



# Birchland Elementary School

## E-News

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Mr. Frank Pearse, *Principal*

Birchland E-News Volume 2013/2014 – 7

November 25, 2013

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

You may notice that I am not around the building for most of this week as I will be attending a four day workshop put on by the International Institute for Restorative Practices. During my absence my duties will be jointly assumed by Mr. Hyde (who usually works as a Vice-Principal at Terry Fox Secondary) and Mrs. Snowden. If there is an urgent issue that you need to bring to my attention, feel free to e-mail me or leave a message at the school office and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

The first Book Fair of the year wrapped up very successfully last Wednesday evening. Thanks to all of the families who supported the event. This was the most successful Book Fair Birchland has hosted in several years. Not only did the school earn many free books for our library and classrooms, we also have a substantial credit with Scholastic for future library purchases. Thanks so much to the parents who worked the Book Fair and our amazing PAC who organized this event.

Last Thursday I was delighted to see so many faces out at our November PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meeting. Our PAC has been very active this year providing many services and opportunities to our community. I would strongly encourage you to attend our next PAC meeting on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Childcare will be available if you e-mail ahead of time. Attending PAC meetings is a great way to be a part of your child's school and hear a little more about what's going on at Birchland.

The order forms from the school photos taken on Retake day went home with students last week, and we will soon be sending home an order form for the school Panorama photo (all students). Once it is available a proof of the panorama photo will be available to be viewed in the school office.

On Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, we had our third fire drill of the year and also practiced out 'Code Yellow Lockdown' procedures for the school. I was very impressed with how seriously our students are treating these drills, this time I was especially pleased with how well our older students modelled appropriate emergency procedures for our younger students. In the Spring (Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014), we will once again be practicing an "Emergency Release Drill". Please look ahead on your calendars and start thinking now about what the best procedure for picking up your child early from school as this is part of the drill. More information will follow in the Spring.

We are still accepting registrations for the Winter (January) sessions of All About Me and Young Performers Workshop. The registration information is attached to the electronic copy of this document, available on our school website, or in paper form at the school office.

December is always a busy month at Birchland. This year we will be finishing up our grade 5 Volleyball Season, running our Christmas Hamper Drive, sending home report cards (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>), having our Christmas Carol Concert (Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM), and then finishing up with a pancake breakfast and PJ day on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

This Friday I will host the final Gab and Grab on the calendar year at 9:00 AM in the foyer of the school. Please plan to drop in for some coffee, tea, and goodies. There is no formal agenda to this gathering although if you have questions for me it is a great time to bend my ear and ask it.

Frank Pearse

## New SMART BOARDS coming to Birchland

Often it takes years for schools to raise enough money to accomplish major technological improvements. Fortunately, and due to the amazing fundraising efforts of our PAC and school community, Birchland has been able to completely upgrade our existing fleet of Smart Boards in an 18 month period. Last Friday I signed off on the work order to upgrade Mr. Sung's and Mr. Cumming's Smart Boards, this work is expected to take place in January. Completion of these final two boards will represent a major accomplishment for our school, and conclude a project with a total budget of over \$12,000.

Kudos to the Birchland PAC and all of the Birchland parents for your hard work raising the funds to complete this project!

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

Please keep a close eye on the calendar as the next few weeks are very busy!

- Monday, Nov 25
  - E News letter
  - Fruit & Veggie; Carrots & Milk – distributed this week
- Tuesday, Nov 26
  - Lunch Lady (optional)
  - Science Alive
- Wednesday, Nov 27; Gr 5 Volleyball Game vs Westwood @ Birchland!  
3:15-4:15 pm
- Thursday, Nov 28
  - Aboriginal Education Program
  - Outdoor Education Club
- Friday, Nov 29
  - Gab & Grab @ 9 am – front foyer
  - Birthday Club (afternoon) – November
  - Hockey Night for Birchland with Coquitlam Express – order forms in the office
- Tuesday, Dec 3
  - Lunch Lady (optional)
  - Science Alive
  - Gr 5 Volleyball Tournament @ Pinetree Secondary 2:30 – 6 pm
- Thursday, Dec 5
  - Aboriginal Education Program
  - Outdoor Ed Club
  - Gr 5 Volleyball Game @ Westwood 3:15 – 4:15 pm
- Friday, Dec 6; Gr 5 swimming

November						
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

December						
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				

## Safe Schools Task Force

Our districts 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 dates are: February 4th (Coquitlam Alliance Church) and May 15th (Charles Best) from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please plan to attend these very useful sessions.



## Christmas Concert – Save the Date

Our school's Christmas concert will take place on Thursday, December 19th @ 6:30 pm. There will also be a dress rehearsal that parents are welcome to attend on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Please mark this date on your calendar so that you have the chance to come and join in the celebration and watch your children perform!

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## Bad Weather:



In the event of heavy snow, ice or extreme temperatures, a decision on school closures will take place as soon as possible after 6:30 am that day.

- Check the district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca) beginning shortly after 6:30 am
- Be sure to hit “Refresh” when checking back
- The district website posting is official – (Please do not call the school to tell us your child will be away)
- Tune in to CKWX 1130 AM, CKNW 980 AM or CBC 690 AM for updates
- Please refrain from calling the school to ask if we are open.

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## Running Club

Is back! Thank you to Mrs. Joinson for getting our running club up and running. It will be at lunch time on Tuesday and Thursday's. If your child has not been out yet for running club please tell them they can join anytime. All they need to do is speak to Mrs. Joinson at the gravel field at lunch on Tuesday or Thursday.

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## Cold Weather Recess



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.

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## Extra Clothes

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.

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## Learning, Land and Neighbourhoods

Join School District 43 at the upcoming community dialogues to share your ideas and concerns for the future of Coronation Park and a portion of Parkland Elementary School. Children are welcome to attend.

Community Workshop #3: Coronation Park  
Wednesday, November 27, 2013, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Moody Middle School Gymnasium  
3115 St. Johns Street, Port Moody, BC

Community Workshop #4: Parkland Elementary School  
Thursday, November 28, 2013, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Parkland Elementary School Gymnasium  
1563 Regan Avenue, Coquitlam, BC

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.

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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.



**Poinsetta** – order forms are available in the office and on line. **Orders are due today.**



Hockey Night for Birchland! Coquitlam Express – Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 7 pm @ Poirier Sports & Leisure Centre. \$5 ticket. Forms available on line or in office. **Due today.**

**Bake Sale** – information coming soon. Same day and time as Christmas Concert!

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

**Upcoming Lunch Dates**

- December 11– Subway; paper orders accepted until Friday Dec 6

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



**Bulldog Cinch Sacks!**



**\$10**

Order online [www.munchlogin.com](http://www.munchlogin.com)

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, Upcoming activities and vote in our remaining PAC positions.

When: **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

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\*

## 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.

**SANTA will be visiting RBC Royal Bank!** - Saturday, December 7, 2013 @ 10am – 1pm – RBC @ Fremont Village. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Glenayre Elementary's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Gift Gala** – Friday, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 pm at Glenayre Elementary. Click here for more information.

**Port Coquitlam Skate Club** – club information is available [here](#).

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

**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>

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

  
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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.

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**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](http://www.ce43.com)

  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**43**  
EXCELLENCE  
Learning for a Lifetime

  
**COMPUTER  
BASICS**  
"Literacy Foundations Information Technology"

Free class!  
internet  
keyboarding  
word processing  
email

**Where: CLOC**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays .....Dec 3 - Mar 11 ..... 11:45 - 3:00 PM course # 7A27-1  
Tuesdays & Thursdays .....Mar 13 - Jun 26 ..... 12:00 - 3:00 PM course # 7027-2

**Where: Montgomery Centre**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays .....Dec 3 - Mar 11 .....6:00 - 9:15PM course # 4A66-1  
Tuesdays & Thursdays .....Mar 13 - Jun 26 ..... 6:00 - 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](http://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.



  
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