



Riverview Park Elementary

Mrs. A. Young, Principal

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December 2021

In learning and in life, we at Riverview Park Elementary are responsible, kind, and curious.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December	6	Staff Meeting, 3:00 PM PAC Meeting via TEAMS, 7:00 PM -- Join on your computer or mobile app Click here to join the meeting
	9	Hot Lunch (White Spot), 12:05 – 12:20 PM
	13	Toque and Scarf Spirit Day!
	14	Red and Green Spirit Day!
	15	Holiday Sweater Spirit Day!
	16	Santa Hat Spirit Day! Santa Breakfast – A&W Pancakes, 9:00 AM
	17	Festive PJ Spirit Day! Last Day of School Before Winter Break
January	4	School Re-Opens After Winter Break

Principal's Message

December is upon us and holidays are just around the corner already. As we bring a close to 2021, the festive season will be different again this year – at school, at home, at work, in the community. December is typically a time of gathering and celebrating, sharing festive treats, and singing. While things continue to be different this year, we are finding ways to share in some festive spirit in the remaining weeks of school prior to the winter break.

At the heart of this season of sharing and caring, is **the spirit of giving**. As in past years, the RVP PAC would like to help families in need of community support in the SD43 district by **collecting donations for three family Christmas Hampers**. Thank you to Ms. Jen Jensen for coordinating this annual project. Please be sure to check out the details in the PAC Update below. A School Cash Online Notification was sent out to all families who are able to make a cash donation to support our annual Adopt-a-Family Fundraiser. As well, an overview of wish list items for each family went home with students last week (green flyer).

The Kindergarten Elves are back this year, **collecting non-perishable food items** each day in December. The non-perishable food items are already flooding in – thank you for your generous support!

Mrs. Wragg and the students and staff are working hard to prepare a **virtual Christmas Concert this year, featuring one musical performance from every class**. The Christmas Banners are back this year and will form the backdrop of our Concert Stage. Thank you to Mrs. Erin Heinrichs for coordinating the technical pieces so that we can share this experience with families virtually prior to the holidays.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season, however you spend it. I am hoping for peace and calm, time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to a kinder and gentler 2022. I do hope you all find the silver lining that is there and are able to connect with your family and friends this holiday season.

Best wishes!

Anita Young

INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards were sent home with all students on Friday, December 3. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's Report Card, please contact your child's teacher directly. Thank you so much to our entire staff for their hard work and attention to detail throughout the reporting process. This takes a considerable amount of time and care, including the collecting and gathering of reporting data/evidence, individual conferencing with students, and drafting a meaningful and informative report card for students. I read each and every report card and it is very evident that the teachers know their students well and worked hard to communicate student learning to families this term.

MASK AT SCHOOL

Just a reminder that all students are required to wear masks at school. We do have masks available for students who forget to bring one, but we have just been informed that schools will have to start paying for their own student masks once the district supplies are gone. Some students go through 2-3 masks per day as they get lost, torn, or need to be replaced. We will continue to provide masks for students as needed, but it is helpful if students can remember to bring a mask from home and have 1 or 2 extras in their backpack in case they need a replacement throughout the day. Thank you for your support and understanding.

PLANNING FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Plans for the upcoming school year are already underway. Please see the overview below for information on Kindergarten Registration, the Cross-Catchment Application Process, and Programs of Choice Options. For more detailed information, please visit www.sd43.bc.ca where you will find more information under top tabs 'Schools' and 'Programs'.

Kindergarten Registration

Children who are five years old on or before December 31, 2022 may enter school in September 2022. Kindergarten registration will be held between February 1 and February 4, 2022 via online forms. These online forms will be available on our school website at the time of registration. For more information, please visit the district site at: [KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

Cross Catchment

Parents sometimes wish for their children to attend a school that is not their catchment school. In such cases, a Cross Catchment Application is required after registering at their catchment school. School District 43 uses a random draw process for Cross Catchment applications (using in-district priority, then out-of-district).

Cross Catchment application forms, along with more information about the process, can be accessed online at [CROSS CATCHMENT - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca). The Cross Catchment process is open from Friday, February 4, 2022, 9 AM to Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 4 PM.

Programs of Choice

SD43 offers Programs of Choice for families who may be interested in different learning opportunities for their children. These include Early French Immersion (Kindergarten Entry), Late French Immersion (Grade 6 Entry), Early Montessori Program (K-5), Late Montessori Program (6-8), Mandarin Bilingual Program (K-12), and the Reggio Influenced Program (K-5).

Programs of Choice – On-Line Applications for Kindergarten

The online application process for Kindergarten Programs of Choice opens on January 6, 2022 at 9:00 AM and closes on January 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The link to the application will be posted on the district website:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca>

Parents must apply within this time period in order for their child to be considered for placement. Selection will be done by a random lottery draw with priority given to younger siblings of students who will be attending the Program of Choice at the same school in September 2022.

Children who are not successfully placed will be on a waitlist and must register for Kindergarten at their catchment school. Parents who currently have a child attending a Program of Choice and wish their upcoming Kindergarten child to enter must still apply and indicate “Confirmation of Sibling Status applies.” Please ensure we have your most current address. For more information on Programs of Choice, please visit:

[Programs - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

Late Programs of Choice – On-Line Applications for Middle School

The online application process for Late Programs of Choice for Middle School opens January 6, 2022 at 9:00 AM and closes January 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM. The link to the application will be posted on the school district website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca>

Parents must apply within this time period for their child to be considered for placement. Selection will be done by a random lottery draw with priority given to younger siblings of students who will be attending the Program of Choice at the same school in September 2022.

Children who are not successfully placed will be on a waitlist. Parents who currently have a child attending a Program of Choice and wish their upcoming child to enter must still apply and indicate “Confirmation of Sibling Status applies.” Students currently enrolled in Grade 5 Montessori must apply if they wish to continue in Grade 6 Montessori. For more information on Programs of Choice, please visit: [Programs - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

GRADE 5 UPDATES

Catchment Letter

All parents of Grade 5 students will be receiving the annual Catchment Area letter this month which will indicate your child’s catchment Middle School based on the address we have on file. If your address is incorrect and you believe your child should attend a different school, you must contact the office as soon as possible so that the documentation on file can be updated. This is an important part of our process for transitioning students in Grade 5 to their new school for September.

Grade 5 Hoodies and T-Shirts Coming Soon!

We are finalizing details for the annual Grade 5 Hoodies and T-Shirts. Thank you to Mrs. Shelley Frick for coordinating with our clothing supplier. All students have had an opportunity to choose sizing and colours according to preference. While students were not able to try hoodies and t-shirts on, students had an individual opportunity with the help of Mrs. Young to approximate a size based on samples provided. Look for the School Cash Online Notification to go out some time this week. We are just confirming pricing.

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

SD43 has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children’s social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

This year, the MDI will be administered to students in Grade 5 across the school district. An information letter was sent to parents of Grade 5 students last week with more details about the questionnaire and our timeline for completion.

GRADE 4 FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA) UPDATE

The Grade 4 Foundation Skills Assessment results for your child will be returned to parents prior to the holidays. Please watch for this in the coming week or two.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Thank you so much for your continued support in completing a morning Daily Health Check prior to sending your child(ren) to school. We have appreciated the tremendous support from our entire school community as everyone's collective efforts have helped us enjoy a healthier building throughout the fall term. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

PAC NEWS

PAC Meeting – December 6 at 7:00 PM

PAC Meetings this year will be held via TEAMS. The December PAC Meeting will be held on Monday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. All parents are welcome! Please click the link to join:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

PAC Fundraiser Update

Purdy's Chocolates

Thank you so much to our generous RVP Community for supporting this year's Purdy's Chocolates Fundraiser. With your generosity, the PAC has raised over \$800 towards school initiatives! Thank you so much to Ms. Tanya Adams for coordinating this year's fundraiser. If you have not yet picked up your chocolates, they are available for pick-up at the Main Office.

Adopt-a-Family

RVP has committed to helping three families in need of community support in the SD43 district this holiday season. More detailed information on what donations are needed and how to donate was sent home with students last week. Donations will be accepted directly at school or via School Cash Online.

Santa Breakfast

In a typical school year, the school community comes together for pancakes and holiday magic in the gymnasium. This year, the PAC is finding a COVID-safe way to bring this tradition to students. On Thursday, December 16, every student will receive a pancake breakfast and milk. Pancakes will be delivered by 9:00 AM. Santa may even make a physically-distanced appearance outside each classroom. Please place an order on the Hot Lunch site to help cover the cost of the pancakes/drink (\$5 per order). Every student will receive breakfast, regardless if an order is placed or not. Each child will ONLY receive one order of pancakes.

DPAC News

DPAC is hosting an opportunity for families to learn more about Post-Secondary opportunities in BC. For more information on this virtual session, including the date and time of the event, please see the attached flyer.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS – OUT OF SCHOOL TIME OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN

Our District Community Connections and Healthy Living Coordinator, Jeff Stromgren, has provided a seasonal update on out of school time opportunities for children in our communities. Please see attached.

WINTER WEATHER

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if 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 AM** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 AM 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>

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic Safety Tip #3 – Courtesy of New PAC Vice-Chair, Min Hsieh

As a new parent to RVP, I tried both options – parking in the neighborhood and walking, as well as driving up to school and looping through the round-about. I am typically pressed for time as most parents and now three months into the school year, I have learned that parking close-by and walking is faster, especially during pick-up. I ask my kids to wait for me at a designated spot and they are often already there and waiting for me by the time I arrive on foot. They see me, come towards me, and we walk over to the car. Quick and painless.

Traffic Congestion at Drop-Off and Pick-Up – IMPORTANT Safety Reminders!

Our morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up has been very busy, especially on rainy days. **The traffic congestion has been challenging and, in some cases, unsafe for children.** Please do your part to help ease congestion as much as possible by remembering our drop-off and pick-up rules included in this update below.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety Reminders

Please review the following important safety rules and please help us keep all our children safe by following these rules every day, even when you are in a hurry.

- 1. Drop-Off/Pick-Up Lane:** Please remain at your vehicle at all times during drop-off and pick-up and when in the drop-off/pick-up lane.
- 2. Parking and Round-About:** The five parking spots in the round-about are the only places where parking is permitted. At no time are parents permitted to leave their cars in the round-about area and students are not to be taken to the cars that are waiting in this area. When waiting in the round-about, cars are to proceed to the pick-up lane when space becomes available.
- 3. Through Lane:** Please do not drop students off or pick students up while stopped for traffic in the through lane. Cars pull out quickly and unexpectedly and this is a concern for student safety.

4. **The Quick Goodbye:** As much as possible, when in the drop-off lane, ensure your child is ready to go and can exit the vehicle without your assistance. Even the extra minute or two that is required when parents need to exit the vehicle and assist students can really slow things down and add to the congestion.

5. **Street Parking Option:** Avoid the congestion all together and park on one of the streets close to the school and walk the rest of the way.

6. **Delayed Pick-Up:** For families with older children, you may wish to delay your pick-up at the end of the day by a few minutes to allow for congestion to clear. Sometimes, a matter of 5-7 minutes can make a significant difference in reducing traffic congestion.

Thank you very much for your support of these important safety rules during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. If you have a family member picking up your child, please be sure to explain the safety rules associated with drop-off and pick-up.