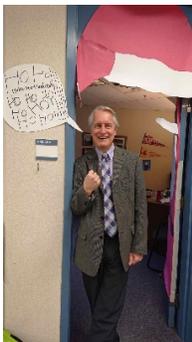
On behalf of the CRE PAC, we wish you a very happy Holidays to you and your family.

I will have one more quick communication with you tomorrow, where I will send a link to a *Christmas at Coquitlam River* video, put together by Ms. Messam – stay tuned!

I hope that you have a wonderful, safe winter holiday. I hope you will not have cause to hear from me over the break (fingers crossed!) and I ask that you grant our hard working teachers and staff their well-deserved break to rest, recuperate and re-charge, and save questions or communications with them until the New Year.

On behalf of all of us here at the school, I wish you and your families, friends and loved ones a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays!

All the best,



David