



# Birchland Elementary School

## E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

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### Around Birchland – [fpearse@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:fpearse@sd43.bc.ca)



I am trying to figure out what month could not be described as “busy” in a school. Although I am not sure what the answer to that question is, I know for sure what the answer is not: “SEPTEMBER”.

Our first week ended with a bang, as we hosted local Singer / Entertainer Tony Prophet. Tony entertained our students and invited many of them up on stage with him to perform.

At the same assembly our PAC kicked off our 2013 Entertainment Book Fundraiser. This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for Birchland PAC. If you haven't yet had a chance to purchase a book please see the PAC section of this Newsletter for more information.

Our Welcome Back Community BBQ was next up. It was great to see so many Birchland families out enjoying the festivities and getting reacquainted with each other. A huge thank you to the parents who helped out with the concession and BBQing, and also to the Birchland Staff who all chipped in to help pull the event together. The always popular “Slingshot a Water Balloon at Mr. Pearse for Terry Fox” was a huge success and raised \$135 for the Terry Fox Foundation. See the Terry Fox section of

the newsletter for information about our run this week.

Following the BBQ we had our first Pro-D day of the year. Our staff travelled to Seaview Elementary in Port Moody where we joined the Seaview and Coquitlam River staffs to spend the day talking about Self Regulation with Miriam Miller. Miriam did a great job of reviewing the basic principles of Self Regulation with us, however the opportunity to engage with colleagues from other schools was the most rewarding part of the day.

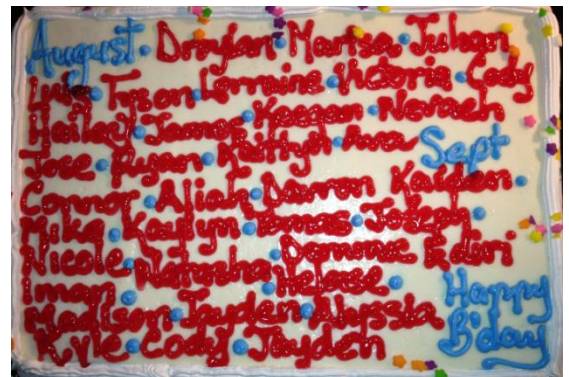
Last week our PAC hosted the first Hot Lunch day of the year. Using “Munch-A-Lunch” families were able to order Ming & Sing Chinese food, which proved to be very popular, and is sure to be back soon by popular demand! We followed this up with our first ‘Wacky Wednesday’ of the year which was Crazy Hair Day.

Wednesday and Thursday were both early dismissals to allow time for our teachers to sit down for intake interviews with the families of each student in their class. Our staff members find these meeting extremely valuable in getting to know the students in their classes. We hope you enjoyed having the opportunity to let us know how great your kids are!

To end off a very busy month we hosted our first Gab and Grab on Friday morning and Birthday Club in the afternoon. It was wonderful to get to share a cup of coffee and treat with so many of you. If you missed the September event please make sure you mark Oct 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our October Gab and Grab. A huge thanks to our friends at the Freemont and Ottawa Starbucks stores for providing the coffee and goodies!

Our August and September Birthday Club was a great way to close out the week. With 36 student birthdays it was quite a feat for Coopers to get all of the names on the cake (Thanks, as always, to Coopers for providing the cake). For those of you new to Birchland I host Birthday Club at the end of each month. We talk about what is so great about being born in the current month, make a birthday wish, and then eat some cake!

If you haven't been doing so I would strongly encourage you to find a way to get involved at Birchland. Whether joining the PAC, attending a school event, volunteering in a classroom, or chaperoning on a field trip parental involvement at their child's school contributes to student success!



Frank Pearse – Principal

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## **E-Forms**

If you have not already done so, **please take a few minutes to fill out our on-line e-forms**. The forms can be access from our school website or by clicking [here](#). Please note that these forms are in addition to the "Verification" sheets that were sent home and that the Emergency Release Form and Medical Alert Form must be printed and sent to the school in hard copy. If you would like a paper copy of any of the forms to fill out please contact the office.

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## **After School Programs**

### **Young Performers Workshop**

Young Performers Workshop is scheduled to start this Wednesday (Oct 2). We are still a few kids short of the number needed to run the program. If you are considering registering please see the attached information (also available on our website) and complete the registration form as soon as possible.

### **All About Me**

Registration for All About Me will be open until this Wednesday (Oct 2). If you are interested and have not yet registered please see that attached information and complete the form as soon as possible.

\*\* Information about both of these programs is also available on our website\*\*

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## **Welcome Back Mrs. Crawford**

We were very happy last week to find out that Mrs. Crawford will once again be joining us as a teacher at Birchland this year. She will be working with Mrs. Quarin to teach Division 3. Mrs. Crawford will be here every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, and occasionally on a Monday morning. It is great to have her back at Birchland.

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## **BPAC – [leavoldwall@shaw.ca](mailto:leavoldwall@shaw.ca)**

### **HOT LUNCH - Fresh Slice Pizza – Wednesday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The menu will be available on [www.munchalunch.com](http://www.munchalunch.com) at 6 PM tonight (Sept, 30, 2013) and orders will be accepted until 3 PM on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Paper order forms will only be sent home to those families who have requested them\***

### **PAC Meeting – Thursday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM**

Our first PAC meeting of the year is coming up on Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Joining the PAC is a great way to get involved in the school, and meet fellow Birchland parents. This year we will have childcare available so it's a better time than ever before to join. Please contact Brittany ([leavoldwall@shaw.ca](mailto:leavoldwall@shaw.ca)) for more information about our PAC.

### **Babysitter Needed**

We are also looking for a Birchland Student Alumni age 12+ with babysitting certificate interested in providing childcare during monthly PAC meetings from 7 PM until about 9:30 PM. Please contact Stella @ [goncalves\\_Stella@hotmail.com](mailto:goncalves_Stella@hotmail.com)

### **Entertainment Book Fundraiser**

Our Entertainment book fundraiser is now wrapping up. Last minute orders can still be submitted up until Wednesday at 3 PM. If you still have an unsold book at home please send it in to the school with your child.

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## **Terry Fox Run**

Our Terry Fox Run is coming up this Friday (Oct 4). Student will meet in the gym around 1:30 and head out for the run about 2:00. Please try to return all Terry Fox donations to your child's teacher by the end of the day Thursday so that we can have a fundraising amount to announce at the run!

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## Get Active Card for Grade 5 students

The Tri Cities, in cooperation with School District 43, are pleased to continue the Grade 5 *Active Communities* Program for all School District 43 Grade 5 students. This program has been approved by the Cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody to promote youth involvement in physical activity. We are very excited about this community partnership and we hope that you will be able to take part in it.

A personalized letter was given to each student to take in to the closest Leisure Centre. If you require another copy, please contact the school office. Photo identification card (student must be present for photo to be taken) that you can use from September 16, 2013 to August 31, 2014, to access all drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium programs in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, ***all free of charge!***

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## Student Safety



As we are sure you have heard there have been numerous bear sightings around Birchland in the past week. We will continue to monitor bear activity and communicate with you when we believe there is a bear in the area immediately surrounding the school. As we did last Friday please be prepared in the event that we need to keep your child at school after dismissal until they can be picked up or safely transported home. As we have done in the past we will continue to use e-mail to immediately advise parents if there are bears on our around our school property.

Bear Aware provides excellent safety information about bears: <http://www.bearaware.bc.ca/>

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

The full School Calendar for 2013-2014 is available [here](#). Please make special note of the extra day off on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> before the Remembrance Day Weekend and B.C.'s Family Day on Monday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Mon, Sept 30; Fire Drill
- Tues, Oct 1
  - Lunch Lady (optional)
  - Return Ballot for "Captain of the day" & "Fire Chief of the Day"
- Wed, Oct 2; Young Performers Workshop
- Thurs, Oct 3; Aboriginal Education
- Friday, Oct 4; Terry Fox Run
- Tues, Oct 8;
  - Lunch Lady (optional)
  - All About Me - starts
- Thurs Oct 9;
  - Grade 4 & 5's - Wildlife Rescue @ Birchland
  - Fire Drill
  - Aboriginal Education

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	30	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		

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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. 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.

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**“Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.”**

- W.E.B. DuBois

# Our School Is a Healthy School!

The Lunch Lady provides a hot lunch service to your school on Tuesday's starting September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Order Online within 3 days of any lunch date at:



[www.thelunchlady.ca](http://www.thelunchlady.ca)

Offering families healthy lunch choices in our school!!!

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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** – presented by Aboriginal Education on Friday, October 18. [Click here for information.](#)

**Aboriginal Education** – [September Newsletter.](#)

**SHARE** has recently launched the SHARE Bear Kids Club! The club is meant to recognize the great work done by our countless young fundraisers and to encourage others to join in! Here's an article recently published about one of these kids: <http://www.tricitynews.com/news/219813641.html> Please find attached a press release about the club and a registration form. You can also find out more information and download the form here: <http://www.sharesociety.ca/WaystoGivetoSHARE/HowtoHostanEvent/tabid/328/Default.aspx>

**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 October 1, 2013 and end on November 12, 2013. [Click here for information.](#)

**Fine Tune Your Parenting Skills (for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years old)** - Once again, two different parenting programs will be offered this term. As this is only offered in one Zone– make sure you register quickly to assure a space. [Click here for information.](#)

**City of Port Coquitlam** – celebrating 100 years! [Please click here for information.](#)

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

**Fraser Valley Regional Library** - invites all children in kindergarten to come to their local public library and join the All Aboard for Kindergarten program! Watch for the train reading record coming home from school with your child this fall. Bring the train into the library to sign up for your child's FREE library card and a colourful lanyard and holder to keep it safe. Enjoy reading the 100 books that have been specially selected for Kindergarten students. Visit your library regularly to enter prize draws! You'll also receive colouring and activity sheets designed to help your child learn to read. Contact your local Fraser Valley Regional Library for more information about this program.

**Upcoming Events at Place des Arts** - [September 2013 School Newsletter Information](#)