



Principal: Leah Christensen
Acting Vice Principal: Laura Hodak

Riverdale News

A bi-weekly update for parents and families
Ecole Riverdale Elementary...
together, we SOAR to success!

October 16th, 2017

A word from your Principal

Ecole Riverdale is a wonderful place to learn and grow. I see it every day in smiles and helping hands, and hear it with “merci” for simple things. This is thanks to a dedicated and knowledgeable staff, and to wonderful support from our parent community. It takes a village...

Over the last several months, we have received a great deal of support from our district to benefit our students. This includes:

- a \$5000 grant for “Fresh Air” Fieldtrips – to provide an extra bus trip to each division, dedicated to getting out into nature
- interior storage units (to replace using lockers)
- a fitness and yoga space on our stage (currently awaiting absorbent flooring)
- new student Macbooks to update our two laptop carts
- tools to support a mobile Maker space and the ADST (Applied Design, Skills and Technology) curriculum

Our school is slated to have the exterior painted this summer. And our PAC is considering a major research and fundraising initiative to update our playground and grounds.

We have new and exciting curriculum that allows for students to go into more depth of learning across the curriculum. And we have increasing access to tools that will help us achieve our learning goals.

While there have been some challenges in our district with staffing and TTOC shortages this fall, Ecole Riverdale has had a fantastic start to the school year!

Digital Online Resources – Check them out at home!

Our district has been building a fantastic variety of quality digital resources students can access anytime at home. The district pays the license fees, which grants all students free access. They are available in both French and in English.

To access the digital library, go to

www.surreyschools.ca/digital resources

Username: sd36bc

Password: sd36.bc

Ecole Riverdale School Plan

To read our school 2016-2017 school plan, please go to the website: learningbydesign.ca. This is a district site (no password required) that houses every school’s plan, as well as a great deal of information about the new curriculum, student supports in Surrey, and Surrey’s vision for student learning.

Staffing Update

Ms. Zamma began the year with us as our new Vice Principal. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, she is currently on leave and will not be returning to Ecole Riverdale. In her absence, Ms. Hodak is our Acting Vice Principal. She will also continue in her role as an LST teacher. Thank you very much to Ms. Hodak for stepping into this new role.

School Start Time – 8.35am First Bell; 8.40 Classes in Session

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to have your child at school by 8.35am. When the second bell rings at 8.40am, students are to be in their classrooms, ready to engage in the day’s learning. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSAs)

This year, the provincial assessment in reading, writing and numeracy, will occur in early November for students

in grades 4 and 7. An information letter from the district and one from the BCTF will be sent home this week. Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Middle Years Development Instrument – Grade 4

An information letter was sent home on Friday to parents of students in grade 4, inviting them to take part in this study. The purpose of the MDI is to better understand and measure areas of middle child development that contribute to children's well-being, health, and school success by asking children themselves about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school and in the community. The MDI was developed at UBC and has been used in Canadian schools since 2009. Researchers, schools, and governments use the study results to inform programs and services for children. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Halloween Costume Safety

Many students are in the midst of planning their costumes this year. Please remember that it is district policy that **replica weapons of any sort are not permitted at school**. Thank you for your assistance.

PAC Updates

A Big Riverdale Thank You to Hilda Jewell for coordinating our Hot Lunch program this year!
....to Gemma Fournier for passing out cookies and juice, and for soothing some nerves the day of Grade 6 immunizations.
....to our Fruit and Veg committee for distributing delicious BC produce (apples this month).
Hot Lunch orders are now online. Please register your child: <http://www.munchalunch.com/schools/riverdale>
Families on the School Lunch Program will have a lunch provided. If you would like additional items or treats from Treat Days then online ordering is a must.

2017-2018 PAC Executive:

Chair - Gemma Fournier
Vice - Megan Carbonetto
Treasurer - Lisa Zenowski
Secretary - Nicole Purvis

Many thanks for accepting these roles and responsibilities this school year!

Emergency Comfort Kits

Information will be sent home this week. Please return your child's kit in the Ziploc bag provided by November 2nd. Kits will be stored in the large Emergency Preparedness bin in the parking lot, and returned at the

end of the year. Many thanks to Halldor Bjarnason for coordinating the effort.

Head Lice Checks

Fraser Health no longer recommends schools complete dry lice checks as this often leads to misdiagnosis. If a case of head lice is suspected in your child's class, a letter will be sent home, asking you to perform a thorough check, and treat if needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Driver Pool

It sometimes happens that a class does not have enough parent volunteer drivers, and a fieldtrip has to be cancelled. If you have some daytime availability, and would be willing to be added to a **Riverdale Volunteer Driver List for Fieldtrips**, please let the office know. It would be wonderful if we had a few names to draw on to avoid a fieldtrip cancellation. Many thanks!

Grade 7 Camp Updates

Fall Camp – a good thing!

The teachers who attended camp this year the first week of October commented on how powerful it was to bring the group together early in the year. This helped for teachers to really get to know the students, and for students to get to know one another in new ways. Grade 7s will be presenting at our next SOAR assembly about the highlights of camp, and how they want to keep that leadership experience alive at Riverdale throughout the year.

Fundraising for next year's camp

Efforts are already underway to start fundraising for next year's grade 7 camp! Please come to an organizational meeting this **Tuesday, Oct. 17th at 5pm** for more information on how to get involved. Purdy's chocolate sales and movie nights are already in motion! Many thanks to Katrina Reid for getting the ball rolling!

Looking Ahead...

- Oct. 17th – 5pm Camp Fundraising Meeting
- Oct. 19th – Hot Lunch Day (Panago)
- Oct. 20th – Provincial Non Instructional Day
- Oct. 27th – SOAR Assemblies (9am Intermediate and 10.45am Primary)
- Nov. 3rd – Non-instructional Day
- Nov. 9th – 9am Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 10th – Non-Instructional Day
- Nov. 13th – Remembrance Day Holiday – School is Closed

Ecole Riverdale...where we are all Ravens!

Nous sommes tous des corbeaux!