



# Birchland Elementary School

## E-News

1331 Fraser Avenue, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1M5

Phone: 604-941-3428 Fax: 604-937-8004

[www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/birchland](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/birchland)

[birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:birchland@sd43.bc.ca)

Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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### Principal of the Matter – [fpearse@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:fpearse@sd43.bc.ca)

#### Lost and Found

As the school year ended rather abruptly in June I decided to hold onto the end of year lost and found to ensure parents had an opportunity to retrieve lost items. If there are any items that you are still missing from last year please drop by the school this Wed - Fri to take a look at the items in the front foyer. These will only be the items from last year (this year's lost items will remain by the recess doors). This Friday we will be donating all lost and found items from last year to a local charity.

I would also ask that parents please write your child's name inside of any clothing that is sent to school. As per the picture of our lost and found on the right it can be challenging determining which item belongs to which child.

#### After School Programs

Many Parents have been asking about our after school programs this year. The All About Me program will still be happening this year, however due to a reduction in the grant from the United Way that we use to run this program it will not look the same as it has in previous years. Please watch for information about All About Me coming soon.

We do have a new program starting up this year as well. The format will look similar to All About Me, with the program running for 2 hours from 3-5 PM two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). The program will focus on arts & crafts as well as physical activities. This program is being run in partnership with Douglas College and will have a coordinator leading a group of volunteers to run the program. There is a nominal cost associated with this program of \$48, which will cover the running of the program as well as snacks for the students. The program will run for 6 weeks beginning on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Please see the attached registration form if you are interested in signing up. I do have some available funds to cover the cost of the program for a few families that may not be able to afford the cost, please contact me (Mr. Pearse) if you would like to discuss a partial or full subsidy.

I am also working to plan another session of our drama program this term. Information will come out via e-mail this week. There is also a walking School Bus Program to Hyde Creek Recreation Centre – Register with Parks & Rec. More information under "Community Information" at the end of this newsletter.

#### Running Club

Thanks to the parents who contacted me regarding helping out with the Running Club at Birchland this year. For the time being running club will be from 1:45 – 2:45 every Thursday (starting October 16<sup>th</sup>). Half of the school will run for the first half hour and the other half for the second half hour. We are still in need of a couple more parents to help out with 'running' this, so please let me know if you are available and willing to help out.

#### Library Helpers

Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to help out in the library this year. I will be running orientation sessions over the next few weeks. If you haven't contacted me and are available to help out please let me know.

If at any time you have any questions about what's going on at the school or about your child's education I would strongly encourage you to either call me at the school (604-941-3428) or e-mail me ( [fpearse@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:fpearse@sd43.bc.ca) ).

Frank Pearse – Principal



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## **E-Forms, Student Data Verification Forms and Planners**

A notice was sent home recently regarding these three items. Please take the time to fill out the [online e-forms](#) and verify the information on the Data Verification Sheets (to be signed and returned to the office regardless of changes). Students in classes that receive Planners will also have received a note regarding payment for these books. The cost this year is \$7.50. These books run on a cost/recovery basis and thus we hope that all families are able to pay for the books. For a variety of reasons (safety, etc), Mrs. Williamson would greatly appreciate if you pay by cheque vs nickels and dimes.

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## **Parent Volunteers Needed**

We are looking parent volunteers to assist us on field trips, Grade 5 activities, etc. For Grade 5's we are looking for a number of driver's to assist taking them on upcoming field trips. If you filled it out once already at Birchland you don't need to fill it out again. They are valid for 5 years except Driver's Abstract (check date)

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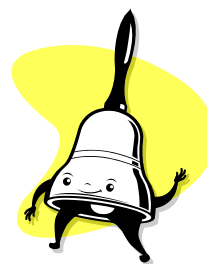
## **Two Weeks at a Glance [\(Click for the full Birchland Calendar\)](#)**

We are still working on getting out new calendar fully up to date, with our new report card, and other event dates. We have however set our first two early dismissal date for the year. They will be Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both of these days we will be dismissing at 1:55 PM, this time will be used to conduct welcoming conversations with classroom teachers. Please look for information about these conversations from your child's teacher.

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## **Bell Schedule 2014 - 2015**

8:50 ..... Students enter school (bell)  
8:55 ..... Class starts (bell)  
10:25 ..... Recess Starts  
10:40 ..... Recess (bell)  
11:55 ..... Lunch Starts (Students eat in their classrooms)  
12:10 ..... All students go outside to play  
12:40 ..... Play time ends (bell)  
12:45 ..... Instruction begins  
2:55 ..... End of Day (no bell)



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## **School Meals Program**

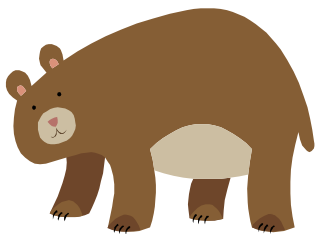
Once again this year School District 43 will be providing the School Meals Program at Birchland Elementary. All food preparation takes place within our school district and the meals are delivered to the school each morning. The order form is available on our [website](#).

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.

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## **Student Safety**

As our students return to school this week, we ask that parents take time to discuss road safety with your children and help encourage them to be safe on their way to and from school. I was very happy to see the city install a new sidewalk on the west side of Larch Way, please encourage your children to use the new sidewalk as it will make walking down this busy street much safer.



At this time of the year, we are reminded that the beautiful, natural surroundings can occasionally bring bears into our neighbourhood. Please remember that the smell of food and/or garbage attracts bears and that they will stop and stay in a community if they are enjoying the reward of being fed. For this reason, we ask that students do not eat or discard snacks on the playground. Should a bear sighting occur on or near our school grounds, please be sure to let the office know. Our school also has a bear alert procedure that we review with our staff and students each year.

For more information on Bear Awareness, please visit: <http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/>

### **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) last year. 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](http://www.munchlogin.com) Payments can be made online, or by cash or cheque payable to 'BPAC'*

### **Upcoming Lunch**

- Pizza – Papa Leo's
- Sushi
- Subway



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

### **Birchland Apparel!**

Is available! Items are in glass cabinet.

[Click here for list & form.](#)



### **Entertainment Books**

October 1 – 15, 2014

This is our first fundraiser of the year.  
All orders and payments to the office.  
Please return unsold books to the office as well  
by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support!

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: Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**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](mailto:goncalves_stella@hotmail.com) or sign up on the PAC Board\*

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## 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.

**Harvest Moon** – October 23, 2014, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, at Kwayhquitlam Middle School. Please RSVP. [Click here for details.](#)

**SPORTS AND SWIM - WALKING SCHOOL BUS (Parks & Rec / City of Port Coquitlam)**- Birchland students - meet us at the entrance to your school and be part of the Walking School Bus! We will enjoy the walk to Hyde Creek where you will swim, have a healthy snack and then play sports! Please fill out a Participant Information Form. All schools may register- Meet in front of Birchland School. One Day options available. Please contact Parks & Rec (City of POCO) to register please 604-927-PLAY (7529) or <https://www.experienceit.ca/InternetRegistration/Start/start.asp>