



Riverdale News

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

Principal: Leah Christensen
Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

October 24th, 2016

A word from your Principal

We are well and truly settled into our routines and expectations for this school year. We're looking forward to another fantastic 8 months of learning and growth together! We hope you plan to attend our first Student Led Conferences on November 3rd. This is a unique opportunity not only for your child to share what they *do* at school, but for you to see where they are at with their *learning!*

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!

Here's to a fun and productive end to October, and to lots of great learning on the journey ahead.

Welcome Ms. Murao

It has been a pleasure to welcome Ms. Murao into the front office. She will be with us for about another month while the clerk position is posted and filled. Thank you for welcoming her into the Riverdale community. She is doing a wonderful job getting to know dozens of families, school routines, and nearly 500 students' names!

Student Safety

We take your child's safety seriously. 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. We will then call down to your child's classroom to inform the teacher of your arrival. This also makes for fewer disruptions in the classroom. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

We appreciate that occasionally you may need to communicate a message to your child about changes to pick up arrangements. Please do this as early in the day as possible. The office phones become very busy in the afternoon. Students are not always in their classrooms should you call (they may be with another teacher, eg. in music class, in the gym, or outside), and it takes time to relay the message. Thank you for your assistance.

Grade 6/7 Camp Fundraising Meeting – Oct. 24th 5-6pm

A notice was sent home October 13th that explained a staff decision about Grade 7 camp. If you did not receive this notice, please ask your child's teacher for a copy. We explained that Grade 7 camp will continue this year, as originally planned, for Grade 7 students only, to happen in May. For next year (and future years), we will have grade 7 camp in early October so that students have this leadership experience early on in the school year, and bring these skills and enthusiasm back to the entire school community for the entire year.

With a generous grant through the YWCA, the cost for the three day camp and all transportation costs are approx. \$260/student.

Parents wishing to help fundraise for either the current grade 7s, or next year's grade 7s (current grade 6s), are

invited to a meeting on October 24th, from 5-6pm at the school.

Extra Curricular Sports

The Cross Country season came to a glorious end last week at Bear Creek Park. Thank you to our coaches, Ms. Loh and Mme Renaud, to our parent drivers, and to our fantastic students! It has been a positive experience for all involved!

Volleyball for grade 6 and 7 students is now underway. Thank you to coaches Mr. Speak and Ms. Base for your time, expertise and energy! If you are able to come and support your child during an after school game (on Wednesday for the boys and Thursdays for the girls), we would love to see you!

Hallowe'en Festivities

Our student leadership "Spirit Team" will be organizing a door decorating contest for all grades. There will be a candy estimation jar for students to practice their best estimation skills, and our Kindergarten students will proudly parade their creative disguises throughout the school. We'll end our day with a school celebration of our fundraising achievements this year...it's all about pie in Mr. Loosemore's and Mme Christensen's faces.

Please Note: Replica weapons of any sort (e.g. swords, sabres, pirate knives, guns, clubs, etc.) **are prohibited at school.** If a child brings something deemed inappropriate to school, it will be held at the office until the end of the day. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Communicating Student Learning

Nov. 3rd Early Dismissal and Student Led Conferences

On Thursday, November 3rd, 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.

Mr. Loosemore and Mme Christensen will host two different parent/guardian "**Conversation Cafés**" in the Learning Commons. **The first will be held from 2.30 – 3.30pm, with a repeat session from 5-6pm.** Child minding will be provided for younger children. We will provide you with current information about the new curriculum, what it means for your child as a learner, and answer questions about reporting. We look forward to seeing you then!

Terry Fox Cancer Research Fundraising Update

Many students brought in far beyond their "toonie for Terry" and creatively raised funds amongst friends and family. Because of a wonderful collective Riverdale effort, Mr. Loosemore and Mme Christensen will have "pie in their faces!" on Halloween day. Thank you for your support and generosity!

A Big Riverdale Thank You to our Parent Hot Lunch Volunteers...

Students enjoyed their first Hot Lunch of the year (Panago Pizza), with thanks to our Hot Lunch Chair, Hilda Jewell, and a fantastic team of volunteers. Students love and appreciate these special days, and it is because of your time and superb organization!

This was the first time PAC used the new online ordering system, "Munch-a-Lunch". Stay tuned for any tips and info for the next order in November.

PAC Updates

- **Next PAC meeting is TBA @ 6pm** in the Learning Commons. Child minding is provided.
- Please return **Emergency Kits** to your child's teacher asap (by Oct. 24th)
- Next **Hot Lunch** – November 24th

In the Community

Please see the two attachments for further information:

- Message to parents from Mike Bernier, Minister of Education
- Opportunity to be a Peer Ambassador with DiverCity

Looking Ahead...

- Oct. 24th 5-6pm Grade 7 Camp Fundraising Meeting
- Oct. 28th – SOAR Assemblies (9am Primary and 10.45am Intermediate)
- Oct. 31st – Hallowe'en Festivities
- Nov. 3rd – 1.30pm Early Dismissal, Student Led Conferences and Parent "Conversation Café"
- Nov. 4th – Non-instructional Day – School is closed
- Nov. 9th – 9am Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov. 10th – Non-Instructional Day – School is closed
- Nov. 11th – Remembrance Day Holiday – School is closed

Ecole Riverdale...where we are all Ravens!

Nous sommes tous des corbeaux!

