



Riverview Park Elementary

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Newsletter 12 December 2018



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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December	21	Last day of school before the winter break
	21	Santa Breakfast - 7:45-9:00am
	21	Afternoon assembly / slide show / sing-a-long 2:00pm
	Dec. 24-Jan. 4	Winter Break
January	7	School Reopens

Principal's Message

Well, at times, some of the topics I talk about in this section of the newsletter require some thought, introspection and insight and at other times, the topic comes up naturally from things that have happened at school. While, for now, I will use this section as an opportunity to wish everyone well, I know that in January, when I need to more readily acknowledge my leaving RVP, I will be in the position to draw from both sides and to try and condense seven years into one section. It won't be easy and I'm glad I have some time to contemplate how I will do this.

In the meantime, we are in the last week of school for 2018 and as always, I feel fortunate and honoured to be working with and among such a dedicated and committed group of professionals - the staff of RVP. The individuals that make up the RVP staff are one of a kind. They are always willing to help out and step in anytime there is a need. They do not say, "No" to new challenges, but instead look at how they can work together to make the most out of any challenge so that it benefits your children. For this, they are to be deeply commended. Thank you staff for all that you have done, all that you do, and all that you will continue to do. You make every day fun! Have a wonderful break!

To the students of RVP, you continue to dazzle and amaze me with your maturity, your ability to problem solve, and your willingness to take risks. You consistently meet the challenges of whatever comes your way and you do it extremely well. Here's wishing you a happy holiday!

To our parents, we could not do what we do without your support. Support shows itself in many ways, and a big part of the reason why our students, your children, succeed is because of this support. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for your belief that what we do makes a difference.

I feel fortunate to have various district staff members in our school to help and assist us when necessary and the knowledge that they are here for us to provide extra support when and if it is needed. Their efforts are appreciated!

Finally, a special thank you to our PAC. At this time of year there are many things happening that would not happen if we did not have PAC members who give their time to assist in the many, many things that go on now (and throughout the year). These core group of parents work tirelessly to ensure that things get done around the school, and they do this because it matters and it makes a difference in the lives of your children. We are hoping to get even more parents out to assist us, because if we can, there will be even more opportunities for your children.

From all of us at RVP to all of you, we wish you a warm, happy holiday with friends and family and all the best in 2019!

Dennis

Santa's Breakfast

We hope to see you on Friday morning for our Santa Breakfast. Please note that the breakfast will run from 7:45-9:00am. This is a great way for our community to come together one last time in 2018 and it is an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know new families that attend RVP.

Kindergarten registration and the Cross catchment process

Kindergarten registration will take place from February 4th-6th. Parents are to register their children at their neighbourhood (catchment) school. If they wish for their children to go to a different school, they need to complete a cross-catchment form (which will be available on the district website: www.sd43.bc.ca beginning at 9:00am on February 7th and closing at 4:00pm on February 13th). There are two separate applications: (1) Kindergarten cross catchment, and (2) Grades 1-12 cross catchment. More details can be seen at www.sd43.bc.ca/Schools/Pages/CrossCatchment.aspx.

Programs of Choice

There are various programs of choice that are offered at different levels (elementary, middle). Such programs include: Early / Late French Immersion program, Early / Late Montessori program, Mandarin Bilingual Program, and Reggio Influenced Program. Each of these programs have specific dates for registration and they all have parent informational meetings, which take place in mid-January. Information about each of these programs has been included with the newsletter and will be posted on our school's SharePoint site at: www.sd43.bc.ca/riverviewpark

Make School Zones Safer

Please check out the link at:

http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/riverviewpark/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=26&ListID=3a3d4f95-9707-4ac1-8ddf-8c3534d94de1&TemplateID=Announcement_Item for information about school zone safety. Help us spread the word to make school zones safer!

Christmas Concert

A big thank you to all the staff, particularly Mrs. Wragg, for the work that was done to make our Christmas concert outstanding. Thank you also to parents and family members who were able to come to the dress rehearsal and / or either (or both) of the two performances. As always, a big thank you to all our students who continually meet and exceed the expectations we set for them.

I am always amazed at the level of confidence that our students possess. Performances such as this are ones that allow our students to shine and build confidence in themselves throughout the process of learning their songs, lines, and movements. There are also numerous other skills that they are learning and practicing (that they may not even be aware of) that build independence and resilience - two things that are pivotal in their development. It is always a treat to see how everything comes together and as I said in each of the performances, every staff member has played a part in the development and success of this program. Well done everybody!!

Food Donations to SHARE

Thank you for all your food donations! Our kindergarten elves worked hard to collect and sort all the food that was brought into classrooms. All food has been packed and will be picked up on Friday morning. Thank you to all our elves for all their work and for Mrs. Bellet for organizing the food drive.

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

Grade four students will be bringing home information about a survey they will be completing in January called the Middle Years Development Index (MDI). The purpose of the MDI is to learn about the health and well-being of students 9-12 (grade 4 and grade 7 students are asked to take part). If you require any additional information, please email me (dshannon@sd43.bc.ca) for more details. Please note that this survey is voluntary and you may request that your child not take part. If so, please fill out the form on the back page and send it to the school. Thank you.

School Closure due to Inclement Weather

We have been quite fortunate (thus far) with respect to the weather (excluding some of the days of monsoon type rain!). The weather will not always cooperate so this information is very important.

As a general expectation, schools will remain open. If extreme weather conditions cause you to be unsure or if local conditions are unsafe, you may keep your child at home or arrange for an early dismissal. If schools are to be closed before morning classes begin, an announcement will be made on local radio stations (CKWX news 1130; CKNW 980) early in the morning. If schools in the district are closed for the day, you will be able to find out on our district webpage (www.sd43.bc.ca) by 7:00am (at the latest). If there is an accumulation of snow, please remember to dress students in clothing suitable for playing in the snow, to avoid disappointment and cold fingers. Snow pants and boots are always a great idea and don't forget an extra pair of gloves or mitts. Please be sure that even on those wet days (when schools are not closed) that you make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather as we will be outside as often as possible. We want students to come to school prepared for the outdoors in much the same way we expect them to be prepared to learn indoors.

While we do our best to make sure that salt is on the ground on colder / icy days, please remind your children to be careful in the mornings as it can be very slippery, especially on wood and leaves, both on the school grounds and in the community. Cement can also be misleading, especially at the back of the school, where less sunlight gets through (especially in the early morning hours).

Have any photos of students?

If you have taken any photos of students either around the school, in their classroom, or on field trips, please download them to the following website: <https://rvp43.smugmug.com/upload/TqWCQ2/rvp2018> (viewing password is: riverview).

A big thank you to Sean Bikadi for taking pictures in and around the school, the photo display in the front foyer, and for doing the various slideshows that we show in the gym as well as on the digital frames in the office. This is a big job and Sean has been instrumental in highlighting all our youngsters in various action poses!

PAC News

Parent Voice presentation

This event is open to **ALL** parents of District 43 students. Please note that childminding is not available.

Event flyer is attached (to this newsletter) that contains all the information.

EVENT: Using Your Parent Voice at Your School & Beyond (free parent info session)
DATE: Monday, January 14, 2019
TIME: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
LOCATION: Gallery Room – Winslow Centre (1100 Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam)
SPEAKERS: Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC President) & John Gaipman (BCCPAC CEO)

ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://dpac43parentvoice2019.eventbrite.ca>

DETAILS: This session will focus on educating parents to better equip them to navigate and understand the process, protocols & procedures of the district; why positive relationships with teachers & admin staff at the school level are important, & clarity on the roles & responsibilities of all involved.

PAC meetings are held in the school library and begin at 7:00pm (typically on the first Monday of each month). Our PAC Meeting Schedule is as follows:

January 14, 2019

February 4, 2019

March 4, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 6, 2019

June 3, 2019 (PAC AGM and Elections)

Santa's Breakfast

We hope to see you at the Santa Breakfast this Friday! It takes place in the gym this Friday (Dec. 21st) from 7:45-9:00am.

District / Community News

A message from Craig Mah, principal of Walton Elementary:

Dear Parents,

Walton Elementary has several spots available for Grade 4 and Grade 5 Mandarin Bilingual for September 2019.

Children entering the program at these grades must have a sufficient level of Mandarin and English language that will be determined by a Mandarin teacher. Prospective students will be assessed by a Mandarin teacher before a spot is offered to your family. Assessments will be done in January and February.

If you are interested in joining the Mandarin Bilingual Program at Grade 4 or 5 next year, please email me to set up an appointment for an assessment.

You can email me at cmah@sd43.bc.ca to arrange an appointment. Please email me before January 11, 2019.

Many thanks for your interest in our program.

Regards,

Craig Mah
Principal
Walton Elementary School

Please feel free to check out the Publications and Community Listings and links on our district webpage at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/publications.aspx>