



Riverdale News

An Update for Parents and Families

Ecole Riverdale Elementary...*Learning, Caring and Doing Our Best*

May 3, 2016

**Posted bi-weekly on the School Website

A Word from Your Principal

Many thanks to all those who were able to join us for our student-led conferences last Thursday. It was wonderful to see your children proud and excited to share their learning with you – from mealworm inquiries to art portfolios, from exploring what makes an ideal community to hypothesizing how seeds grow. The shifts in our curriculum ask us to delve deeper into competencies of communication, creative and critical thinking, and there was so much evidence of this on Thursday! When your child takes ownership of his/her learning, they are able to identify the goals they have achieved or are working towards, and what they need to do to get there. At home, ask your child not only what they *did* at school, but what they *learned*, and where they are at in their learning. It can open up an entirely different conversation!

Views sought to address Kwantlen Secondary School overcrowding

Beginning April 19th, the district has been seeking feedback about options to alleviate overcrowding at Kwantlen Park. The Surrey School District has been considering a range of options, including redistributing some of Kwantlen Park enrolment to nearby L.A. Matheson and Queen Elizabeth secondary schools that have room for more students. Options explored include choice program moves (Inter A and French Immersion) and catchment boundary changes. A summary of the options explored was sent home to students in French Immersion on April 21st. We want to ensure all parents are aware of the proposed changes and have an opportunity for feedback. Please visit the district website (www.placespeak.com/kwantlen-park-options) for further information as well as an online survey to provide feedback on the options. **The feedback period ends on May 9.**

Class Placements for 2016-2017

Teachers spend a great deal of time taking into consideration many factors when placing your children into classes. When doing classroom configurations, teachers look at the overall composition of the classroom, and consider where each child would likely be most successful. They must balance the needs of the individual child with the overall composition of the classroom. We work collaboratively and consider the following criteria to carefully balance the learning experiences of all children:

- Social and emotional needs
- Gender balance
- Social relationships with peers
- Learning styles
- Diversity of learning needs
- Maturity

We have many parent request to keep children together based on friendships. We know that having your child feel socially comfortable is important, and we will ensure they will have peers in their classes with whom they connect.

Principal: Leah Christensen

Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

surreyschools.ca/riverdale

Tel. 604.588.5978

If you wish to share any information based on the above criteria, please contact Ms. Christensen, in writing or by email. A final note about combined classrooms. Combined classrooms are in almost every school throughout the Province. The research on combined classes shows that there are no adverse effects of students being in a combined class. What does make a difference is that classrooms have a balanced composition; the grade level is irrelevant. In fact, there are strong advocates amongst educators that combined classes offer many advantages.

Spring Photos Have arrived!

Packages will be sent home this week. To order, please go to mylifetouch.ca. Log in with your Portrait ID and Access Code, which is on your portrait package insert. Select which sheets you want to purchase and pay online. Please return unpurchased portraits/packages to the school. Thank you.

Lunch Program Forms

Thank you for ensuring you sign and return the monthly lunch program permission forms. This makes our job much easier as we need to account for the number of lunches we serve students.

Art Club for Students in Grades 3, 4 and 5

Mme Lendvoy and our counsellor, Mr. Sawatsky, will be leading an after school art club for students in grades 3,4 and 5. Working through an artistic medium, the purpose of the club is to help students gain an increased sense of self confidence and exploring ways to deal with strong feelings (feeling scared, anxious, angry, sad, etc.). Activities include making stress balls, creating a family tree, and making a superhero comic book. The Club happens Wednesdays, beginning May 5th, and ending June 8th.

If you would like your child to attend, please speak with your child's teacher for a permission form. A maximum of 10 children can be accommodated in the Club.

School Safety

In order to ensure your child is safe at school, it is district policy that parents first check in at the office before going anywhere else in the school. If you need to contact your child, we will call down to your child's classroom to inform the teacher of your arrival. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Grade 7 Updates

- Our final Celebration Committee Planning meeting is Monday, May 16th from 5-6pm. Please join us! We need many volunteers to help with decorations, shopping, supervision and clean up.
- Please email the Committee Chair, Stacy Ellis (stacyellis3@hotmail.com) to volunteer or with any questions.

Looking Ahead

- Thursday, May 5th – 9am PAC Meeting
- Friday, May 6th – Non-instructional Day. School is closed.
- Tuesday, May 10th – Grade 6 Immunization Follow Up
- Wednesday, May 11th to Friday, May 13th – Grade 7s to Camp Elphinstone
- Friday, May 13th – 1pm-2.15pm - Ready Set Learn and PALS session in the Library
- Monday, May 16th – 5pm Grade 7 Celebration Committee Planning meeting
- Tuesday, May 17th – Festival des Beaux Arts at the Bell Centre (time TBA)

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- Wednesday, May 18th – Special Track Meet for Students with Special Needs – South Surrey Track
- Friday, May 20th – 9am – Welcome to Kindergarten (English); 1pm – Welcome to Kindergarten (FRIM)
- Wednesday, May 25th – 9am Ballet Victoria Performance in the gym
- Thursday, May 26th – 9am – 10.30am Volunteer Appreciation Tea in the gym
- Thursday, May 26th – 3.30 – 5.30pm – Mini meet at Riverdale (with Harold Bishop and Holly)
- Friday, May 27th – 9am – Final Intermediate SOAR Assembly; 10.45am Final Primary SOAR Assembly
- Monday, May 30th – Non Instructional Day. School is closed.
- Thursday, June 2nd – District Track Meet at Bear Creek Park
- Friday, June 10th – 1pm PALs Celebration!
- Friday, June 17th – Sports Day!
- Tuesday, June 21st – 5.30pm Grade 7 Celebration
- Wednesday, June 22nd – 9am Year End Celebration Assembly
- Thursday, June 23rd – Last Day of School - 1.30pm dismissal for Parent Teacher conversations
- Friday, June 24th – 1st day of Summer Holidays!