



RIVERSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

2215 Reeve Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 6K8 ☎ 604 941-6053 FAX 604 941-2639

Vice Principals: Mr. Steve Roos , Mr. Randy Manhas Principal: Mr. Anthony Ciolfitto

Access our Web page at www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/riverside

The start of semester two is well underway. Students have settled into classes and staff are spending a great deal of effort establishing culture and routines in their classes. The beginning of a semester often brings uncertainty to students as they get acquainted to new peers, a new teacher, and new expectations. While most students quickly adapt to this new environment, some students may take longer to find their rhythm. If your child is coming home and sharing with you concerns about their new experience, here are a few things that may help:

- Encourage your child to rephrase their concern into what they need. This will help move the conversation from a “problem” to a “solution”.
- Try to get to the root of what is creating the emotional response in your child, without becoming emotional yourself. While it’s easy to feel the discomfort or frustrations that our children experience, it’s important that they see an objective, effective strategy for thinking and resolving the issue.
- Ask your child what they could do to resolve this concern or to feel more comfortable. Encourage solutions that don’t revolve around avoidance, confrontation, or blaming. Keep the locus of control with your child as this will help them realize that they can find positive solutions to their challenges in the future.
- Remember that it’s often the unknown or lack of information that creates fear or anxiety. Help your child get clarity of the situation and if information is lacking that would help them understand the situation, direct them to their teacher or counsellor.
- The relationships that forge between a teacher and student have a very strong influence on the willingness of a child to take risks and give their best effort in class. Encourage your child to communicate with their teacher when issues arise as this helps to build their relationship. Learning how to self-advocate, communicate needs, and relate to others are important skills for their personal development.
- If you believe that your child is still not feeling settled in their new courses within 3 weeks, please contact the classroom teacher or counsellor. They can assist with your child’s adjustment to the new course. It’s important to our staff that your child feel connected, supported, and cared for at school. We encourage you to work as a team with your child’s teacher and counsellor to best support your child’s success.

This month will bring us many eventful activities! Multicultural week (February 7-11) will showcase the talents of students from different ethnic backgrounds, including our modern Korean Drummers, Chinese Lion Dancers, Philippine songs, Celtic fiddlers, Irish dancers, Japanese singers and Hanyin singers. The Grad class of 2011 will be hosting a pancake breakfast and pyjama day on February 17th. Our grade 9, 10, and 11 students will begin course programming for next year starting February 22. The month will culminate with our theatre students performing the exciting musical, *Copacabana* starting February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the theatre. Of course, if you’re interested in some great basketball action, check out our Rapids game schedule at <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/riverside/ProgramsServices/Sports/basketball/Pages/default.aspx>. Looking forward to seeing many of you at one of our school events or this month’s PAC meeting on February 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Anthony Ciolfitto
Principal

Important Dates

FEBRUARY

15th

PAC Meeting 7 p.m.

18th

Professional Day (District)

24th – 26th

Drama Production

MARCH

3rd – 5th

Drama Production

8th

After-Grad Meeting 6:45 p.m.

15th

PAC Meeting 7 p.m.

16th

Interim Reports distributed in RAP

18th

Last day of classes

21st – 3rd

Spring Vacation

APRIL

4th

School back in session

MINISTRY AUDIT

The Ministry Audit team will arrive at Riverside Secondary on March 1st to begin our general enrolment and specialty programs audit. Thank you very much for your cooperation during this time by ensuring that your residency documentation could be verified by our school. We have received documents for approximately 1100 students. The documentation we require for residency ensures that the School District will retain the Ministry funding for your child. Our district receives between \$7000 and \$8000 per year to educate your child. Students whose parents reside in BC get their education paid for by the taxes collected from BC citizens. International students are those students whose parents reside outside of BC. These students must pay International Student fees as their parents do not pay taxes in British Columbia. If you have not yet brought your documentation to the office for verification, we ask that you urgently do this so that we can retain the funding for your child, and subsequently, the educational programs available to your child. If you have any questions about the documentation required or the audit, please contact Mr. Roos, Mr. Manhas, or Mr. Ciolfitto as soon as possible.

S-TRIP

Some of you may be aware of various trips offered to students during the winter break, spring break, graduation season and summer break by a company called S-Trip. **These trips are not Riverside Secondary School approved trips.** These trips have nothing to do with our school and our school district.

Sales representatives from the company contact students in schools to recruit their classmates for their trips. Trips are advertised on Facebook, Twitter and other forms of communication that teens regularly use. We do not sanction or allow these meetings to occur at school. We are concerned that some of our students go on these trips. We are also concerned that some students represent the nature of this trip to their parents as school sanctioned events. That is not the case.

We would suggest that should your child show interest in going on these trips, that you have a very frank conversation about its nature and that you thoroughly research the trip before deciding on your child's participation. As educators, we do not endorse these trips and do not believe it is in the best interest of our students to attend such events.

GRAD CRIMES

It seems that every year, a few students from the graduating class choose to engage in grad pranks. However, the majority of these pranks result in vandalism to the school, harm to people or animals, and disruption to the learning environment. The impact on our schools is significant from the perspectives of cost and student/staff well-being. The disruption caused by these events make several of our students feel unsafe and uneasy about being at school during these episodes. Schools and the School District will be taking these types of behaviours extremely seriously. Students caught engaging in these acts will either be criminally charged, disciplined under the school and district codes of conduct, or be dealt with through civil litigation.

While we feel that graduation/commencement is a right for students who have worked so hard to complete their education, participating in events like school dances and the grad dinner and dance are privileges. As such, students caught participating in grad pranks will risk their privilege to join school dances, dinner and dance, and other optional events. Our expectation for the Grads of 2011 is that they leave Riverside with a positive legacy; one that truly represents the students in our community. Our students are responsible for so many wonderful humanitarian efforts in the school, community, and beyond. They are known for the care and empathy towards others and support for their fellow peers. Please assist us in ensuring that this year's grad class continues with their commendable efforts to make this one of the greatest groups to graduate from Riverside.

PEER TUTORS AVAILABLE

Peer tutors are available to help students with their academic course work. If you feel your son or daughter is in need of extra academic support, contact the counsellor for an application form.

COURSE PLANNING FOR 2011/2012

Counsellors will be meeting with our Grade 9's, 10's and 11's this month to help students with course selections for next year. **It is very important that students attend the counsellor presentations. We encourage students and parents to meet with counsellors individually to discuss any questions and concerns they might have.** Courses selected, particularly for grade 11 and 12 have an impact on post-secondary options.

The programming schedule is as follows:

February 22nd Grade 10's period 2 (9:00 am)

February 22nd Grade 11's period 3 (10:20 am)

February 28th and March 1st Grade 9's in Math classes

Note: Grade 10's and 11's must have their completed, signed course selection forms turned into their counselor by **March 2nd**.

Grade 9 completed, signed course selection sheets are due **March 4th**. Students who hand in their course selection sheets past the deadline may not get their first choice electives as the classes may be full.

Please note that **all** students are required to register for **eight** courses.

Detailed course information can be found on the Riverside web site under "course descriptions". Several new courses and programs have been added to our usual offerings. As well, some district apprenticeship programs and on-line offerings are worth a look.

SENDING TRANSCRIPTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

PSI Electronic Selection Form

Students who are graduating this year and are applying to post-secondary schools for a September entry must submit PSI information to the Ministry on-line. This process must be completed by **April 30th** in order for the Ministry to report interim marks. This on-line form is only available until June 30th. If the process has not been completed by that time, students are responsible for getting their final marks to post-secondary institutions on their own.

Access the Ministry web site www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams

Detailed information has been given to students. This information is also available from counsellors and on the school web site.

VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Sara Wahedi organized a dozen Riverside students into a strong delegation at the 2011 Vancouver Model UN held at the Hyatt Regency January 28-30. After several weeks of preparing their position papers (while preparing for final exams), they settled into the hotel for a grueling three days of almost non-stop committee sessions with 530 other students from across BC and as far away as Albany, NY. The first day began at 8 a.m. and finished at 10 p.m. Saturday's sessions weren't over until early Sunday morning because of a 'midnight crisis'. Dressed in suits and ties or dresses throughout the conference, students took on their assigned roles as representatives of countries from around the world on the various UN committees: Security Council, World Health Organization, etc. Riverside participants were: Liah Tang, Cydney Paddon, Justine Lam, Emily Chan, Brian Richards, Brenton Crawford, Sebastian Zein, Matt Lai, Sara Wahedi, and Emily Orser. Congratulations to all of them for doing Riverside proud and especially to Brian Richards who received Honourable Mention as outstanding delegate for his work representing Mauritius.

RIVERSIDE ALUMNI POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION SESSION

On Wednesday, Feb 16th, a Riverside Alumni post-secondary Information session will be held at 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. in Riverside's cafeteria. Former Riverside students at postsecondary institutions return to talk to current students about all aspects of life at university.....big classes, studying for midterms, life on campus, work and volunteer opportunities, selecting courses at Riverside that would assist in getting into programs, etc. All senior students in Gr. 11 and 12 are welcome to attend. Sign up with Ms. Yamamoto in room 214.

PAJAMA DAY

G11 is sponsoring a **Pajama Day** on Thursday, February 17. There will be a **pancake breakfast fundraiser** from 7 am – 9 am in the cafeteria and students can add to this fun event by wearing their pajamas to school. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the graduation dinner and dance at the Renaissance Hotel on June 10th.

BEGBIE CANADIAN HISTORY CONTEST

Students who have a knack for Canadian history are encouraged to see Ms. Chin to register for the **18th Annual Begbie Canadian History Contest**. The top French and English winner receives a \$1000.00 prize and an all-expenses paid trip to Ottawa to meet the Governor General in the fall. The contest is open to all grades 10-12 students. Registration deadline is March 10 and the contest takes place at the school on April 13.

TENNIS

The Riverside Tennis team is gearing up for the season. Play begins in March. The first team meeting will be held on Monday February 21 at 11:50 in the counselling conference room. All interested players of any ability should attend. See Mr. Ahmelich for more details.

RUGBY

Riverside will field both junior and senior boy's rugby teams this year. Practices begin Tuesday 6th February, continuing Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays after school at Gates Park 1, and through March and April, with play-offs in early May. All boys, grade 9 – 12 are encouraged to come and try the sport. Players require a mouthguard and soccer/rugby cleats. Riverside should have very competitive teams this year, and are fortunate in having Micheal Collins as a head coach and Terri Fleming as his assistant coach, both with years of playing experience and both having extensive experience coaching at the high school and club level of rugby. We are also fortunate in having two Riverside staff members, Jordan Thies, and Rachel Ballard as sponsors and coaches.

COPACABANA

February 24, 25, 26 and March 3, 4, 5

Tickets (\$12)
7:00 p.m.

Available in advance
at the Main Office,
or at the door.



PAC MEETING- FEBRUARY 15TH

Riverside's Transition Coordinator, Kelly Selden will give a presentation about Work Experience programs and Ace-It trades programs that are available at our school and in our School District. Deb Nordheimer will talk about the Science Co-op Program and the opportunities that it provides for students. Several Riverside students will speak about their Work Experience placements and the benefits that they gained from the experience.



AFTER GRAD UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2011



Only 5 months left to the big date. If you haven't been getting any of our notices please email Terry Lockett at terrylockett@shaw.ca and get your name on the list! February and March are big months for fundraising, so please consider supporting After Grad in one of the following ways.

1. **Beverage and Burger (or Pasta or Ginger Beef Bowl) Night** – February 25, 6:00 to 11:00 at the Cat and Fiddle Neighbourhood Pub. Please book this night, invite friends, and support our After Grad. Note: students can purchase tickets as there is a dining section there! Tickets are on sale right now and can be picked up at the office. E-mail Donna Miller at rellim5@telus.net for more information. If you have a prize to donate, please let Donna know.
2. **Cruise Lottery** – tickets are on sale for 20.00 each. Only 250 in total will be sold. The prize is for a cruise for 2 to Alaska or Mexican Rivera. Draw will be done Feb. 25 at the Pub night. Please contact Lisa Rahn at lisarahn@shaw.ca to purchase tickets or you can buy yours at the office! We have only about 40 left!
3. **Cash Donation**- we have a committee phoning all grad parents right now. Please consider giving a cash donation to support this event. It is tax deductible!
4. **Purdy's Easter Chocolate Fundraiser** – order forms are in the office. We get 25% of your order back!!! All orders due by March 18.
5. **Our second Movie Ticket fundraiser** – make sure you have yours for the Spring Break. Sales start Feb. 21 and orders are due by March 7.
6. **Gift Card Fundraiser**- You, your family, your friends or your workmates can help support the Riverside 2011 After Grad by simply purchasing your gift cards online from www.studentgcs.com (Group number **78744**). Gift cards are available for a range of popular stores such as Winners, Safeway, Superstore, Starbucks and Chapters along with a number of restaurants such as Earls, Milestones and the Keg. Please see the information sheet on our website for more information.
7. **Canadian Tire Money** – yes, we want it! Please drop it off at the front office.

Get involved in the After Grad celebration!

We have several committees needing volunteers. Come out to our next meeting, **Tuesday, March 8, at 6:45 in the Riverside library** and join the fun! Check out our website for the latest minutes of the meetings and a list of what you can do to help!!

For Kids' Sake!

Parenting Workshops for Moms & Dads

Are you a parent who is going through or has gone through a separation or divorce?



Register for one or more of our free workshops

Location: #200-2540 Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

www.tricitytransitions.com

The Effects of Separation & Divorce on Children

You will learn common child reactions to family break-up; how to recognize when your child may need help; how to recognize and understand your children's feelings; and what is appropriate and not appropriate to share about the break-up with your children.

Tuesday February 22
9:30-11:30 a.m.

-OR-
Tuesday March 29
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Supporting Your Child's Feelings

You will learn ways to support your child when they are sad, angry or worried; how to talk to a child about their feelings and yours; and what your child needs to feel safe and supported during and after a family break-up.

Tuesday March 1
9:30-11:30 a.m.

-OR-
Tuesday April 12
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Effective Co-Parenting

You will come to understand your co-parenting style; learn what you can do to be a cooperative parent; learn ways to keep calm when dealing with a difficult ex-partner; and learn skills for effective communication and conflict resolution.

Tuesday March 8
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Single Parenting

You will learn about the impact of separation and divorce on children; find out how to adjust to parenting independently; and gain skills such as how to discipline and communicate with your children more effectively, so that you can feel more comfortable in your new role as a single parent.

Tuesday March 15
9:30-11:30 a.m.


I'm a Step Parent . . . Now What?



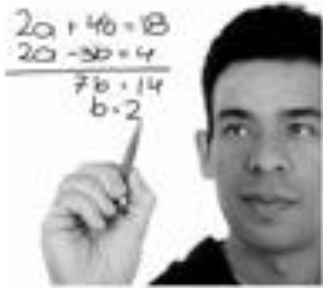

You will learn how to improve your relationship with your step children and how to reduce conflict; how to support family changes and help your child adjust to a new parent; and discover your role as a step-parent in discipline, setting ground rules and more.

Tuesday March 22
9:30-11:30 a.m.

To register, please call 604-941-7111





Face-to-face	Self-paced	Online
		
<p>New Tuition Free GED prep. course!</p> <p>Feb 14 - April 6th. The GED preparation course is ideal for students wanting to prepare for the GED exam. Class runs Mon-Thurs. 3:30-7PM at Montgomery Centre. TUITION FREE for most adults. Call for more information.</p>		
 <p style="font-size: small;">For more information call or visit our web site 604.936.4261 www.ce43.com</p>		

Fine Tune Your Parenting Skills With

STEPS TO EFFECTIVE PARENTING

Teen Program

- ➔ For Parents of teens... ages 11 - 17
- ➔ Communicate Better
- ➔ Raising socially responsible teens

STEP offers a down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers today. It's a group discussion program that paves the way to improved parent-teen relationships; more responsible teenage behaviour in home, school and community; and teenage self-esteem and self-reliance.

Place: Gleneagle Secondary School

Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Dates: Thursday April 7, 14, Wed. April 20th, Thurs. April 21, May 5th, 12th, 19th, 2011 {inclusive}

Facilitated by: Marilyn Abram Itinerant Youth Worker

To register: Phone: 604-230-1563

E-mail: mabram@sd43.bc.ca

Books may be purchased at the first class – cost \$25.

You're invited to:

Swap Meet at Central School

Need new kids items? Love a good deal?

Then come out and shop!

Have too many toys/books/clothes? Need some extra money?

Then book a table and sell it!

WHEN: Saturday, March 12th from 9am until 1pm

WHERE: 2260 Central Ave, Port Coquitlam

COST: Entrance is a donation to the food bank

OVER 50 TABLES TO BE SOLD!

To book a table, contact Natasha by phone at 604-941-6445 or by email at centralschoolfundraising@gmail.com

Tables are \$25.