



Birchland Elementary School

E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

Birchland E-News Volume 2013/2014 – 11

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VSO Connects – fpearse@sd43.bc.ca



The Birchland community is very lucky to be a part of a two year program called VSO Connects. This program will give all of our students the opportunity to interact directly with members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

“VSO Connects brings the magnificent and diverse world of symphonic music to elementary school students with an opportunity to interact, create, and learn from Vancouver Symphony Orchestra musicians, and music students from the leading post secondary music institutions in British Columbia. Nine modules were created to highlight specific symphonic works, composers and instruments, and tailored to suit different grade levels.”

“The goal of the VSO CONNECTS program is to create an environment where students, school trustees, district and school administrators, teachers, and parents, understand the importance and value of promoting the integration of Symphonic music into appropriate areas of the educational program.”

Every two years one school from our district has the opportunity to participate in this exciting program. This year each of our students will have the opportunity to participate in at least two of the VSO Connects modules, before participating in the second year of the program next year. One of these opportunities will be “Meet the Maestro” which will see either Bramwell Tovey (Musical Director) or Gordon Gerrard (Assistant Conductor) come out to Birchland for a school-wide assembly.

As the events near we will make sure to let you know about them and invite you to any sessions you are able to attend.

Frank Pearse
Principal

Port Coquitlam Celebrates May Day 2014 - May 2 - 11, 2014

Congratulations to Sidney (Gr. 4) and Maya (Gr. 1) for being selected to be a part of the Port Coquitlam May Day Royal Party. Sidney will participate as a Princess and Maya will be a Flower Girl.

Soon there will also be an opportunity for Birchland students to join and participate in the Birchland May Pole Dance Team. Mrs. Chambers will schedule practices here at Birchland and then students will have the opportunity to dance at the May Day Opening Ceremonies. Permission Form is being distributed today or [click here](#).

Cross Catchment Process

Parents can apply for a school outside of their neighbourhood catchment school. To do so you must complete a “Cross Catchment Application.” Placement is based on space availability.

Cross Catchment Process: Information on the cross catchment process can be obtained from the district website www.sd43.bc.ca.

The District is encouraging use of the electronic version of the application form accessed through the District website www.sd43.bc.ca **beginning February 7th at 9:00 a.m.** The process will close on February 19th at 4:30 p.m. Application requirements can be found on the website.

Paper forms will also be available at all schools as of February 7th at 9:00 a.m. All completed paper applications must be returned **in person or by mail** to the School District Office at 550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, V3J 6A7 by the closing date. **Faxed or email copies will NOT be accepted.**

The school locator on the District website provides a student’s designated catchment area schools. Catchment is based on home address.

Grade 5 transition to Middle School

More information is available on our website under “transitions” or [click here](#).

Two Weeks at a Glance ([Click for the full Birchland Calendar](#))

Please keep a close eye on the calendar as the next few weeks

- Wednesday, Feb 12
 - **Cross Catchment K to Gr 12 until Feb 19th**
 - E Newsletter
- Thursday, Feb 13
 - Running Club
 - Aboriginal Education Program
- Friday, Feb 14
 - **FUN FRIDAY! Friendship Day! Wear red, pink and/or white!**
 - Gr 5 Basketball practice @ 12:10 pm
- Tuesday, Feb 18
 - Lunch Lady (optional)
 - Gr 5 Basketball Practice @ 2:55 – 4pm
- Wednesday, Feb 19
 - BPAC Hot Lunch – SUBWAY
 - May Pole Dance Practice 2:55-3:45 pm in gym
- Thursday, Feb 20
 - Jump Rope for Heart Event – kids dress appropriately
 - Running Club
 - Aboriginal Education Program
 - **Bookfair opens!**
- **Friday, Feb 21; PRO D DAY (NO SCHOOL)**

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Safe Schools Task Force

Our district’s Safe Schools Task Force is pleased to inform you that Kevin Cameron will be returning to our district in the New Year to speak with parents and all other interested members of our community. This will be part of the three series events entitled "Parenting our Kids in the 21st Century". The date is; May 15th (Charles Best) from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please plan to attend these very useful sessions. [Click here for more information.](#)



BPAC ANTI-BULLYING DAY CUPCAKES
Wednesday, February 26th

We are asking for volunteers to donate ONE DOZEN cupcakes with PINK ICING. Each Birchland Student will receive a free cupcake and in return we ask that each student bring 50 cents to donate towards Grade 5 activities. We will also need volunteers to help hand out the free cupcakes to each of the students. Any extra cupcakes will be sold to students at lunchtime from the kitchen for a further 50 cent donation.

Birchland Apparel!

Is available! Sample sizes are in the front foyer.
Orders due Feb 20th and May 20th.

[Click here for form.](#)



BPAC Hot Lunch Program!

This year, BPAC is excited to offer online ordering for our Hot Lunch!

BPAC lunches are planned to run every two-three weeks, and 100% profit of our lunches goes directly back into our school! We have already enjoyed Chinese Food from Ming&Sing, Pizza from Freshslice! And Sushi (sushi Shelter 101). We have also set up a Dairyland account which allows us to offer 2% or Chocolate Milk with most meals.

Once your account has been created (click here to [create](#)), you can order online www.munchlogin.com Payments can be made online, or by cash or cheque payable to 'BPAC'

Upcoming Lunch Dates

- Feb 19th; Subway
- Mar 5th; Sushi
- Mar 12^h; Hot Dogs

If you have not already set up an online ordering account for your child, please visit the [Munch Account Page!](#)



Notice of a meeting of the members

BPAC Meeting

All welcome! Please help us plan our goals for the 2013/2014 school year! We will also discuss our Hot Lunch Program, Fundraising, and Upcoming activities.

When: Thursday, February 27th

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Birchland's Library

Coffee & Tea will be provided

Hope To See You There!

on-sight childcare provided if needed, please RSVP to arrange Childcare to goncalves_stella@hotmail.com or sign up on the PAC Board

Cold Weather Recess & Extra Clothes



Looking at the extended forecast it appears that we will see the temperatures fall. When the weather is cold please ensure your children are dressed appropriately to be outside for up to 30 minutes when they are coming to school. Unless there is a substantial amount of ice, or large slushy puddles we will continue to be outside with the children at both recess and lunch time.

As the wet and cold weather come upon us, we would greatly appreciate if the kids had an extra pair of clothes (pants, underwear, socks and shirt) in case they get too wet or dirty. Thank you for your assistance.

Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods

We invite you to visit our [Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods section](#) of the District website, which can be found under the News & Events menu, to learn more about the Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods initiative, the community engagement process, and an overview of the four properties under consideration.

School Meals Program

Once again this year School District 43 will be providing the School Meals Program at Birchland Elementary. All food preparation takes place within our school district and the meals are delivered to the school each morning. Order forms will be available on our website sometime this week, and we will send a note to parents when this happens.

The cost for each lunch is \$4, however, as this program does receive outside financial support, families can speak with Mr. Pearse to ask for this charge to be reduced or waived altogether.

“The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children.”

- Cheryl Lavender

Learn *Free class!*
COMPUTER BASICS *internet keyboarding word processing email*
“Literacy Foundations Information Technology”

Where: CLOC
Tuesdays & ThursdaysDec 3 - Mar 11 11:45 - 3:00 PM course # 7A27-1
Tuesdays & ThursdaysMar 13 - Jun 26 12:00 - 3:00 PM course # 7027-2

Where: Montgomery Centre
Tuesdays & ThursdaysDec 3 - Mar 116:00 - 9:15PM course # 4A66-1
Tuesdays & ThursdaysMar 13 - Jun 266:00-9:00PM course # 4066-2

A free class for BC residents* 17 years of age and older.
This 80 hour computer basics class is ideal for the beginner.

Register in person at Montgomery Centre or call 604 936 4261 for more information. Visit www.ce43.com

* Students wishing to register must be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, GAR, Refugee claimant or have a work visa that is valid for one year or more, proof of status and residency is required for registration. Intermediate English required.

COQUITLAM CONTINUING Education

COQUITLAM CONTINUING Education

Learn in the Tri-Cities | Face-to-face | www.ce43.com

Study English. FREE learning opportunities!
Join our Foundations English classes for adults which focus on basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

REGISTRATION AT MONTGOMERY ADULT LEARNING CENTRE
Thursdays ONLY until December 19. 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Thursdays January 9 - ongoing. 4:00 - 7:00 PM

PLEASE BRING:
1 Proof of Canadian Status 2 Photo ID 3 Two proofs of BC residency

MONTGOMERY ADULT LEARNING CENTRE
380 Montgomery Street, Coquitlam
British Columbia, V3K 5G2

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR VISIT
604.936.4261 | www.ce43.com

SCHOOL DISTRICT 43
Learning for a Lifetime

Community Information

The following groups have requested that we distribute information regarding their community events. Although some of these activities may take place in School District 43 Schools we do not organize or endorse these groups or organizations, we simply pass along the information.

Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Presents.....Welcome to Fun Lacrosse - bring lots of friends and smiles! Come out and try a new sport, make new friends and have fun! Fun Lacrosse is an introductory program aimed at 5 to 8 year old players to come out and experience the game at **no cost**. Sticks and balls are supplied by the association. Players must bring their own helmets and gloves. Location: Hyde Creek Gym -Dates/times: **February 7, 14 and March 7, 2014 - 5:45 to 7:00 PM**
CAUTION: Lacrosse is an addictive sport and children often badger parents to immediately sign up to experience the best sport in the world. For more information contact: tykes@pocominorlacrosse.com

Port Coquitlam Minor Softball – [online registration is now open for 2014 season!](http://www.pocominorbaseball.com) Or www.pocominorbaseball.com
PCMSA has brought the Registration Fees down to better match those of our neighbouring Associations, and are refocusing the Association back to it's foundation– Our House Teams! If you register before February 1, you will receive our 2013 rates! On February 1 we raise the rates for 2014. This season we have teams available for Girls born from 2008-1995 and Boys born in 2008 & 2009. We are also hoping to bring back our Junior Ladies Team!

Parenting Wisely is a course about managing the behaviour of elementary school children. This Parenting Wisely course is being presented by Stan Simister and School District 43. Classes start Jan. 28, 2014 and end on March 11, 2014. The course will run for 7 weeks on Tuesdays, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Central Elementary School, 2260 Central Ave., Port Coquitlam. Participants with children under age 5 will need to make their own child minding arrangements. Please register with the school office at telephone # 604-941-0355. Please check in at the school office on Jan. 28, 2014 for directions to the room where the course will be offered. [Click here for more information](#)

Minnehada Winter 2014 After School Programs – Grade 5 to 8. [Click here for more information.](#) [Registration Form.](#)

2014 Box Lacrosse Season - In Person Registration will be held at the Port Coquitlam Arena, 2150 Wilson Avenue in the Mabbet Room on January 18th / 9am – 1pm and February 1st / 9am – 1pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

TRI-CITY EAGLES FIELD HOCKEY CLUB has offered a field hockey program to younger players since 1991. The Spring program runs for approximately 10 weeks from April through until the end of June. There is a U-10 program for boys and girls that is divided into two age categories; “Mites” (2006 to 2008) and “Minis” (2004 and 2005), and a junior program U-11 to U-18 for those with 1996 to 2003 birth dates. [Click here for more information.](#)

Coquitlam Express – latest [newsletter](#) is available on line.