



James Park News December, 2016

Together We Can ... Learn, Belong, Take Care of each other and this place
Please help us as we strive to do our best at school

Dear Parents/Guardians

Time has flown by and it is hard to believe we are two weeks away from the Christmas holidays.

Thanks to our volleyball coaches Ms Wachowski, Ms Jorgenson and Ms McCoy who helped many of our grade 5 students develop their volleyball skills and gave them an opportunity to play at Coquitlam River Elementary and participate in the grade 5 volleyball jamboree at Pinetree Secondary. Well done, everyone!

Under the guidance of Mme Lajeunesse, our staff and students are busy preparing for the Christmas concerts on Tuesday, December 13. I am very grateful to the staff at James Park Elementary for not only organizing a concert, but also for volunteering their time and energy for an evening performance again this year. The afternoon performance will begin at 1:15 and the evening performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. We anticipate high numbers of parents and relatives at both concerts. Therefore, if you are driving to the school, please ensure your vehicle is parked legally in our neighbourhood and give yourselves enough time to get to the school.

Holiday Food Drive:

'Tis the season of giving! Thanks to three of our parents – Ms Bradshaw, Ms Cleave and Ms Zaklan – we have three amazing gingerbread houses we are raffling off. To receive a ticket to enter the draw, students are encouraged to bring in food donations. Answering one of our student's question: "Does the can of food have to be full or empty?" the answer is most certainly "Full!" ☺. Students will receive one ticket per item brought in. The draw for the gingerbread houses will be on the last day of classes before the holidays – Dec. 16. All food donations will go the SHARE society. Thank you to all who have already donated so generously and to those who will do so in these final two weeks of the food drive!

Websites

Please visit our school's website (<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/jamespark/Pages/default.aspx>) to access important school information (dates, events, code of conduct, school goals, etc.).

15 Questions to Replace, "How was school today?"

You might find this article interesting, especially if your child responds to that question with a one syllable answer.

https://www.edutopia.org/blog/parents-fifteen-questions-replace-how-was-school-today-elena-aguilar?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=socialflow

School Calendar

Please establish an easy link to our website at

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/jamespark/Pages/default.aspx>

Fri, Dec 2	5:30 – 8:30 pm	PAC Christmas Market
Tues, Dec 6	9:00 am	Grade 2 Hearing Screening
Mon, Dec 12	9:30 am	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal
Tues, Dec 13	1:15am & 7:00 pm	Christmas Concert
Wed, Dec 14	8:30 am	Annual Pancake Breakfast and Craft Day
Fri, Dec 16	9:00 am	Carol Singing In The Gym & Last Day Before Christmas Holidays
Tues, Jan 3		School Reopens



SHARE Food Drive

December is fast approaching and it is once again time to start bringing food for others who are not so fortunate.

Please bring non-perishable items for the SHARE collection, such as canned goods, pasta, cereal, and baby food items.

Some of our wonderful families are making and donating gingerbread houses and for every item you bring you will receive a ticket for a draw to win one of several gingerbread houses.

Donations can be dropped off in the front entrance of James Park from 8:20-9:15am everyday and the K/1 teachers will be accepting donations in classrooms due to outer entrances.



**The SHARE Food Drive will run from
Monday, Nov.28th – Thursday, Nov.15th
The Gingerbread Draw will be on Friday,
Dec.16th**

Reminder

Winter Weather Ahead!

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if at all possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 a.m.** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>



While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

PAC Report

On Wednesday, we had the Dufflebag Theatre in for a performance of A Christmas Carol. I think it's safe to say that students, staff and parents who attended had a very enjoyable time. This event was paid for by the PAC, and we thank you for your support.

This Friday, December 2, 5:30-8:30 will be our Christmas Market. With over 40 vendors, a food truck, face painting, Santa, raffles, and more, it's a one stop shopping and family fun event. We hope to see you there!

For the Christmas Concerts and Pancake Breakfast, PAC is having 3 raffles to win the Best Seats in the House for those events. Forms went out earlier this week and can be returned to the office with payment by 3pm on Thursday December 8th, or orders can be made on Munchalunch, by midnight Thursday December 8th. The draw will be on Friday December 9th, and winners will be contacted that day.

Some of our talented families have worked hard to make some amazing gingerbread creations that are in the main display case. A non-perishable food donation for SHARE gives you a ticket to enter the draw to take one of those creations home! Draw will be Friday December 16.

A reminder to use Munchalunch (the online ordering system) for your Hot Lunch and Popcorn Day orders. Orders can be made, or changed, until one week before the event. If you need helps with setting up or managing your account, please contact CarolHuynh81@gmail.com.

Planning has started for the Spring Carnival on Friday April 7th. If you would like to volunteer to help put on this major fundraising event, please contact Danet, our Carnival Coordinator, at danetk@shaw.ca. The next meeting is Monday January 16, at 7pm in the Staff Room.

We are changing the 'Coffee Talk' program a bit, so keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

Were you aware that if you shop at COBS Breads in Sunwood Square and mention James Park Elementary, a portion of your sale is donated to our PAC? Please remember next time you shop.

Also, the PAC has set up an account at the Biggar Bottle (Return It) Depot at 2577 Kingsway Ave. If you return your cans and bottles, and want to donate the money to the PAC, tell them at the cashier when you return your cans and bottles, and your contribution will come to us.

Finally, a reminder that every parent or guardian is automatically a member of the PAC! We encourage you to participate by checking out our PAC Board, volunteering, asking questions, or attending PAC Meetings. Our next PAC Meeting is Monday January 9, 2017, 7pm in the Staff Room.

Wishing you a happy holiday!

Sunshine
PAC Chair
Sunshine_hanan@hotmail.com

For All Your Adult Learning Needs



Want to Graduate?
 Improve your Marks?

You might be closer to graduation than you think. We have **TUITION-FREE** courses for non-graduates*. Book an advising appointment by calling our Learning Centre (CLOC) at 604-945-4211 or visit www.ce43.com for more information. Classroom based and self-paced courses are available: Accounting 11/12, Biology 11/12, Communications 11/12, Chemistry 11/12, English 11/12, Geography 12, History 12, Math 11/12 (all) Physics 11/12, Planning 12, Social Studies 11 and more!

Visit www.ce43.com for account creation and registration information.



Need to Improve Your
 English?

We have **FREE*** English Language classes to support you. A Language Assessment is required prior to registration. The Language Assessments are held at Montgomery Centre on Thursday nights from 3:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Visit www.ce43.com for more information, exact times, fees and documentation requirements.



New to Canada?

We have **FREE*** Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) classes to help improve English Language skills (beginner to intermediate) and provide settlement information and support. These are free classes funded by the Canadian Government through a grant provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Daytime and evening classes are available, and childminding is available for daytime classes.

Visit www.ce43.com for more information about testing centre locations.



Looking for a New
 Career? Improve Skills?

We offer Business, Careers & Job Skills courses in Accounting, Bookkeeping, Business Communications, Computerized Accounting, Digital Photography, Employment Preparation, Keyboarding, Microsoft Office, Payroll, Photoshop, Records & File Management, Special Effects Make-up & Beauty Make-up, Ten Key Number Pad, Introduction to Medical Terminology for ESL, and Spanish. Want something more? We have **Diploma & Certificate Programs** for you: Administrative Assistant, Building Service Worker, Computerized Accounting, Medical Office Assistant, and Beauty & Special Effects Make-up and more!

Visit www.ce43.com for locations and more information on all of our programs.

*Subject to specific program requirements listed at www.ce43.com

Parenting Wisely Course



Parenting Wisely is a free course about managing the behaviour of elementary school children. Topics include waiting patiently until conversations or phone calls are over, morning and bedtime routines, cooperating with friends and peers, behaving in public and schoolwork challenges. Two Parenting Wisely courses are being presented by Stan Simister and Porter Street Elementary School.

One course starts **Tuesday January 17, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. This course will run for 7 consecutive Tuesdays and ends on February 28, 2016. A second course starts **Wednesday January 18, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. This course will run for 7 consecutive Wednesdays and ends on March 1, 2016.

Both courses will be held at **Porter Street Elementary School**, 728 Porter St., Coquitlam. You need to attend the first class to take either course. **Please register with the school office, between Tuesday January 3, 2017 and Friday January 13, 2017, at telephone # 604-936-4296.** If you are unable to attend the first class you will not be able to take these courses, but you are welcome to register for the Parenting Wisely courses that will be offered again in April of 2017.

Please sign in with the school office prior to going to the multipurpose room to attend the course. Participants with children under age 5 will need to make their own child minding arrangements.

Stan Simister, M.A., R.Psych. #1584, Social Development Centre, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Tri-Cities East Neighbourhood Centre, Coquitlam, B.C.
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*Wishing You and Your Family A
Very Merry Christmas*

