



## ***November has passed and December is upon us.***

Our November Book Fair was an amazing success as families purchased thousands of dollars of books and merchandise resulting in school commission which was used to purchase classroom and library materials. Many thanks to all families who supported this event and to Mrs. Ambrose and her committee for coordinating this incredible event. As we move towards Christmas break it is an important time to stop and think of others. As you may have read in a recent email, RC MacDonald's Me to We Team is gathering coats and blankets for the homeless in the Tri-Cities. As well these students are selling crafts at the Craft Sale on Dec. 18, 19 and 20 at RC MacDonald. I am always amazed by the generosity shown by the RC MacDonald community and I am proud that we are able to again assist others in need.

Preparations are underway for our Christmas Concert which will have showings at 1:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing relatives out for this terrific event. Thanks in advance to our PAC Pancake Breakfast Committee who will be hosting another terrific family event. Come and join us on Friday, December 22, any time after 7:45 for a delicious breakfast.

Teachers and students have worked extremely hard academically through our first term. Report cards will be coming home on December 21<sup>st</sup> communicating student learning. We are looking forward to a fantastic finish to 2017. Check the attached calendar to find out about all December activities at RC MacDonald. Although there is no sign of snow yet it is definitely time to dress your children warmly as you bring them to school. We are looking forward to an amazing December!

Sincere thanks for all you do for your children and our community,

Sincerely,

*Mr. Watkins, Principal*

## **EXTENDED ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Each year we, as a school, are approached by an increasing number of parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods of time. Usually this is for reasons associated with family plans or family vacation. We do not have a procedure for granting students a "leave of absence". Rather it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their own child. We are respectful of the fact that many of our families have family members far away, and spending time with them is important. Difficulties arise, however, when parents wish to have some sort of reassurance that their child will not be "behind" in their work when they return. If your child misses school for extended periods of time, he or she will be "behind" in classroom work. As well the disruption of routine for younger students may lead to added anxiety upon their return to class. We hope students will have other cultural and travel experiences that contribute to their overall development, but the many varied daily classroom activities that they will miss cannot be



duplicated through worksheets or workbooks. We are not in the position to provide assignments for children who have extended absences due to family plans. Rather we are providing a list of suggested activities that are designed to assist with your child’s educational needs while traveling.



- Set aside a time each day for reading books.
- Have your child keep a reading response journal in which he or she records this reading activity and thoughts about what has been read that day.
- Keep a scrapbook of special places or sightseeing.
- Have your child keep a “math journal” or ledger, dealing with changes in time and currency, distances travelled, cost of fuel and meals, etc.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- [Coquitlam Moody Minor Baseball Registration Poster](#)
- [Coquitlam Express Junior “A” Hockey Teddy Bear Toss - Dec 3](#)
- [Sidekicks Childcare Open House - Dec 9](#)

**COMING UP AT R.C. MACDONALD:**



<b>Treat Sale (10:30) (no community run)</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>iGirl / iGuy workshops (Grades 4/5 only)</b>	<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>iKid workshops (Grades K-3)</b>	<b>Dec. 6-7</b>	<b>Wed-Thu</b>
<b>Pickup of Purdy’s Orders (3:00 – 4:30, Gym)</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Me to We Christmas Craft Sale</b>	<b>Dec. 18-20</b>	<b>Mon-Wed</b>
<b>Christmas Concert (matinee 1:45 pm / evening 6:00 pm)</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>First Formal Report Card Goes home</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>RC Mac Pancake Breakfast (7:45 – 8:45)</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>	<b>Friday</b>
 <b>Last Day of School before Winter Vacation</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation</b> 	<b>Jan. 8, 2018</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Pro-D Day (School Based) – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND</b>	<b>Jan. 29</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Michael Mitchell Performance (9:05 AM)</b>	<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>PAC Meeting (6:30-8:00, Library)</b>	<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Pro-D Day (School Based) – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND</b>	<b>Feb. 9</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Family Day Holiday</b>	<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Monday</b>

The RC MacDonald calendar is online – all events that have been confirmed are available for you to see at a glance. please revisit our site as ***we will continue to add special event dates as they are confirmed.*** Our website is:

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