



Riverdale News

An Update for Parents and Families

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

January 11, 2016

**Posted bi-weekly on the School Website

A Word from Your Principal

Happy 2016! From all of the staff at Riverdale, we wish you a healthy, happy year of learning and new adventures throughout the year ahead. We certainly were off to a fantastic start last week. Students quickly slipped back into classroom routines and showed enthusiasm for being back at school. When we had our first snow stay on the ground, children delighted in safe play and built mini snow creatures that dotted the landscape. SOAR tickets were quickly filling the box during our first week as teachers and staff noted the safe and respectful behavior throughout the school. Before the break, we worked hard to reinforce positive hallway behaviours, as well as walking calmly into the building after recess and lunch. Our mascot, Raven, made a few guest appearances to show her approval!

Thank you for your support and encouragement. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, email, or catch me outside. Here's to new discoveries and more learning stories to celebrate throughout 2016!

Earthquake Preparedness

We have our first drill of the year scheduled for the afternoon on Tuesday, Jan. 12th. Student supplies in the large Earthquake bin (the blue bin in the parking lot) were not returned to students at the end of last year. They are now ready to be returned, and PAC will be sending out information shortly on how to create the student supply bag (for Kindergarten and students new to Riverdale). We will then collect and store the newly-restocked bags in bins by division in the bin. Thank you for your assistance.

Parking Lot Update

Because of the large number of families who live outside of the Riverdale catchment, we have a lot of car traffic. No matter what we do, there will be high volume for 20 minutes in the morning and after school. We appreciate your patience and safety during these times.

Mr. Loosemore and Ms. Christensen met with a district transportation planner in December to discuss minor revisions that may help with flow and pedestrian safety. Later this week, we will send out information regarding this discussion and details of a two week trial we will put into place later in January. The parking lot is being repainted over Spring Break (parking stall lines, crosswalk lines, etc.), so this is an opportune time to make any changes. We will set up a google doc for an online forum for your feedback. Watch for an email with details later this week.

Tis the Season...for flu and colds

If your child has had gastric problems or a fever, please do not send them to school. We ask that they remain home for at least 24 hours following an episode of vomiting or diarrhea to prevent spreading the virus. Please help us reinforce with your child the importance of washing hands after using the washroom and before eating. Merci!

Principal: Leah Christensen

Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

surreyschools.ca/riverdale

Tel. 604.588.5978

Update from our PAC

Our fantastic PAC elves were very busy through November and December. The Purdy's chocolate and cookie dough sales were a tremendous success, as were the raffle baskets. The lucky winners were:

- Robert Guthro (son, Gavin) – College Survival Basket
- Maggie Chocimski (daughter, Natalia) – Wine and Chocolates
- Darren Weckerle (daughter, Aliyah) – Guildford Survival Basket
- Pradeem Jayalath (son, Umesh) – Holiday Dinner Basket
- Christian and Iris Guani (daughter, Bethany) – Fun Movie Basket
- Sara Wilson (secretary) – Boys' Boredom Buster
- Nadine Hachey (son, Logan) – Care Package
- Darshin Nathoo (son Tej and daughter Tia) – Pampering Tea and Chocolate Basket

Congratulations to all the winners, and a tremendous thank you to PAC for your time, energy and fundraising efforts!

PAC meets the **first Thursday of every month at 9am**. Hope to see you there!

Leadership Team Spirit Days!

Our grade 6 and 7 Leadership Team has voted on five fun days ahead. Our first Spirit Day happens on Friday, January 22nd...

Tropical Day! We invite students to come dressed in their tropical best and we'll have some fun in our northern sun. We will host a contest in the gym at lunch...how low can you limbo?!

The next leadership campaign will happen in February, in conjunction with **PINK Shirt Day on February 24th**. We will launch a "RAK it up!" campaign the week prior to Pink Shirt Day (celebrating Random Acts of Kindness). Students are encouraged to wear pink on February 24th.

Volunteer Policy **posted on the school website

Ecole Riverdale Elementary values volunteers in our school community, and there are many activities where a teacher would appreciate your support. Please be advised that the district has established the following procedures in order to ensure the smooth, safe and effective functioning of our school:

- ✓ Anyone interested in volunteering should first check with the teacher to set up a mutually suitable time/activity.
- ✓ All visitors and volunteers in the school must come to the office to sign in upon arriving at school.
- ✓ It is imperative that volunteers respect student and parent/guardian confidentiality.
- ✓ The Riverdale Code of Conduct guides all interactions amongst students, staff and volunteers. We have a safe and caring school that is free from acts of:
 - Bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment
 - Threats and intimidation
 - Violence in any form
 - Abuse in any form
 - Discrimination in any form, including race, colour, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or ancestry

Should a volunteer have any concerns, please report directly to the school administration. Thank you.

MEND: Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!

Please see the attached pamphlet for information about a fantastic, FREE program being offered at the Guildford Parks and Recreation Centre. It commences later this month, and runs for 10 weeks. It is for children, ages 7-13 and their families (older and younger children are welcome to come). It's a great way to start the new year!

French Immersion Registration for Siblings, 2016-2017 School Year

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Siblings of children presently enrolled in a Surrey District Early French Immersion Class (up to and including grade 6) will be given priority for registration **in the same program at the same school until FRIDAY, January 15th at 3pm**. Late registrations are not accepted, and families will be placed in the regular district lottery after the 15th.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year begins on January 18th. Please check the school website for details.

Kindergarten Choice Program (French Immersion) Lottery Timeline**

- December 1st – Sibling Registration begins
- January 15th – **Siblings** have priority placement until this date
- January 18th – Those without siblings in FRIM register at local school/catchment school
- January 25th – Online applications open for lottery
- February 9th – Deadline to register at catchment school in order to apply online for Choice Program
- February 15th – Online applications close
- February 22nd – Random draw for lottery takes place
- February 23rd – March 4 – Lottery results sent to applicants for accept and decline or with wait list placements via email

**Please check the school website for further information.

Grade 7 Updates

Camp Bottle Drive – Guildford Bottle Depot

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki for setting up an account with the Guildford Bottle Depot (Unit 100 – 14727 108A Ave). The account name is: **Riverdale 2016 Grad**. To donate to the Grade 7 Camp fund, upon your bottle return, give them the account name, and they will give you a receipt. We will have a box in the office to deposit your receipts. Thank you!

Monday, January 11th, 5-6pm

Please join us for a Fundraising and Grade 7 Celebration Planning meeting.

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.

Looking Ahead

- Monday, January 11th – 5pm – Grade 7 Camp Fundraising and Year End Celebration Committee Meeting
- Friday, January 15th – Final day for FRIM Sibling Priority Registration
- Monday, January 18th – Kindergarten Registration (2016-2017) begins
- Monday, January 18th – 1pm – K-7 Jump Rope for Heart Assembly
- Friday, January 22nd – Tropical Day!
- Friday, January 29th - 9am Primary SOAR Assembly; 10.45am Intermediate SOAR Assembly
- Thursday, February 4th 9am – PAC Meeting
- Monday, February 8th – Family Day – School is closed.
- Looking way ahead...April 18th is an additional Non-Instructional Day. School is closed. *Attached is an updated School Calendar for your convenience.*

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