



## 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. Scott Robinson  
Access our Web page at [www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/riverside](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/riverside)



We have just passed the midway point of the first semester. By this time, you should have received feedback on your child's progress from their teachers. As a result of job action, the [communication from teachers regarding progress](#) may differ from class to class. Regardless, you should feel comfortable knowing how your child is doing and whether it is necessary to work with school support staff to improve your child's current achievement. If your child is in grade 12, you will notice that percentages have been provided by teachers as marks are required for graduation, post-secondary entrance, and scholarships. While job action continues, I can tell you that the staff have continued to work carefully and thoughtfully to balance their efforts in obtaining a new contract with the needs of their students and school. They continue to be very committed to our learners and we are all very fortunate to have an exceptional group of teachers in our community.

The responsibility we all have in developing children is one of the greatest collective duties in our community. We balance encouragement with discipline, feedback with silence, high expectations with sensitivity, structure with flexibility, and the heart with the mind. There are few of us who are motivated by everything we encounter. It's a wonder that we place children in a classroom with four walls, thirty desks, and a curriculum they may or may not find interesting, and see as much engagement as we do. Our current Ministry of Education is taking an analytical look at what we do and why we do it this way, so that we can find more engaging and effective ways for children to learn. While BC has one of the most successful education systems in the world, we are continually looking for ways to increase engagement and learning. For an interesting read, you may want to visit <http://www.bcedplan.ca/> to gain some insight into the Ministry of Education's plan for a new model of educating students. You'll see references to personalized learning, more flexibility in where, when, and how to learn, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and technology. There is no question that the face of education is changing. We look forward to interesting and exciting times ahead.

We are intending to change the format of our electronic newsletters so that they will be replaced with an *ENews* version. This new version will allow us to send information out to you more frequently. You may have received a version of this approximately two weeks ago as part of a trial. We'll continue to adjust our communication with you so that you can get the most current information relevant to you and your child.

Since the winter break arrives early this year (December 17), this will be the final Principal's Message to you before the New Year. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events in November/December, such as the [One Act Short Plays in our River's Edge Theatre](#) on Nov. 24/25/26, the HSBC Classic Basketball Tournament on Dec. 7/8, or our [Music Concert](#) on Dec. 8. *I wish you and your family the very best this holiday season. May it be filled with new experiences, relaxation, and the fondest of memories.*

Anthony Ciolfitto  
Principal

## WINTER BALL

As you may be aware, there has been an attempt over the last two years to shift the culture of our school dances. Our efforts are not intended to take the fun out of the dances, but rather keep the behavioural expectations in line with any other school event, and to keep your children safe. While we are incredibly proud of the way our students conduct themselves on a day to day basis, dances tend to bring a very different culture into the building. Last year, the Halloween dance did not run due to lack of interest as a result of the behavioural expectations we put forward. These expectations were developed together with parents, teachers, and students in the 2009/2010 school year. Winter Ball, however, did run.

Attached you will find a copy of the “waiver” form, which students must have signed by parents prior to purchasing a ticket. This is not only an accountability piece for our students, but a means of informing parents as to the conduct expectations at the school. The other essential recommendation that came from the committee is a requirement to have parent volunteers to help with supervision and concession or coat check. The feeling is that with parent presence alongside teachers, students will be more inclined to engage in behaviour that is appropriate for a school function. If we are unable to secure adequate parent volunteers, the dance will be cancelled. If you are willing to volunteer, the dance takes place on Tuesday December the 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 9:00. Please rsvp to [sroos@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:sroos@sd43.bc.ca).

As well, it has been a tradition at Riverside that parents provide finger food for the Winter Ball. If you are interested in providing some snacks for the senior dance, food can be dropped off at the school office on the afternoon of the dance.

We appreciate your support with this and hope that you can take the time to review the expectations with your son or daughter if they intend on attending this school function. One thing we will be making clear to the grade 12’s is that their participation at the graduation dinner and dance will be subject to their behaviour this school year, particularly with an event like the Winter Ball. As per our school code of conduct, expectations rise as students proceed through our school system. Riverside’s success resides with the actions of our staff and students in exhibiting high levels of pride, trust, responsibility, and care. Thank you for your support.

## HAMPER DRIVE

This busy season concludes with our annual Christmas Hamper drive, involving all students and staff through their Advisory classes. Annually, we are able to help over 60 families at this time of year and are proud to be the largest supplier of hampers in the Tri-Cities. Thank you for your donations of non-perishable items for the hampers.

**On the final day before Christmas break we will have an early dismissal at 12:30** to allow for hampers to be delivered in the afternoon.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 <sup>th</sup>	
BLOCK	TIMES
1	8:00 – 8:45
RAP	9:00 – 9:15
2	9:20 – 10:00
3	10:05 – 10:45
4	10:50 – 11:30
5	11:35 – 12:15
RAP	12:15 – 12:30

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of heavy snowfall, ice, high winds or power outages, please listen to CBC 690 AM. CKNW 980 AM OR CKWX 1130 AM radio stations for possible school closure information. In addition, on inclement weather days, school closure information will be posted on the school district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

### NOVEMBER

23<sup>rd</sup> Riverside Night Market 5 -8 p.m.  
24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> One Act Festival 7:30 p.m.  
25<sup>th</sup> Spirit Assembly

### DECEMBER

6<sup>th</sup> Winter Ball – Senior Dance  
7<sup>th</sup> Community Xmas Dinner  
8<sup>th</sup> Music Concert  
7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> HSBC Classic BB Tournament  
13<sup>th</sup> After-Grad Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
16<sup>th</sup> Last day of School before break  
17<sup>th</sup> Early dismissal 12:30 p.m.  
19<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Winter Vacation

### JANUARY

2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Vacation  
3<sup>rd</sup> School back in session

## **MESSAGE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS FROM THE TEACHERS OF RIVERSIDE SECONDARY**

### Student Progress Reporting

On November 23, report cards will be distributed to students. Grade 12 students were provided with a percentage in each course and related attendance information. This formal reporting is important for graduation, applications to post-secondary institutions and for scholarship and bursary applications.

All other students (grade 9-11) should have received an informal report of some kind from each of their teachers by this time. The format of this report may look different from teacher to teacher and could be a phone call, an e-mail or an anecdotal report. The report, no matter what form it takes, will provide information about your child's progress in each of their courses.

As a parent, if you have not received any communication regarding your child's progress, please first talk to your child as they may have been given an anecdotal report to show you. If you still have questions, please contact the classroom teacher directly.

Once receiving the report card or progress report, if you have concerns about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or school counselor. They will gladly talk to you about your concerns and offer suggestions for improvement.

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### **SCHOLARSHIP PREPARATION FOR GRADE 12'S**

Before Christmas break, grade 12 students should spend some time in the Career Resource Centre (room 213) researching scholarship opportunities. They should also request at least 2 reference letters from teachers, coaches and/or sponsors to use for scholarship applications.

Guidelines for requesting reference letters can be found on the Counselling Department link (shared documents) on the Riverside web page.

Many scholarships and bursaries are available for students in a wide variety of areas. Most students can qualify for several; not all scholarships are given to students with straight A's. Students are responsible for doing the research but can get assistance from Mrs. David or Mrs. Simpson.

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### **DEADLINE for EARLY ADMISSION to SFU, and UVic is FEB 28th; to UBC Jan. 31st**

All BC students are considered "early admission" students because the Ministry transfers marks in late April (after students complete their on-line PSI form by March). This means that BC students are offered a post-secondary seat before all other students in Canada. Students can apply to almost all post-secondary institutions in BC at

[www.applybc.ca](http://www.applybc.ca)

For admission, universities will be looking at semester one final marks **and** the April report card marks.

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### **PEER TUTORS AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Students needing extra support in their academic classes can request a trained peer tutor from their counsellor to supplement the extra help they may be getting from their classroom teacher. This service can be requested by completing the "Peer Tutor Request form" available in the counselling office or on the counselling department link (shared documents) from the Riverside web page. Tutors will be assigned based on availability. We would expect that the student commit to a minimum of 5 hours of tutoring at the school with times to be agreed upon by the student and their tutor.

## SEMESTER TWO SCHEDULES

Students may see their counselor any time between now and the middle of January to request changes to their second semester schedules. Please note that many classes are full and so we may not be able to accommodate the request.

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## SENDING TRANSCRIPTS TO UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

### **PSI electronic selection form instructions for grade 12 students**

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. In order for Ministry to report interim marks this process must be completed by **April 29<sup>th</sup>**. This form is only available until June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams)

Click on Info for students

Click on Student Secure Web

You will be asked to create an account (you will need your PEN number available from your counsellor) or to log-in to your account if you already have one (the account you use to check provincial exam marks)

Once you are into the **Secure Student Web**, click on

Post-Secondary Institutions Selections

Some general information will be provided here. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Select PSI's

If you are applying to any school in BC, select "yes" to "forward my transcripts to all BC Electronic PSI's".

If you are applying to any Ontario schools select "yes" to "forward my transcripts to all OUAC schools".

If you need marks sent to other institutions proceed to "other post-secondary institutions outside of BC". Continue working your way through the page. You are allowed 6 choices free of charge in addition to "all BC" and/or "all Ontario".

Click "next"

Check the box for permission to release marks

Click "confirm"

Check the counselling department web site for more detailed instructions or see your counsellor for assistance.

## CAREER CENTRE INFORMATION

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Students and parents are invited to check out the Career Centre web Site.

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/riverside/Pages/default.aspx> under programs click "Career Centre".

The latest information for post-secondary institutions, admissions information, scholarships, jobs, trades information and more are listed daily. Please visit the Career Centre between 8:30am and 4pm daily or contact Beth David at [bdavid@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:bdavid@sd43.bc.ca)

The structure of Provincial Exam Scholarships has been changed by the Ministry of Education. In the past, in order to qualify for a \$1000 Provincial Scholarship, students were required to write the English 12 exam as well as three other "optional" grade 12 Provincial exams. These optional exams no longer exist.

**Beginning this year**, grade 12 students may qualify for a \$1000 *Examination Scholarship* by meeting the following criteria (as it applies to Riverside Secondary students):

1. Must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident at the time of writing the exams
2. Must fulfill the BC graduation requirements
3. Must earn at least a B (73% or higher) final blended mark in English 12 or Communications 12 or Français-Langue 12 (Immersion). Must earn at **least** one A (86% or higher) and three B's (73% or higher) on the *best four* of the required **exams** (exam mark only will be used in the calculation):
  - English 10
  - Math 10 Foundations and Pre-Calc or Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 10
  - Science 10
  - Social Studies 11 or Sciences Humaines 11
  - English 12 or Communications 12 or Français-Langue 12 (immersion)

**French Immersion students** must write the Français-Langue 12 Provincial exam in order to receive a French Dogwood in addition to their English one. Either the Français-Langue 12 exam mark or the English 12 exam mark, but not both, can be used for Examination Scholarship purposes.

**Re-writes:** The examination re-write rule has been relaxed for one year only (1 September 2011 to 31 August 2012). Students wishing to re-write a required Provincial exam at any grade level may do so by registering with the school counsellor. Students should discuss their plans with their counsellor before making a decision to re-write. Final marks are determined by blending the best school mark with the best exam mark so a lower re-write exam mark will not negatively affect the final mark.

**Note:** *Optional grade 12 Provincial exams that may have been taken in previous school years will not count toward an Examination Scholarship. Students who wrote an optional Grade 12 exam **last school year** may ask to have the optional exam mark removed as there is no longer an opportunity to re-write the exam (with the exception of English 12). See your counsellor for details.*

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## 6600 POUNDS OF FOOD COLLECTED FOR SHARE FOOD BANK

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It takes a community working together to make a difference. A huge thank you to everyone involved in our

### "Halloween for Hunger"

**Campaign** which took place on the night of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to our Riverside students who went door to door collecting non-perishable food items and to our feeder schools (Pitt River, Citadel Middle, Hazel Trembath Elementary, Mary Hill Elementary, Castle Park Elementary) who collected donations at their respective schools. Together we collected an amazing

**6,600 pounds** of non-perishable food items

for the **Tri-City Share Food Bank**. Teens making a difference, ya gotta love it!



## FREE COLLEGE COURSE OFFERING

In partnership with Douglas College, we are able to offer our students a new course called Exploring Perspectives-CCSD 2170 which will allow our students to engage in an investigation of various exceptionalities (disabilities), current attitudes, and societal/cultural perspectives that relate to the individuals who live with an array of disabilities. This course is designed for students who are considering future education in medicine and other health sciences careers, education, psychology, sports medicine, social work, cultural and immigrant studies and leadership.

Interested students should complete a Douglas College Application Form as well as a Concurrent Form from the Career Centre. Students must be in Grade 12 in order to take the course and they should discuss this option with their Counsellor when signing up for their grade 12 courses. Have your Counsellor provide you with an interim transcript and sign the concurrent application form. Send the completed package to **Ms. Selden** ASAP with all applications due no later than Friday, December 9. Douglas College will notify students by early January of their acceptance. There is no course fee or application fee. However, the students will need to purchase a textbook with approximate cost of \$35.

### Additional Information:

1. 3 credit Douglas College Course- 4 credit high school course.
2. Orientation at Gleneagle on Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 in the Library
3. Classes run Tuesday February 7 to Tuesday May 29 at 2:30-5:30, David Lam Campus, room TBA
4. No classes on March 13 and March 20 during Spring Break
5. Students will attend during Douglas College's READING WEEK
6. High School mark will be 70% provided by the Douglas College Instructor and 30% provide by the Skill Development teacher

River's Edge Theatre

# One Act Festival Of Short Shorts

**THEATRE FOR THE MODERN ATTENTION SPAN...**

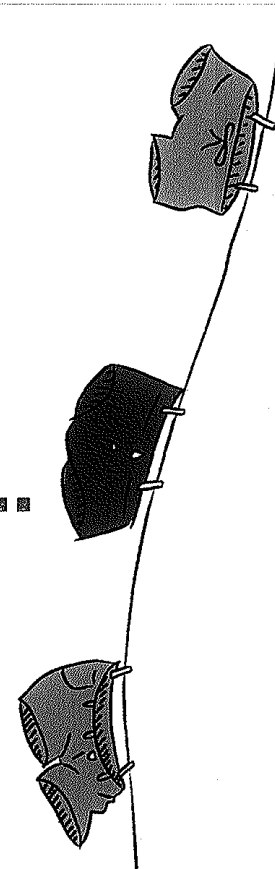
Riverside Secondary School

November 24, 25, 26 7:30pm Show

Tickets only \$5 and only at the door

2215 Reeve Street, PoCo

Join River's Edge on Facebook





## INTERESTED IN TRAVELLING TO EUROPE?

Next spring break, the opportunity exists for Riverside students to travel abroad to Europe and visit some of the most culturally significant historical, economic and political landmarks in the world. Our trip revolves around our sister school in Florence, Italy and takes us through some of the most breathtaking landscapes and topography in all of Europe. If you've always wanted to sample some of the flavors, experience the warmth and sights of Europe, this is your opportunity. Our two week trip itinerary has us visiting Florence and the Tuscan region including the cities of San Gimignano, Vinci and Sienna. A day trip to Venice is planned where students are offered the opportunity to ride a gondola and experience some of the Muslim influence that once penetrated Europe. While in Florence, Riverside students will be hosted by students from Alessandro Volta, our sister school, in the historic district of Bagno di Ripoli. The opportunity to take in a first division soccer game featuring the Fiorentina, also exists. Visiting historical monuments and museums in Florence would make up a part of the tour. Once through the Tuscan region, the trip would continue south into Rome and then further south into Pompeii. We then fly to Paris, France for a three day stay visiting the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, The Louvre and L'arc de Triumph. While travelling, students would stay in hotels which include breakfast and dinner. Lunches would have to be purchased separately. The trip fee of \$4100 includes air fare, travel insurance, hotel fees, museum and monument entrance fees, and tips for guides and transportation by privately chartered bus while travelling.

If you are interested in participating on this trip, you can pick up an application form on the European Exchange bulletin board located outside Rm. 124 in the main hallway or in the main office of the school. Application forms can also be downloaded from Mr. Luongo's share-point site on our school home page. For further inquiries feel free to contact Mr. Luongo at [mluongo@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mluongo@sd43.bc.ca) or Ms. Weir at [bweir@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:bweir@sd43.bc.ca), at your convenience.

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## RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

The Riverside Christmas Craft Fair was successful once again in raising money for After Grad. A big thank you goes out to all the parents and students and staff who volunteered their time to help out on Friday set up, Saturday at the fair, and Saturday clean up. Many hands made the job lighter and more fun. Thank you also to all the people who provided a wonderful assortment of baked goodies for our bake table. The best yet!! Hope to see many of you again next year.

**Toni Allen**  
**Riverside Craft Fair Coordinator**  
**After-Grad Committee**

On behalf of the staff, students, and parents we would like to extend our appreciation to Toni Allen and the After Grad committee members, as well as all of the parents who helped by donating items to the craft fair. An incredible amount of time and energy goes into this event, and our students benefit greatly from this hard work. Congratulations to Toni Allen and all others involved on a very successful event.

**Riverside Administration**

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## PAC NEWS

The December PAC meeting has been cancelled.

We look forward to seeing you all at the PAC meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the library.  
Enjoy your winter break!

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Hello Parents and Guardians of Riverside Secondary Students,

A new school year is underway and your PAC is once again working hard to make a difference in the lives of your children by contributing time and money for items and programs requested by Riverside students, teachers and administration.

Your PAC wants to help provide your children with a full and enriched scholastic experience and is therefore asking for a donation. Here are a few examples of PAC funded items :

• Guest speakers	• Recreational equipment
• Uniforms (Sports and Music)	• Awards and ceremonies
• Subscriptions	• New and replacement equipment
• Competitions	• Extra-curricular activities

The Riverside PAC is asking parents for a contribution of \$10.00 per student although any amount is appreciated as we recognize these are financially difficult times for many.

All donations are confidential. Please bring your cash or cheque to the school office. Please make cheques payable to *Riverside Secondary School*.

**You can get a 2011 tax receipt for donations of \$25 or more if received by December 15, 2011.** If you would like a receipt for your donation of \$25.00 or more, please fill out the form below and return it with your cheque. A receipt will be mailed out to you from School District 43.

For further information please contact PAC executive Dirk Rohde at [dirk.rohde@solarsoft.com](mailto:dirk.rohde@solarsoft.com) or Anthony Ciolfitto, Principal at [ACiolfitto@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:ACiolfitto@sd43.bc.ca)

Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ (*blank for Poco*)

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque \_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_



# RIVERSIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL



## STUDENT WAIVER FORM FOR WINTER BALL

**Tuesday December 6TH, 2011**

**6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Students: \$12 early bird/\$15 regular**

**Guests: \$17 regular**

***Please print:***

Name of Riverside Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that Riverside School Dances are school functions and I agree to abide by the conditions and rules as listed on this form.

Riverside Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTE: This form must be completed in order to be eligible to purchase a ticket.***

### ***Rules of Riverside Secondary School Events:***

- *Not be in possession or under the influence of alcohol/drugs.*
  - *Not threaten, harass, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community.*
  - *Respect the school's physical facilities.*
  - *Treat supervisors with respect.*
  - *Behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times.*
  - *Abide by Riverside High School appropriate dress code (see agenda).*
  - *Not engage in dancing of an overtly sexual nature (grinding).*
  - *Once a student has entered the dance they are not permitted to leave early unless they are going home.*
  - *Student ID is required for admission into the dance.*
  - *Beverage containers of any kind are prohibited (concession is available).*
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- *Failure to abide by the preceding expectations will result in removal from the dance and may result in school based discipline.*

**Riverside Secondary School reserves the right to refuse entrance to the dance to any person at any time.**

Proudly Presents

# "New Ministry of Education Directions: What Can We Expect for Our Children?"



SouthSide Family of Schools  
Parent Education

An Evening with

Maureen Dockendorf,

Assistant Superintendent and Ministry Advisor

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

6:45 - 8:30pm

at Central Elementary School

Cost: \$3/adult or \$5/couple

Free Childminding available with  
Advance registration at [ssfspe@gmail.com](mailto:ssfspe@gmail.com)

**BEST BUDDIES**



**VRALS COPAINS**



**BEST BUDDIES CANADA** is a national charitable organization that helps provide meaningful friendships for people with special needs. Through Best Buddies, students with special needs are matched in friendships based on their interests. They spend time enjoying the same experiences most people take for granted – going for coffee, watching a movie, doing a craft, or simply enjoying the company of a friend. This year, the Riverside Best Buddies program is fundraising for our program by selling layered cookie mix for \$5 a jar (chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin). If you have any **1 litre jars** (regrettably we can't accept pickle jars as they retain their odor) at home that you could donate to the school (room 116) it would be a huge help! Also, if you are interested in buying a holiday jar of cookie mix they will be sold in the foyer at lunch from Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> or send an e-mail to [jblaxland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:jblaxland@sd43.bc.ca)