



James Park News September 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,

It has been a very exciting and busy start to the year, and it was great to reconnect with 'old' and new students and families after the summer holidays. We started our year in multi-age, 'family' groups (gr. 1 - 5) and focused on topics such as rules and routines, respect as well as teacher and student responsibilities. Teachers and students have been encouraged to continue focusing on these essentials in order to build a community based on safety, care and trust. Parents, we want your feedback and input as well. Please keep your eyes open in the near future for a parent survey coming your way. We would love to collect your thoughts and feedback about our community and learn ways to make it even better for all.

On that note, please read our monthly newsletters regularly in order to stay informed and to stay in touch with what is going on at the school. The newsletter will be sent out by e-mail. Please get in touch with the office if you would prefer a hard copy. This newsletter will also be posted on our website under the "About James Park" tab. Please note that our school's website address has changed slightly. The new address is:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/jamespark/Pages/default.aspx>

Our website is a great source of information in terms of school dates and events, newsletters, absence report logging, PAC news and information etc. I encourage you to check it regularly.

I always like to point out to parents to communicate on a regular basis with your child's teacher(s). Your child's planner can be an excellent communication tool. Staying in touch with what is going on with your child at school will only be beneficial for your child's education.

I know I have already sent out a special parent notice about the topic of 'Traffic Safety' to you, but I am asking you once more to obey school zone traffic regulations. Please slow down, avoid U-turns and follow parking zone regulations. Remember that the drop-off zone is for.....well, dropping off children – not parking and leaving your vehicle! Dropping of your child(ren) and not parking in these zones will give more parents a chance to drop off their child(ren) without being tempted to double park right on the road. Thank you so much for your cooperation!

Last but not least, the James Park community is truly blessed with a hard-working and tremendously dedicated group of parents who give their time and talents to the school. If you want to contribute in any form or shape to make this place a better place for our students, please do not hesitate to contact our PAC chair Ms Sunshine Hanan at sunshine_hanan@hotmail.com. Also, please consider attending our PAC meetings which have been scheduled on the first Monday evening of every month. Again, if you would like to be involved here at James Park, we would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Marco Jankowiak



Please establish an easy link to our website at
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/jamespark/Pages/default.aspx>

Fri, Sep 30	9:00 am	Terry Fox Assembly & Run
Tues, Oct 4	9:00 am	PAC coffee chat
Tues, Oct 4	11:30 am	PAC Meeting
Wed, Oct 5		Popcorn Day
Mon, Oct 10		Thanksgiving day
Tues, Oct 11	9:00 am	PAC coffee chat
Fri, Oct 14		Hot Lunch (PAC)
Mon, Oct 17		Individual Photo Day
Tues, Oct 18	9:00 am	PAC Coffee Chat
Thur, Oct 20	1:53 pm	Early Dismissal
Fri, Oct 21		Non-Instructional Day (Children do not attend)
Tues, Oct 25	9:00 am	PAC coffee chat
Fri, Oct 28		Hot Lunch (PAC)
Mon, Oct 31		Halloween Parade
Tues, Nov 1		Pro-D Day (Children do not attend)



ALLERGY

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Similar to last year, I am hoping you can help and support us. We currently have a student who has a severe and potentially lethal fish allergy. We continue to work with the parents of the child on safety measures – ways to keep the student safe in our school. Even though I recognize that it is difficult to achieve a completely allergen-free school environment, I am asking you to assist us in our school-wide efforts to keep the students safe by considering to not send your child to school with fish related products. Tuna sandwiches would be one more common example of something to please avoid bringing to school. Due to the medically proven fact that the student has had allergic reactions when coming into contact with the allergen (fish and/or fish related products such as fish oil), we will also encourage frequent hand washing for staff and students especially after recess and lunch.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

DAYCARE

Please read on if you are interested in daycare at James Park. Due to the licensing process involved for daycare operators, I cannot say the following with absolute certainty, but it appears that James Park will have daycare available for parents and their youngsters possibly starting in December 2016. I met with the daycare operators last week to discuss a few nuts and bolts with them. I am expecting to receive specific contact information next month. As soon as we will receive it, it will be posted on our website.

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/jamespark/ProgramsServices/childcare/Pages/default.aspx>

In addition to this online information, you will likely see a physical advertising sign on our daycare annex. I have been told by the daycare operators that parents are encouraged to contact them and inquire/register AS SOON AS the information is available online and/or the ads are posted on the annex. Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.

PAC UPDATE:

The first few weeks have been busy ones and I would like to extend a thank you to all the parents and guardians for such a great start to the year!

Our next PAC Meeting is during the day, on Tuesday October 4, at 11:30 in Room 202. We would love to see you there! If you want to volunteer with the PAC, please return the yellow forms from your PAC Pack (the calendar with all the forms in it) to the office, or pick up a new one if you need to!

If you still need to return the green and blue forms (lice check and fruits and veggies program) please return those as soon as possible as well.

Entertainment Books or payments are due this Friday, September 30. If you have any questions, please see Sunshine at the table near the main entrance at drop off, or send an email to sunshine_hanan@hotmail.com.

Finally, if you haven't signed up to the PAC Facebook page, please think about it. It's a great resource to stay up to date with what's happening with PAC, and ask questions when you have them. We will also continue to post Lost and Found items on it on a semi-regular basis.
www.facebook.com/JamesParkPAC

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share with PAC, please feel free to speak to one of us, or send us an email. Contact info can be found on the James Park website, under the Parents menu, then choose PAC to select who you want to contact.

Thank you,

Sunshine (PAC President)

sunshine_hanan@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteer Opportunity
Be a champion of kids.
Become a Parent Connector!

Are you a parent or grandparent who:

- ✓ Lives in the Coquitlam River Neighbourhood?
- ✓ Enjoys working with diverse families with young children?
- ✓ Interested in helping parents connect with each other and community resources?
- ✓ Can volunteer three hours a week in a drop-in setting?... **we'd like to hear from you!**

Eight session training starting Tuesday October 4 – November 22, 2016, 9:30-11:30 am



For more information about becoming a Parent Connector or other opportunities with United Way Avenue of Change, please **contact Sue** at 604-944-2500 extension 321, or email sue.choy@westcoastfamily.org

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 October 11, 2016, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. This class will run for 7 consecutive Tuesdays and ends on November 22, 2016. A second course starts **Wednesday October 12, 2016, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. This class will run for 7 consecutive Wednesdays and ends on November 23, 2016.

Both courses will be held at **Porter Street Elementary School, 728 Porter St., Coquitlam. Please register with the school office, between Monday September 26, 2016 and Friday October 7, 2016, at telephone # 604-936-4296**. 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. Parenting Wisely courses will be offered again in January of 2017 for parents that are unable to attend the first session of these 2 courses.

Stan Simister, M.A., R.Psych. #1584, Social Development Centre, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Tri-Cities East Neighbourhood Centre, Coquitlam, B.C.
V3B 1L6 Tel. (604) 468-5792 Fax (604) 944-2508



Parent Connector Volunteer Job Description

Are you a parent or grandparent who:



- lives in the Tri-Cities?
- enjoys working with young children?
- enjoys meeting people, and helping them to connect with others?
- can volunteer 3 hours each week?

If so, we'd like to hear from you!

What's Involved:

Working closely with the staff and families at one of 20 Tri-Cities Early Years Centre neighbourhood-based sites. Parent Connectors:

- welcome families;
- help staff and families with activities;
- interact with parents/caregivers and their children;
- give parents with information and referrals to community resources;
- provide cultural/language support, where needed;
- assist with occasional outreach programs in the neighbourhood.

Parent Connectors come from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. In addition to fluency in English, they may speak another language (e.g. Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi, etc.). Parent Connectors will often volunteer at the neighbourhood site nearest to where they live.

If you're interested in becoming a Parent Connector Volunteer, we'll ask you to:

- complete a Criminal Record Check, which is required to work with young children
- participate in an 8-week training program
- commit to volunteering 3 hours/week from January through June 2017

The Tri-Cities Early Years Centre

The Tri-Cities Early Years Centre is a network of 20 neighbourhood-based Family Resource Programs and Strong Start Centres located across the Tri-Cities.

Each site offers interactive, play-based programs for families with children from birth to age 6, they are designed to help young children learn and grow. Parent and caregivers attend the programs with their children. They meet other parents and community resource people. They get information and referrals to other local resources.

SHARE is the host agency for the Tri-Cities Early Years Centre, and works with many community partners. Funding provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children & family Development through the Office of the Early Years.

Please contact:

Supriya Bhattacharyya
Community Navigator – Tri-Cities Early Years Centre
SHARE Family & Community Services
Phone: (604) 529-5117
E-mail: supriya.b@sharesociety.ca

**The 8-session Parent Connector training program is scheduled on
Tuesdays (9:30-11:30 am)
October 4 – November 22, 2016.
at
SHARE Family & Community Services
2615 Clarke Street, Port Moody**

We look forward to hearing from you!