



Riverview Park Elementary

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Newsletter 15 January 31 2019

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

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| February | 1 | Artstarts - Kelly Haines - 9:00am ("A Birdy Told Me So") |
| | 1,6,8,13,20,25,27 | KidsCAN Theatre in the gym - Tangled; performance March 6 at 2:00pm in the gym; March 8 at 7:30pm in the gym |
| | 4-6 | Kindergarten registration |
| | 4,11,25 | Mixed media art - 3:00-4:00pm in the StrongStart room (Feb 4); in the library (Feb 11, 25) |
| | 5 | Cupcake Day (PAC Sponsored) - to be served after lunch |
| | 7 | Student Led Conferences / Early Dismissal (1:43) - for all students |
| | 7,14,21,28 | Elementary General STEM Jr. - 3:00-4:00pm in the Strong Start Room (#1) |
| | 12,19,26 | Omega Gymnastics in the gym at lunch 12:05-12:45 |
| | 14 | Valentine's Day |
| | 14,21,28 | Introduction to Coding (grs. 3-5) - 3:00-4:00pm in the computer lab |
| | 15 | School Not in Session |
| | 18 | BC Family Day |
| | 22 | Professional Development Day |

Principal's Message

Good evening everyone. Today was a very emotional day, probably for a lot of people. For me, it was also a flattering day and a day of fulfillment.

As an administrator, I know that there is only a certain period of time I am able to spend at a school. As such, the thought about what that final day will look and feel like is something that I have thought about many times over the years. Each time that I have done that, I have quickly forced the thought(s) out of my mind because I simply did not know and I could not allow myself to ponder the feelings that would go with it.

Over the past six weeks, I have had time to think about this and I still forced it out of my mind, hoping that as that day came closer, I'd be better able to handle it.

Yesterday afternoon was the first time it really registered that today would be my final day and that I had to come to terms with this. This morning was even worse. It was while I was at home, making my lunch that I became overwhelmed with the thought of what today would bring. I thought about what I would say to students, staff and parents, and what they might say to me. I shed tears as I reflected about RVP and what I have learned while being here. I honestly did not know if I would be able to speak

in front of the school as I really did not know for sure if I'd be able to speak without completely breaking down.

Fortunately, I was able to do better than I ever thought I would, and this is what I want to highlight. In all our lives, we are faced with situations that seem overwhelming. We second guess ourselves and think that we might not be able to handle it, and when that moment of doubt creeps in, it becomes easier for us to step down. We think that we may not be able to get through it, and we worry about it, but we do get through these things and we can get through them. It is during times like these that giving up or stepping down may be all that we can believe we can do. In fact, we convince ourselves to because it's easier to step down when we are faced with challenging situations.

I was able to get through it and I did better than I ever imagined I would. The same is true for each and every one who is faced with such a situation, so here is my best advice: take risks, allow yourselves to be vulnerable, and don't give up.

Thank you to everyone - staff, parents, students, and community - for seven wonderful years. I could not have done it without you, and you made every day a joy. I will miss you all and I wish you all good health, happiness, and hope for a rewarding and enlightening future.

Love,

Dennis Shannon
Principal
Irvine Elementary (in a few hours ☺)

PS - It's a long and winding road, that leads through all our lives,
although we must round many turns, and conquer many mountains.
At the road's end, the sun will always shine,
but you and I have memories,
longer than the road that stretches out ahead.

A message for parents of grade five students

This is an early request from Sean Bikadi (our fabulous parent photographer) for parents of grade five students to send him a baby picture of your child. We wanted to do this early so that we could get a great response. He asks that you please include the following information along with the picture:

- Your child's name
- Their current division / teacher

Please email your child's picture to Sean at: bicardiwithlime@yahoo.ca. Thank you!

Reminders about picking up and dropping off your children

Just a reminder to please remain at your vehicles during pick up and drop off times when in the pick-up / drop off lane. Especially in the afternoon, it is crucial that parents remain at their vehicles. When parents leave their cars (even "just for a minute"), traffic backs up and becomes a challenge.

Also, please note that the five parking spots in the round-about are the only places where parking is permitted (in or around the round-about). As such, students, accompanied by their parents or guardians, are able to walk to these places. 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 the round about area. When waiting in the round-about area, cars are to proceed to the pick-up lane when space becomes available.

Also, please do not make any U-turns anywhere around the round-about area. There have been a few instances of this and it is not permitted.

For those who dislike the congestion at the end of the day, my suggestion would be to arrange a place for your child to wait for you and then come to the school a little after the bell (the pick-up lane is often quite clear a short time after the dismissal bell at the end of the day - usually within 5-7 minutes).

Finally, on days when your child is going on a field trip, with parents driving, at the beginning of the school day, please do not park and wait in the drop off / pick up lane. After you have dropped off your child, we need to keep this lane clear for other parents who are dropping off their child. You may return a little later (after 8:50) to allow children to be dropped off and the lane to be clear. Thank you.

If you have a family member picking up your child, please be sure to explain this process to them.

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.

School Closure due to Inclement Weather

We have been quite fortunate (thus far) with respect to the weather. 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).

PAC News

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:

February 4, 2019

March 4, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 6, 2019

June 3, 2019 (PAC AGM and Elections)

After School Programs

Here is a list of the programs running during and after school (so far this term):

KidsCAN Theatre – runs Wed and Fri. at lunch in the gym (12:05-12:50). Runs until March 6th (make up days for Friday Feb. 15th and 22nd are Monday Feb 25th and Monday March 4). Finale will be presented to the school at 2:00pm on Wed. March 6th and the evening performance will be on Friday, March 8th at at 7:30pm.

MoreSports – cancelled this term as there were only 5 students that signed up. We will look at running this program again in the spring.

Omega Gymnastics – in the gym on Tuesdays at lunch from Feb. 12th to March 12th (12:05-12:45)

Science Alive – Elementary General STEM jr (K-2) – in the Strongstart room (#1) on Thursdays from 2:45-4:00; runs from Thursday, Jan. 24th to Mar. 14.

Science Alive – Introduction to Coding (grs. 3-5) on Thursdays from 2:45-4:00pm in the computer lab from Thursday, Jan. 24th to Thursday, Feb. 21st (they will miss Feb 7th – because of the early dismissal and student led conferences)

Mixed media art class – on Mondays after school in the library (except on staff meeting days, where they will be in the Strongstart room instead) from 3:00-4:00pm from Feb 4th to April 15th (excluding spring break)

Basketball – Coached by Mr. Morrison and Mr. Ross, basketball will run on Wednesdays in the gym after school and at lunch time on Mondays and Thursdays.

District / Community News

Tri-City Eagles Field Hockey - please see the attachment included with this newsletter.

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>