



Riverview Park Elementary

Mrs. A. Young, Principal

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December 2020

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December	2	Virtual Team Time, 9:05 to 9:20 AM
	7	Staff Meeting, 3:00 PM PAC Meeting via Zoom https://sd43-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/69488406897?pwd=VmJYaUxIUkRobW96TDQ4dW1YNFFTz09 (Meeting Passcode: 802170)
	9	Virtual Team Time, 9:05 to 9:20 AM
	14	Red and Green Spirit Day
	16	Christmas Wear Spirit Day Virtual Team Time, 9:05 to 9:20 AM *Report Cards Home
	18	PJ Day Last Day of School before Winter Break

Principal's Message

December is upon us and holidays are just around the corner and like everything else in 2020, things will be different – 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 cannot look the same 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 support families in need in the SD43 community 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 and watch for more information to follow in the coming days.

In lieu of collecting food items for our local Food Bank, this year **we are inviting families to donate \$2 via School Cash Online** to support this local charity. Students are also welcome to drop off any loose change they may want to donate to the school – we will be sure to pass it along to our local Food Bank coordinator. So far, we have raised over \$100 towards this worthy cause. Thank you for your support!

In keeping with the spirit of giving, many of our divisions were involved in the **Coquitlam Public Library Holiday Hello Project** this year. Students sent holiday cheer to local community senior citizens by creating their own holiday cards with special drawings and greetings. I'm sure these will bring joy to so many members of our community. Thank you to all the staff and students who were able to participate.

Without the focus of our annual winter holiday production this year, we are finding other ways to bring a little festive joy into our classrooms. Students are working on **special holiday crafts** to bring home. In lieu of our traditional concert banners, students will be **creating window displays** in the coming weeks for fellow students and parents to enjoy. We have **three Spirit Days planned for the last week of school** prior to the break – Red and Green Day, Christmas Wear Day, and PJ Day! We know it is a difficult time to head to the stores, so we hope these Spirit Days are manageable with a quick trip to your own closets or basement storage. **Mrs. Wragg has been hard at work with the students** exploring creative ways to experience the spirit of the season through holiday music and wanted to share a special message to the RVP Community, so be sure to read ahead. And rumour has it that **Santa may be making a virtual visit to RVP** some time during the month of December.

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, as one parent expressed to me in a recent email, 'a kinder and gentler 2021'. I do hope you all find the silver lining that is there and are able to connect with your closest family in person and your extended family and friends virtually.

Best wishes over the coming holiday season!

Anita Young

A Special Holiday Message from Mrs. Wragg

As we are nearing the end of the first term and approaching Winter Break, I thought I would give you all a little update as to what has been happening in the RVP Music Program.

While we have not been able to do many of the activities that typically make up the music experience, the students and I have all adapted, and have been enjoying some new activities.

In keeping with our rhythm focus for the Fall, we have enjoyed developing and practicing our rhythmic skills in a variety of creative ways. Who knew that students could demonstrate rhythmic patterns using zippers on their jackets, velcro enclosures, or tapping their rubber boots? 😊

More recently, students have been bringing in cups, bucket drums, or their own created instruments from home to play along to favourite Christmas songs.

We have also been focusing this term on some well-known composers including the remarkable Ludwig Van Beethoven, and more recently, Peter Tchaikovsky and his musical gem, the Nutcracker. Through a terrific website, www.musicplayonline.com, students are able to do a variety of activities to aid in their understanding of this timeless ballet.

While I am saddened by not being able to gather in the gym as a community for our annual Christmas Concert this year, I am grateful to be sharing festive music of the season with the students through other means.

Please know I am thinking of all of you and wish you a very Happy Holiday with your loved ones.

Mrs. Wragg

INFORMATION ITEMS

REPORT CARDS

With Term 1 coming to a quick close, teachers are busy writing Report Cards. These will be sent home on Wednesday, December 16, so please be sure to look for them in your child's backpack. For students who are still learning from home, Report Cards will be available for pick-up at the school starting on December 16.

PLANNING FOR THE 2021-2022 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 refer to the attached brochure or 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, 2021 may enter school in September 2021. Kindergarten registration will be held between January 27 and February 4, 2021 via online forms. These online forms will be available on our school website at the time of registration.

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 can be accessed online at www.sd43.bc.ca between Friday, February 5, 2021, 9 AM to Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 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).

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.

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 and package will be sent to parents of Grade 5 students this week with more details about the questionnaire and our timeline for completion.

GRADE 4 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

The Grade 4 Foundation Skills Assessment will be administered between January 18 and February 26 across the Province. This assessment typically takes place in the first term of the school year, but was deferred to Term 2 to give students time to settle in to the new school year in our new learning context. More information regarding the FSA will be sent home to parents of students in Grade 4 in the coming weeks.

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. I have attached the Daily Health Check for your reference to this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

PAC NEWS

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 \$1000 towards school initiatives!

Christmas Hampers

RVP has committed to supporting three needy families in the SD43 Community this holiday season. More detailed information on what donations are needed and how to donate will be available shortly. Donations will be accepted directly at school or via School Cash Online.

Big Brother's Fundraiser

Since we can't travel this coming holiday season, some of you may be planning to spend time cleaning house during your time off at home. If you are packing up outgrown clothing, please consider donating to Big Brothers to raise money for RVP.

What to donate? – Do you have outgrown or no longer needed clothing for men, women, and/or children? Accessories (coats, hats, belts, purses, wallets, etc.), shoes/boots, blankets, bed linens, pillows, curtains, drapes, towels?? Any of these items can be donated!

How to donate? – Place all items in plastic bags and deliver to the Big Brother warehouse located at #221-15 Braid Street in New Westminster. Explain that you are dropping off for 'the school program' and that you are supporting Riverview Park Elementary.

When to donate? – Business hours right now are from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday (currently, closed on weekends and holidays). There is no time limit for this fundraiser.

How does this earn money for the school? – RVP will receive 20 cents per pound of clothing donated.

PAC Meeting – December 7 at 7:00 PM

PAC Meetings this year will be held via Zoom. The December PAC Meeting will be held on Monday, December 7 at 7:00 PM. All parents are welcome! Please click the link to join: <https://sd43-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/69488406897?pwd=VmJYaUxIUkRobW96TDQ4dW1YNFFTZz09>

DIRECTIONS 2025

The Board of Education would like to thank all stakeholders for their contributions to the creation of **Directions 2025** and for continually striving to make SD43 a leader among school districts in BC and across Canada. **Directions 2025** is available to view at the following link:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Board/Vision/Documents/Directions2025.pdf>

WINTER WEATHER COMING!

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>

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF 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. **Pick-Up/Drop-Off Lane**: Please remain at your vehicle at all times during pick-up and drop-off when in the pick-up/drop-off 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 while stopped for traffic in the through lane. Cars pull out quickly and unexpectedly and this is a concern for student safety.
3. **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.

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 pick-up and drop-off.

