



## **Riverdale News**

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

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

**June 1, 2016**

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

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

Welcome June! Already nine months have passed since I first arrived at Riverdale, and we're soon looking at saying "au revoir" for summer vacation. But not so fast! We have many wonderful adventures, celebrations and learning experiences yet to come! One of the special celebrations we have to look forward to is our K-7 Year End Celebration Assembly on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Parents and families are welcome to join us at 9am. It will be a time to celebrate the learning and growth that each child has accomplished this year, and to celebrate what a wonderful community we have.

This year, students have worked hard to reach their potential and SOAR. We often refer to this acronym, and the ideals it stands for: to be SAFE; to be ORGANISED and focused in learning; to be ACCOUNTABLE and responsible for one's words and actions; to show RESPECT for self, others and our school. At the assembly, teachers will honour several students in each class who have exemplified these virtues throughout the school year. It will also be a time to celebrate the many ways we have fun and learn at school: through service, leadership, sport, music and dance. As our new curriculum and assessment practices change, so is this reflected in how we honour learning and achievement for all students. This means more focus on celebrating the gifts, passions and strengths of each child in our community. We hope you will be able to join us for our Year End Celebration!

### **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.

Principal: Leah Christensen  
Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

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

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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.

## **PAC Meeting – New time!**

Everyone is welcome to join us for a PAC meeting on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

## **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 parent committee has created beautiful invitations for the Grade 7 Celebration on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. The invitations will be sent home with students shortly. The evening schedule is as follows:

- 5.30pm Doors open and refreshments served to guests
- 6pm Ceremony
- 7-8pm Pizza and Dance

Each family will have up to four seats for the ceremony. If space allows, an extra ticket may be requested. Please watch for the invitations and return the RSVP by Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Our final Celebration Committee Planning meeting is Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

- Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – District Track Meet at Bear Creek Park
- Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 5pm Grade 7 Celebration Committee Meeting
- Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 6pm PAC Meeting
- Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 1pm PALs Celebration!
- 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!