October Notes:

As the end of term one approaches, there are several important messages we wish to communicate with you.

**Term One**

Term one report cards will go home on October 30th.  Parent teacher interviews will be held on November 15th.  More information on how to schedule an interview will be available in a few weeks.  Please remember to consult the website calendar for all upcoming events.

**Hallowe'en**

With issues related to Hallowe'en, please refer to the attached Hallowe'en letter from the Children of Street Society about appropriate Hallowe'en attire.  In addition, Coquitlam by-laws and school rules prohibit the possession, use or distribution of firecrackers or fireworks.  Students will be suspended for their involvement with firecrackers and fireworks.

**Missing Electronic Devices in School**

With regards to electronic devices in the school, there is not a week that goes by without two or three lost electronic devices being turned in to the office.  We are also sad to say that on a few occasions this year, electronic devices were stolen after being left unattended on desks or in backpacks.  Please be sure that your son or daughter securely stores their electronic devices on their person or in their locker during the school day.  Also, if they have any knowledge of individuals who may be responsible for taking electronic devices without permission, they need to see a school administrator immediately.

Those individuals who are involved in the theft or in possession of stolen property will certainly be suspended and will be involved with the RCMP.

**Anti-Bullying information**

With respect to the tragic events of last week, many parents are seeking resources and guidance on how to start conversations and work with the community on bullying issues.  The following websites and the attachment are excellent resources.  The [www.deal.org](http://www.deal.org), [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) or [www.cyberbullying.ca](http://www.cyberbullying.ca) websites include facts on what bullying is, why people bully and who they target and how parents can deal with their child, whether they are being bullied or are the ones doing the bullying.

Please contact the school counsellor or administration if you feel you require assistance from the school.

**S-Trip and Breakaway Tours  2012-13 Trips Abroad**

Some of you may be aware of a Grad/high school student trips planned for around the Winter Vacation and for Spring Break 2013, by a companies called S-Trip and Breakaway Tours.  .  These are **not** Centennial School trips, and they have no affiliation with the school whatsoever.

Sales representatives from the company contact students in the schools to recruit their classmates for these trips.  Often the recruitment happens at school or on Facebook, Twitter, etc.  We do not sanction or allow these meetings to occur at school, and are concerned that some of our graduates go on these trips.  We are also concerned that some students represent the nature of this trip to their parents as school sanctioned.  Again, this is not the case.

In past trips of this sort, groups of high school students from the Tri-Cities went on these trips, and we know that there was little or no adult supervision on site, and that alcohol consumption among, other things, was rampant.   In one case, a few students in the Dominican Republic contracted viral meningitis and over the years we have had several stories about very irresponsible behavior by students.

We know that if our children were considering such a trip, we would want to make an informed decision about whether they should go or not.  We see it our duty to look after the well-being of our students at all times.

We would suggest that should your child show interest in going on the trip, that you have a very frank conversation about its nature, and that you thoroughly research the proposal before deciding. And please remember that all Centennial school trips would have my and District approval, and that you would have staff members in charge of your children, and communication directly from the school, often with a parent meeting attached.    Furthermore, the school would receive and manage all monies pertaining to the trips.

Please call us if you have any concerns.