



SCHOOL DISTRICT 43 (COQUITLAM)

November 20,
2014

ÉCOLE IRVINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Mme. D. Proulx

Principal

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Dear Irvine Families;

The Winter weather is upon us and we are well into our curricular routines. The students have set goals and are working towards them with your support. As you review your child's report card in December, ask your child about their successes, review their progress and goals with them and if you have continuing concerns, make an appointment with child's teacher to discuss how you can best support your child's progress together.

We recently had our Remembrance Day Ceremony at school and I was so proud of them at that event. Many students presented as solo or combined classes and their voices add such feeling to the event. Divisions 3 and 4 sang a song of peace. Divisions 1 and 2 recited If there is to be Peace and *In Flanders Field*. The students from all classes prepared wreaths in their classes which they presented before lighting a candle of hope.

The Beavers, Sparks, Brownies and Cubs wore their uniforms for the day to show their respect. The audience, comprised of students, and family members, was so very respectful and quiet during the assembly. It is so important that the youth partake in these important ceremonies and assemblies as they will work hard for peace. It was a moving experience for us all. In some classes, students explored these themes through writing and reading activities.

It is experiences like these, chats with students on the playground and visits to classrooms that make my day! The students we have in this school are wonderful people who make us proud every day through their hard work and caring hearts.

We have a number of groups who are working hard to help others and that fills our buckets daily! Looking to the next few weeks, we have completed a healthy donation to our Local Foodbank

campaign, spearheaded by Mme Zimmermann and the eager students of Division 5. Division 7 is participating in a Blanket Drive this month and you will see their posters sprinkled through this edition. Our Winter concert and the arrival of the festive season is just around the corner. Please keep the calendar at the ready, check the planners carefully for important notices so that you don't miss a bit of it!

Winter weather is already here with the rain and wind so please make sure your child is dressed to brave the elements. Divisions 1 and 7 made great posters to remind us how to dress for success and get some fresh air! Please check the Winter Weather info notes, too!

Mme Darlene Proulx

Bravo, Division 5~ Mountains of food!

Inside this issue:

School Goals	2/3
School events	3
Breakfast with Santa & Parking	4
Student Leadership, Christmas	4
Winter Concert information	5-6
Calendar	6

Mme Zimmermann's Grade 3/4 class carried out a Free the Children We Scare Hunger campaign with gusto for the second year in a row!

They made posters, spoke to individual classes and really got the whole school community on board.

SHARE recently picked up our donation organized by this class and congratulated them and our community on a job well done!



Social Responsibility Goal: Contributing to Classroom and Community

Creating a Culture of Caring and Connectedness is something we work at within the classroom and as a school community.

The presenter at a recent workshop, Colleen Drobot, talked about the importance of children feeling connected to their families, classmates and some important adults around the school. This helps them navigate tough times.

Programs that teachers use in class vary often, even from year to year, depending on the group.

Roots of Empathy is one program that is featured in primary classes, taught in Div. 18 by a fabulous volunteer. This sets the stage for years to come! Other programs taught by Mrs. Flood, our school counsellor, including Friends, which is also presented to larger groups or whole

classes.

In intermediate grades, our students are often asked to take on positions of leadership. Many of the Grade 4 and 5 students are lunch monitors this year for the first term. They have done an excellent job of modeling appropriate classroom and playground behaviour for their young charges. In many instances, a parent of a younger child tells me that the child sought out their classroom monitor to help out with an issue or an injury. What great feedback! Our Grade 4s and 5s are truly STARS in our eyes!

This year we have had three divisions step up to be leaders in our community. Division 5 recently completed a Food bank drive

and Division 7 has just announced a Blanket drive, perfectly timed with our cool weather.

Our Leadership Group is working on our Rainy Day Games Club with PAC support and soon Later on we will have our Christmas Concert Food Drive that will help replenish the cupboards at Share after the Christmas rush. They have really enjoyed creating Fill Me Up bucket posters that you will find around the school.

Filling classroom monitor positions is another way that students routinely contribute to their classroom community. Like at home, they come to understand about the ways they can participate in their classroom family and the importance of that support network for the benefit of all.

RAINY DAY GAMES CLUB WELCOMES YOU!

The first day of each week the Games Monitors welcome students from either odd/even # classes to take out games from our library. These games were donated by our families and the PAC. We are very pleased to offer this to our students and when they return the game with all the pieces they receive a STARS ticket to put in their class bucket! Let the fun begin!!

Grade Five Fundraising Committee efforts:

How can you help?

The committee has an account set up at the Bigger Bottle Depot under [Irvine Grade Five Grad](#) . Donate your empty recyclables to a good cause.

School Goals: Improve Reading Comprehension

Tips for Reading To Children

Reading material for this experience can be at any level of difficulty; from very easy to quite sophisticated.

- Read daily to your child and choose a time that suits your family schedule.
- Make this a joyful and relaxing experience in a comfortable and cozy place.
- Be playful, enthusiastic, and expressive as you read.
- To captivate your child's interest and activate prior knowledge, read titles and look at pictures before reading.
- Model a sense of curiosity and wonder about pictures and ideas as you are reading using

prompts such as: I wonder why . . . Isn't this interesting . . . This makes me think about . . . or Wow . . .

- Be willing to stop for discussions and answer questions your child might have. This will happen quite naturally.
- Share ideas, feelings, and thoughts with your child and help make connections between their own life and what you are reading.
- Encourage your child to visualize and act out parts of the story. This helps the stories come alive.
- Use your finger to track words as you read. This reinforces reading left to right, top to bottom, and helps to develop the

concept of matching the spoken word to the printed word. Sometimes children want to take responsibility for doing the finger tracking themselves.

- Consider using bookmarks and pointers to vary the tracking process.
- Don't discourage your child from asking to have their favourite stories read over and over again. When children no longer have to concentrate on the plot, they naturally focus on the flow of language and memorize words.

And finally...

- Read what your child and you are interested in.

Winter Weather ahead!

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other weather conditions. All schools in the Coquitlam School District will remain OPEN, if at all possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

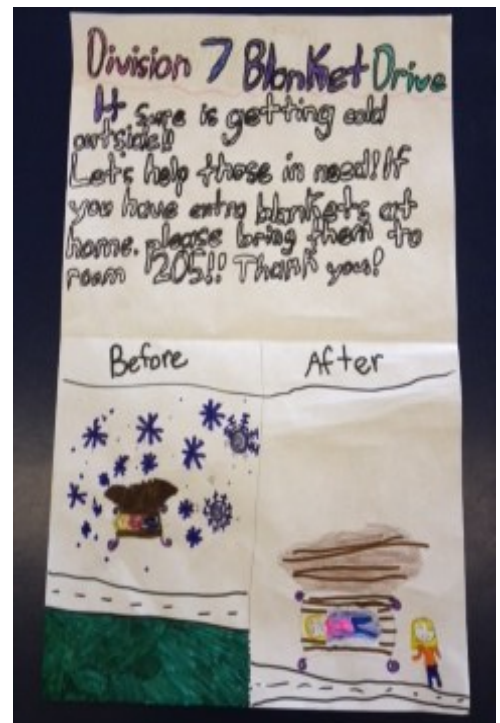
Some of our schools are in very different climate zones from one another and there may be the need for select closings within the district. If there is a partial closure of schools within the district, these individual schools will be identified.

On occasion, full district or partial district closure is required.

Extreme weather can also impact transit busing. Bus schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit bus schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/> Any district-wide or partial closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. at the latest and will be announced via **School District 43: website www.sd43.bc.ca** and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs before 6:30 a.m. so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements, should schools be closed. While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather changes quickly and therefore decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes, as well as the above identified radio stations.



Division 7 Blanket Drive

Student leadership at Irvine

Earlier this month the Grade Four and Five Leadership club took on the [fun Mustache project](#). Before that they filled the school with STARS posters

And now for the next event...

Our next project will be the Foodbank Drive for Share, an École Irvine Tradition! We'll be

setting up the special collection area in the front foyer soon, so keep an eye out for it!

We will be collecting from all the classes during the month of December. Leadership club members will be organized a very successful Mustache day and we know this will also be a lot of fun!

We will also be requesting non-perishable items for the foodbank at the Santa Breakfast on the 13th or send them in to class until the 15th.



Division 7 Blanket Drive

Irvine Elementary's Breakfast with Santa

Let the Holiday Spirit begin!! Come out and enjoy some fun with family and friends at this year's "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 13 between 8:30 and 10:30am. Enjoy pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee with your family, friends and neighbours. The cost is \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child or \$15.00 per family, (2 adults and 2 children). Bring your camera to take a picture of your child with Santa!

As an indication of how many people are attending, please return your slip to the gift box at the office by Dec 5. Please make sure to invite Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles, Nieces and Nephews...the more the merrier! We are collecting again for the Foodbank so please bring a non-perishable food item with you.

This event is the social event of the year in our gym! We hope to see you there! *Proceeds will help brighten the Christmas of local families in need*****

Remember the Library Book Fair will be open during the breakfast!



Worrisome Parking and Handicap Parking Lots

You have surely noticed that our school has grown, as has our staff. Please use public, street parking rather than the staff parking lot. Thanks for your help.

As reported in previous editions, the parent and staff parking lots continue to be areas of concern before and after school.

We have a number of HANDICAPPED parking spots, two in the staff lot and one in the parent lot. In addition, a few summers ago, a handicapped access was identified along the Renton side of the school fence near the daycare building. **Please respect these spots and do not park**

there without a valid permit.

Many people have noted children, from toddlers to Grade Five students walking through the parking lots just before and after the bell, rather than using the paths provided. We have noted toddlers running ahead of parents and are concerned that someone will be hurt. Please use either the new path along the Wellington side of our parking lot or the sidewalk along the drop-off lot, or the cement pathway along the front of the school.

In addition, we would like to encourage

everyone to use the crosswalks as it is very unsafe to make the quick dash across the road outside of those protected areas.

Once again, I would like to remind parents and drivers not to park along the school side of Renton, and leave their vehicles. It is a City of Port Coquitlam bylaw that designates this area as a no parking zone. Fine is \$100. Please respect the bylaws and our neighbours.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Winter Concert and Grade 5 Leaving Fundraiser

Get out your family calendars and put a big star on December 16th and 17th! We will be hosting two Christmas matinees at 1:00 p.m.

I would like to remind everyone that there is limited seating in the gym, even before the set is mounted. In order to accommodate all families, we have put out ticket request forms. It is the same performance on both days as well as on Dress Rehearsal Monday. Pick up a form at the office if you have not already submitted yours. Please indicate on the form sent home to you whether you plan to attend either Tuesday or Wednesday's performance. Requests for extra tickets can only be accommodated if space is available after everyone has sent in their requests. As always, seats will be given out, first come first served but if you choose to arrive early, please line up outside the gym door in the downstairs hall of the school. The gym doors will not be opened to guests until 12:30 p.m., 30 minutes before the performance. Please call ahead if you require handicap seating so we will accommodate you easily and you won't need to line up.

If you are planning to attend the performance, please do make plans to stay to the very end. The students and teachers have all worked so very hard to prepare this major performance for their families and it is very disappointing and disruptive when the audience picks up and leaves.

We know you will be charmed by every group that is performing, so relax and enjoy the show!

We are looking forward to dressing up the gym for the occasion. It's going to be a fabulous show!

In the last few years we had a few electrical challenges and even experienced a Brown out in the middle of the concert. The show must go on so we are working to make improvements in a few ways. One is that we cornered the market on LED lights! This will decrease our energy demand on an ageing system. The other change is that we are asking you to charge up your video camera battery at home before the performance because we cannot have folks plugging their cameras into our electrical system as they have in the past. Your cooperation with this measure will be very helpful indeed. We do not want the same worrisome energy draw to happen again this year. We will be having our fun 50/50 draw again this year at both the matinees as well as the Dress rehearsal. The prizes will be awarded at the end of the concert. Proceeds will go to purchasing a new digital camera.

An email will be sent out through the liaison requesting volunteers for 50/50 sales.

We are mixing it up with the staging again this year so we are very excited to see what happens when the whole show comes together!

We have a wonderful parent community ...very enthusiastic and hardworking! One of the fun events at our school over the years has been the Winter **Concert Front Rows Raffle!**

Families have been invited to purchase raffle tickets to support the GRADE 5 STUDENTS for the cherished front rows that will be specially marked for the lucky winners! Extra tickets will be available at the office.

The tickets will go home soon and we hope you will support this fun opportunity to help our Grade Five Leaving Events for students.



Cookies and Water!!

Grade 5 Leaving Committee Volunteers will have wonderful, tasty Cookies for sale as well as cool, refreshing water to drink in a warm and toasty gym!

Please visit their snack table at the gym entrance and help support their cause. The Grade 5 Leaving Committee is raising funds to go to the Chilliwack Waterslides in June! Your support is appreciated!

Irvine Elementary Book Fair!

Please sign up to help out at the Irvine Elementary Book Fair!

Here's how it works:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/eJXdjb>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Thanks so much! Mme Faulks

Check out our mustaches!



Calendar Insert

OUR MISSION

The Irvine community is working together to create a safe and nurturing environment that challenges and motivates our students and promotes lifelong joy of learning.

Ensemble, l'École Irvine et les parents joignent leurs efforts pour créer un environnement accueillant où la sécurité et le plaisir d'apprendre sont primordiales.

www.sd43.bc.ca/irvine

Parent to Parent:

Tips for Helping your child be a better Bystander that have come out of recent conversations with parents here at school.

Research says that 57% Bullying incidents stop when the Bystanders act in a positive way. It also says that family dinner is a great spot for this subject to be discussed!

How can a parent help?

- ⇒ Talk with your child at dinner about their day and listen carefully to the adventures that happen throughout the day.
- ⇒ Talk about how they could help support a sibling or a friend through a tough time in a positive manner. Think of creative solutions together!
- ⇒ **I CARE** important points:
 - Creative problem solving (can you help think of new ways for your child to wiggle out of a tight spot?)
 - Ask for help from friends or an adult
 - Relate and join (ask the child to join in with them to get them out of a tight spot)
 - Empathy: comfort a friend and understand
- ⇒ Ask your child about what else they could do, or do better next time
- ⇒ Bullying is about using power to cause distress to others. It happens repeatedly, over a period of time, rather than only once.
- ⇒ Parents play an important role in helping their children work through these issues because they occur in many situations: school, home/daycare, sports or play.

- Nov. 27: Recognition Assembly @ 1:30
- Nov. 28: PAC Family Movie: The Lorax
- Dec. 10: Early Dismissal @ 1:44 p.m.
- Dec. 13-18: Scholastic Book Fair Library fund raiser
- Dec. 13 Breakfast with Santa 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 15: Winter Concert Dress rehearsal 1:00 p.m. No Tickets necessary
- Dec. 16-17 Winter Concert afternoon performance @ 1:00 p.m. BRING YOUR TICKET!
- Dec. 18: Food Bank Donations picked up!
- Dec. 19: Sand Northrup Holiday Show @ 1:00 All are welcome!
- Last day of classes before Winter break
- Jan. 5: Return to school

