



Principal: Leah Christensen  
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## Riverdale News

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

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### A word from your Principal

Many thanks for all of your efforts to support your child's learning – from having your child to school on time, to connecting with your child about what they are learning at school, to connecting with your child's teacher with questions, concerns, curiosities and appreciation, to all of the extras you do to support your child and our school – from fundraising, to volunteer driving, to volunteering on the many PAC committees and roles, to volunteering in your child's classroom. We want you to know how much we appreciate your support. It makes a huge difference for your child's success. Together, we make a great team!

Our first student led conferences are scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. While many of you communicate regularly with your child's teacher, these conferences give you a window into your child's learning that allows you to understand their strengths and areas of growth more deeply. One of the keys to helping students learn is to help them understand themselves as a learner, and to be able to assess their own learning. At the conferences, you will see examples of your child's learning, some of the activities they engage in, and have an opportunity to hear him/her talk about some of their biggest learning so far this year, and those areas where they need to continue growing. We call this having a "Growth Mindset" – the belief that with thoughtful practice, insight and dedication, one can achieve their goals. We look forward to seeing you on November 23<sup>rd</sup>!

In the meantime, here's to a fun and productive end to the month, and to lots of great learning on the journey ahead.



### 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**. If your child brings one to school, the classroom teacher will keep it for the day for safe keeping and return it at dismissal. Thank you for your assistance.

Also, thank you for limiting the amount of sugary treats that come to school following Hallowe'en. For most children, the increase in sugar intake has a negative impact on children's ability to focus, regulate emotions and manage disappointments during the school day. We appreciate your assistance.

### District Lunch Program

Due to allergy precautions, a signed lunch form along with payment is due every month. The forms take two days to process. **Please return the form and payment (\$1/day helps to cover costs) TWO DAYS prior to the end of every month to avoid delays in your child receiving lunch.** Merci beaucoup!

### Ecole Riverdale's Winter Concert

Ms. Yu, our wonderful music teacher, is currently making plans for another spectacular Winter Concert! Staff will finalise the dates and times at our October 30<sup>th</sup> staff meeting. We will then send home information so you can mark your calendars! Please stay tuned.

## Revitalizing Ecole Riverdale's Playground

Some initial discussions around a revitalization project have begun. There are district guidelines to follow, which are currently being explored with district personnel. PAC is also starting to explore different design and fundraising options. We will work with staff and students for input around what makes an environmentally friendly and functional play area for our 470 students. This is a long term project that will require significant fundraising. It is also an exciting project that will benefit students for many years to come. Please join us at PAC meetings for further information and discussion throughout the year.

## PAC Updates

- **Next PAC meeting is Nov. 16th @ 6pm** in the Learning Commons. Child minding is provided.
- Please return **Emergency Kits** to your child's teacher asap (by Nov. 2nd)
- Please note the information sent home and deadlines for the two most recent fundraisers: Holiday poinsettias/wreaths, and Gift Cards.

Many thanks to Hilda Jewell for organizing Family Photo Night and to our families that participated! It was a big success; and to our parent Hot Lunch committee for a very successful Panago Hot Lunch! Thank you for using the online ordering system, Munch a Lunch. It helps to simplify the process for PAC, teachers and office staff



**PAC Winter Market**  
**Saturday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am – 3pm**

*Please remember entry to the market is by donation. Over 40 vendors! Come by and*

support our PAC, and find some wonderful holiday gifts.

## 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. Many thanks to those who have already given us their name and availability!

## Grade 7 Camp Updates

Our grade 7 students shared at the October SOAR Assembly last Friday. They shared their reflections about what camp meant for them, and they led the entire

school in several fun camp songs. Their spirit and enthusiasm shone!

Grade 6 students are currently working hard to sell Purdy's chocolates. Our head custodian, Mr. Desmarais, is helping the grade 6s collect refundables in the school and accompanies them to the depot. These are both excellent initiatives, and we thank everyone for their time and efforts!

**The next gr. 7 Fundraising Meeting is Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

## Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

### Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Early Dismissal and Student Led Conferences

On Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, students will be dismissed at 1.30 pm for Student Led Conferences in the afternoon. Your child's teacher will send home specific information in the near future. We hope you will be able to join us, as this event will provide you with important windows into your child's learning.

We will also host a "Curriculum Café" in the Learning Commons. These are for parents/guardians that focus on how to support your child's learning at home, and how the curriculum has changed to provide deeper, more meaningful learning experiences for children. There is child-minding provided for younger children.

**The first will be held from 2.30 – 3.30pm, with a repeat session from 4.30 – 5.30pm.** More information to come!

## Looking Ahead...

- Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Non-instructional Day
- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – PAC Winter Market in the gym
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – 9am Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – Non-Instructional Day
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day Holiday – School is Closed
- Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – 6pm PAC Meeting
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1.30pm Early Dismissal, Student Led Conferences and Curriculum Cafes
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – 5pm Gr. 7 Camp Fundraising Meeting
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – PAC Poinsettia delivery in gym
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Communicating Student Learning templates sent home
- Week of Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Winter Concert (see information above – dates and times TBA very shortly)
- Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Last day of school before Winter Break

**Ecole Riverdale...where we are all Ravens!**  
**Nous sommes tous des corbeaux!**

