



# Riverview Park Elementary

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Newsletter 4 October 15 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

<b>October</b>	15-18	Waste Reduction Week - Litterless Lunch week
	16,23,26,30	BOKS (Building our Kids Success) in the mornings in the gym from 8:00am - 8:40am
	16,23,30	<u>Moresports</u> - after school 3:00-4:30 in the gym or outside; registration open on school website <a href="http://www.sd43.bc.ca/riverviewpark">www.sd43.bc.ca/riverviewpark</a> (for students in grs. 1-5)
	17,24	<u>Lasermasters</u> - in the library from 3:00-4:30pm (registration ongoing); PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OCT. 10 <sup>TH</sup> CLASS WILL BE IN THE MUSIC ROOM FROM 2:00-3:30
	17,24	<u>3 o'clock theatre</u> from 3:00-4:00pm in the gym ( <b>PLEASE NOTE</b> : class on Oct. 10 will be from 2:00-3:00pm); <b>registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 28 via hot lunch website</b>
	18,25	<u>Science Alive</u> from 3-4pm (room TBD) - <b>Registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 1 via vendor website</b>
	19	Professional Development Day
	20	Municipal Elections
	22,29	Omega Gymnastics in the gym at lunch (12:05-12:45)
	30	3 o'clock theatre performance (finale) at 11:00pm in the gym
	30	Martial Arts (K-2) in the gym at lunch 12:05-12:45
	31	Halloween - parade and activities

## Principal's Message

Well, I had this plan about talking about the Core Competencies and Circle of Courage, and then something else came up that I think warrants mention. We will be using a different report card template than the one that was used last year. A committee that had created the last new template (used last year) took feedback from all stakeholder groups and made changes in an effort to make the templates better. RVP teachers will be using these new templates (we had to choose school-wide whether to keep last year's or use the new one and we agreed that the new one was better). We also had to make the decision whether to continue to use letter grades or go gradeless (for students in grades 4 and 5). We will be going gradeless this year (something that I have talked about as an option in year's past).

Some of the features that will remain the same are: reporting will happen 5 times per year (3 formal reports (report cards) and two informal reports (the interim report that you should have received during

the parent / teacher interviews, and the student led conferences, which take place in February); the students will be completing a self-assessment of the core competencies, at a minimum, in the third term; teachers will be reporting on all subject in each formal report (EXCEPT - science and socials need to be reported on a minimum of two times per year and one of those times has to be in the third term (K-8), and Career Education and ADST (Applied Skills, Design and Technologies) need only be reported in the third term (K-3).

Some things that are different in the new template is that there will be a return to subject specific sections (eg. English Language Arts, Mathematics, Socials, Science), there will be a proficiency scale with key words to describe progress (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, and Extending (these words replace the words that were formerly used: Not Yet Meeting Expectations, Minimally Meeting Expectations, Fully Meeting Expectations, and Exceeding Expectations)), there will be a social emotional development section, and there will be a strengths and stretches section.

The proficiency scale is meant to be a continuum from lower to higher and it corresponds to the letter grades (from C- to A). We made the decision to not use letter grades, and while we know that for parents, letter grades make sense and are understandable (because they have been around for a long time and we all grew up with them and understand them), for many students, they can have a serious impact on their success.

The research is pretty clear - if you use letter grades and anecdotal comments, the comments are often never even read. The letter grades are front and center, and yet it is the comments that are often more important. If you are a student for whom A's come easy, you may be satisfied with simply getting them. Many students who fall into this category do not develop good work habits and instead learn to rely on the abilities they have that got them those letter grades. As learning becomes more challenging, the abilities will only take you so far. I have personally seen straight A students fail out of college and university because those skills that got them there no longer work on their own and they have not developed the work/study habits to learn effectively. Meanwhile, there are also students who work as hard as they can, and maybe cannot reach an A. After working hard and not (in their mind) succeeding, many begin to give up because why should they put in a huge effort and still not do as well as others? To a student in grade 4 (when letter grades start) going through this can be daunting to say the least. Furthermore, how many times will they get the grades they get before completely giving up? And these are kids who might already have good work habits. I have told my own daughter (and she can tell you if you ask) that I have always been more interested in her work habits than her letter grades. The letter grades last while you are in school, but the work habits stay with you for life.

This is why the anecdotal comments are so important. They can provide the feedback that help the students who are struggling know what they can do to succeed and help guide them to success without worry or fear of a letter grade. They can also help those for whom learning comes easier by challenging them even further and indicating what they can do or try to further improve their learning and skills rather than simply receiving a letter grade as the be all and end all. Letter grades are an end. On their own, they do not lead to better quality or improvement. Anecdotal comments benefit all and can help push all students to better meet their potential without fear or worry about a letter grade that they (or their friend) received.

Self-reflection: think about something that you tried to learn but that you struggled with. Did letter grades build you up or deflate you? Think about something that you were able to do that came easy to you. If you received an "A," can you honestly say that you tried your very best, or could you have done

even better if someone would have provided information to you to do even better? Were you satisfied with good grades? Were you someone who worked hard and did not always get good grades?

I can say that I never got great letter grades in elementary and high school. I could have and would have if I had applied myself, but I was able to develop my work habits just enough to carry me through grade 12 and it was only when I started learning about things that I was interested in, that my work habits continued to grow and carried me through university.

D. Shannon

## **Book Fair**

Thank you to everyone who came out to our book fair last week. I have not yet received a final total on the sales, but please know that money that is spent at the book fair comes directly back to the school for our library and for our classroom teachers. We thank you for your generosity.

## **Terry Fox Run**

Speaking of generosity, thank you to all the parents who were able to volunteer last Friday for our District Terry Fox Run and to all the families that donated to our school for the run. We learned that there were 15 elementary schools that took part in the run (there were different routes) that all led to the Terry Fox Foundation office in Port Coquitlam. Between these 15 schools, we raised over \$38,000 (with more money still coming in). It was hoped that we could surpass \$40,000!!! I will let you know if this happens. Our school goal was \$2,000 and I can tell you that between the money that came in to the school and the on-line donations, we raised just over \$2,200!! Well Done everyone!



## **Summer Reading Contest**

Last Thursday we were presented with the trophy from the Coquitlam Public Library for having the most students registered in the summer reading program! With just over 34% of our students taking part, we finished first among schools in the downtown branch. This is the third year in a row that we have won this trophy. Way to go RVP!!

## **Waste reduction week / Litterless lunch**

This week is waste reduction week and litterless lunch week. Students (and families) are challenged to bring litterless lunches to school. This means exactly what it says - bringing in lunches that will produce no litter. Classroom teachers will monitor this throughout the week. Fin Donnelly has challenged schools (in his federal riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam, Anmore and Belcarra) to produce as little litter as possible in school lunches for the week. The classroom with the highest percentage of litterless lunches will be announced at a future date (in November) in the House of Commons. We have had winners at RVP a few different times - hopefully we can do it again!

## **PAC News**

Please remember to take part in our PAC meetings. As parents of children who attend RVP, this is a great opportunity to meet your PAC team and other parent volunteers. Meetings are held in the school library and begin at 7:00pm.

Our PAC Meeting Schedule is as follows:

November 5, 2018

December 3, 2018

January 14, 2019

February 4, 2019

March 4, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 6, 2019

June 3, 2019 (PAC AGM and Elections)

## **District and / or Community News**

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>