



## **Riverdale News**

### **An Update for Parents and Families**

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

**May 16, 2016**

\*\*Posted bi-weekly on the School Website

#### **A Word from Your Principal**

We have six weeks of learning to go in the school year, and many extra exciting things are happening in addition to the great learning throughout the school day. From educational field studies to hatching butterflies in the classroom, from track meets to year end assemblies...it is an exciting time of year! Our grade 7 camp this year was held at Camp Elphinstone on the Sunshine Coast. Campers and staff returned Friday happy and exhausted – two telltale signs that the three days were a great success! Many thanks to those parents and volunteers who helped fundraise for this experience. And many thanks to all those parents and friends who have been accompanying students on so many field studies. This kind of experiential learning is instrumental in inspiring students and helping them engage in inquiry and the world around them. We couldn't do it without your support. Merci!

#### **Festival des Beaux Arts – Tuesday, May 17th**

Students in divisions 1, 5 and 6 will be performing at the Bell Centre between 10-11.30am. Students in divisions 2, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15 will be performing in the afternoon, between 12 – 1.30pm. Please speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions. Amusez-vous bien!

#### **A Special Evening with Dr. Vanessa Lapointe**

On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to attend a free dinner and talk at Riverdale with psychologist, Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. The title of the talk is, "Discipline That Nurtures Children". The focus is for young children, ages 0-6 years. The evening begins at 4.45 and ends at 7pm. Free childminding will also be provided.

Please see the attachment for further details and how to register.

#### **Welcome to Kindergarten!**

For all those parents and families with children entering Kindergarten in the fall, the Welcome to Kindergarten sessions happen this Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. For students entering in English, we will see you at 9am. For students entering French immersion, we will see you at 1pm.

#### **Volunteer Appreciation Tea Invitation – Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

An invitation to our Volunteer Appreciation Tea was sent home last week. We are inviting all parents to come enjoy a time to say "thank you" for all you do for our school community. If you did not receive an invitation and wish to attend, please call the school asap. We are doing a final tally of numbers and need to ensure we've put on enough coffee! Thank you.

Principal: Leah Christensen

Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

[surreyschools.ca/riverdale](http://surreyschools.ca/riverdale)

Tel. 604.588.5978

## **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 requests 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.

If you wish to share any information based on the above criteria, please contact Ms. Christensen, with a brief note 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.

## **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](mailto:stacyellis3@hotmail.com)) to volunteer or with any questions.

## **Looking Ahead**

- Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – 5pm Grade 7 Celebration Committee Planning meeting
- Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Festival des Beaux Arts at the Bell Centre
- Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Special Track Meet for Students with Special Needs – South Surrey Track
- Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – 9am – Welcome to Kindergarten (English); 1pm – Welcome to Kindergarten (FRIM)
- Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Victoria Day Holiday – School is closed.
- Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – 9am Ballet Victoria Performance in the gym
- Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 10.30am Volunteer Appreciation Tea in the gym
- Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – 3.30 – 5.30pm – Mini meet at Riverdale (with Harold Bishop and Holly)
- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Final SPIRIT DAY...Come as a TWIN! (Mme Christensen is trying to figure out how to look like Mr. Loosemore!)
- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – 9am – Final Primary SOAR Assembly; 10.45am Final Intermediate SOAR Assembly

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- Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – Non Instructional Day. School is closed.
- Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – District Track Meet at Bear Creek Park
- Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 1pm PALS Celebration!
- Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 9am Grade 7 Band Concert with some music class participation with Mr. Clark
- Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Sports Day!
- Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> – 5.30pm Grade 7 Celebration
- Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9am Year End Celebration Assembly
- Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Last Day of School - 1.30pm dismissal for Parent Teacher conversations
- Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> day of Summer Holidays!