



Birchland Elementary School

E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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Principal of the Matter – fpearse@sd43.bc.ca

The other day I was walking by the school swing set at recess and I noticed about 40 students (grades 1-5) lined up against the fence. This struck me as a little different than our regular playground behaviour so I wandered over and asked what they were doing. Immediately, all 40 children started to tell me what they were doing. After stopping this mayhem I managed to get one student to explain it to me. Apparently they were playing Zombies vs. Humans. How do you play Zombies vs. Humans I asked? What I learned is that the Zombies try to eat the humans and when they catch them the humans turn into Zombies. And the humans try to 'shoot' the Zombies with a potion that causes them to 'die' (I thought Zombies were already dead...or maybe undead? Yeah, definitely undead). Then the Zombies crash to the ground for 30 seconds and become human again.

My immediate thoughts went to 'shoot' and 'die'. I know my wife and I have spent much time talking about what games we let our own children play. Do we let them play with fake swords? Do we let them 'shoot' each other with Buzz Lightyear's Blaster? Many of these questions have fallen under the category that they are things we would probably prefer they didn't do, but were also not the proverbial hills we wanted to 'die' on. (Although the blaster makes a hideously annoying sound, so this one does often 'go missing')

Then I looked at the group of kids, there was a mix of boys and girls from a wide range of ages playing the game. I told them that I wanted to watch them play for a few minutes. They quickly sorted themselves into teams and started to play. Kids were running everywhere (I still have no idea how they knew who was a human and who was a zombie), there were definitely humans shooting zombies with potions, and many kids lying lifeless on the ground before reemerging as humans. A large group of kids ended up standing on the edge of the swing area in a line, I am still not sure how they ended up there. But in general everyone appeared to be having fun, appeared safe, and was getting some good exercise.

As the game continued I decided that the shooting needed to go. In this day and age it doesn't seem right for kids to be running around pretending to shoot each other, even if they are pretending to be zombies. Thus the Humans now tag the zombies, and the game seems to still work. Likely the game will fade out by the end of the week, and everyone will have moved onto something new, but I would love to hear your opinion on this type of game on a school yard. I wonder about the relationship between individual family values and expectations and the general values and expectations of our larger community.

Enjoy the last week of January!

Frank Pearse
Principal

Young Performers Drama Workshops - During and Afterschool

Many students have already experienced the Young Performers Workshop in school session, while others will have this opportunity this week. Registration for the afterschool program is now open, this program will take place on Wednesdays starting on Feb 6th. There is a cost of \$25 for this six session program (which is a great deal) and students who are registered in All About Me for Wednesday are more than welcome to join in! Please click [here](#) for the registration form.

Grade 5 Parents Needed

Attention Grade 5 Parents – We are in need of a coordinator for the grade 5 year end activities this year. Without someone to head up these activities traditions such as the grade 5 clothing, grade 5 lunch, and other year end celebrations will be unable to happen. If you are able to help out please e-mail the Pac at:

birchlandpac2011@hotmail.com

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

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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	29	30	31		

- Jan 29 – Lunch Lady (optional)
- Jan 31 – Aboriginal Cultural Program
- **Feb – 5, 6 & 7th; Kindergarten registration**
- Feb 6 – BPAC hot lunch
- Feb 7 – Aboriginal Cultural Program
- Feb 8 – Jump Rope for Heart Assembly @ 9am in the gym
- Feb 8 to 20 – Cross Catchment Process starts for K to Grade 12
- Feb 8 to 13 – Scholastic Bookfair

Kindergarten & other Program Registration for September 2013

Kindergarten registration for 2013 will take place on February 5, 6, and 7th between 9 AM and 3 PM. If you have a child that will be starting Kindergarten in September 2013 or know of a neighbour or friend who does, please ensure a parent comes by on those days to register. If this presents a problem, please contact Mrs. Williamson at the school.

New information is now available on our school website for September 2013, the information is located in the 'Registration' section which is under the 'Parents' tab, or just [click here](#). Along with the registration info for Kindergarten for 2013 there is also information for the following programs:

- Early French Immersion
- Late French Immersion
- Early Entry Montessori
- Late Entry Montessori
- Reggio Emilia Program
- Mandarin Program
- Ready Set Learn Program

Birchland PAC News – birchlandpac2011@hotmail.com

Please send your coffee orders in with you children as soon as possible. Orders are due by Jan 25th. A copy of the order form and brochure can be found [here](#).

If you haven't already done so I would highly recommend that you 'Like' the BPAC on Facebook. The page is a great source of information about the school and the PAC and can be accessed at: <http://www.facebook.com/BirchlandPAC>

SD 43 District Meal Program

We are pleased to once again offer the services of the district's elementary school meals program to our Birchland students. Nutritious lunches, prepared at the Centennial teaching kitchen, under the direction of the teaching chef, a culinary assistant and school meal coordinators, will be delivered to our school each day. For the menu and order form, please click [here](#).

May Day Festivities

Being the Port Coquitlam Centennial this year, and the 90th anniversary of the Port Coquitlam May Day Celebrations it will be a very special May Day Celebration this year. Students at Birchland have two ways to get involved in the festivities.

The Royal Party consists of Flower Girls from Grades 1 and 2 and Princesses and Lancers from Grades 4 and 5. Students interested are asked to apply on-line at www.portcoquitlam.ca/mayday, or submit the application form which can be found [here](#). Please contact Shelly Alford at RoyalParty@portcoquitlam.ca if you require more information. **The application deadline is Monday, February 4, 2013.** Royal Party participants will be randomly selected from all interested applicants.

We will also be having our own May Pole Dance team here at Birchland, watch for information in the coming weeks.

Cold Weather Recess, Lunch and change of clothes



Looking at the extended forecast it appears that we will see the temperatures fall and maybe even some snow this coming weekend. 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. Accidents do happen outside – slip or fall and a change of clothes for your child is need such as; pants, underwear, socks and shirt. We have limited supplies on hand and would appreciate if you are able to send a spare pair of clothes in a plastic bag with their name on it in the classroom.

You can discover more about a person in an hour of play, than in a year of conversation.

- Plato

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 Softball – for [fees](#) and [registration information](#), please click here.

PORT COQUITLAM LAUNCHES YEAR-LONG BIRTHDAY PARTY JANUARY 4TH, 2013. [Click here for more information.](#)

Fine Art Winter Programs at the Evergreen for Children & Adults. [Click here](#) and [After School Programs and Pro-D Day Camps](#)

Coquitlam Express – [January newsletter](#)

Tri-Cities Literacy Committee Newsletter – [January newsletter](#)

Parenting 101 at Birchland Elementary – starting Tuesday, February 12th from 6-7:30 pm at Birchland. [Contact and registration information.](#)

iPad Evening for Parents *February, 27th at 6:00pm- Como Lake Middle School.* [Click here for information.](#)

Ready, Set and Learn - Plans for the Ready Set Learn! event for Port Coquitlam North schools are now coming together. We have several community partners who will join us at James Park Elementary to provide activities and information to welcome three-year-olds and their families to the school system. We are expecting that as principals in the community of schools you will be present to greet families at the door, orient them to the event, answer parent questions regarding your school and give them their take home materials including a free book. [Additional information.](#)



[Coquitlam Continuing Education](#) offers many academic, high school credit courses. Courses are available to adult students – tuition-free* for most students. We offer face-to-face classes or students can take courses online through [Coquitlam Open Learning](#). We also offer self-paced classes through our learning centre at CLOC. Classes are available in many different locations and include both daytime or evening options.

*Check us out at www.ce43.com for more information.

Biology 11/12 Physics 11/12 Chemistry 11/12
English 11/12 Communications 11/12 Math 11/12 (all)

Vocational Programs – [Health Care Assistant , Certificate Program](#)

The flyer features the Coquitlam Continuing Education logo at the top right. Below it are three columns of images: 'Face-to-face' showing a woman with glasses, 'Work and Learn' showing two people looking at a book, and 'Upgrade your skills' showing a woman at a laptop. The main text reads: 'Study English! Free learning opportunities! Join our Foundations English classes for adults which focus on basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. These classes also prepare students for high school credit courses.' It includes registration details: 'ONGOING REGISTRATION Thursdays ONLY until December 20 4:00 - 7:00 PM'. A 'PLEASE BRING:' section lists: '1 Proof of Canadian Status', '2 Photo ID', and '3 Two proofs of BC residency'. The bottom right corner provides the address: 'MONTGOMERY ADULT LEARNING CENTRE 380 Montgomery Street, Coquitlam British Columbia, V3K 5G2' and contact info: 'For more information call or visit our web site 604-936-4261 | www.ce43.com'.