



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

December 5, 2016

A word from your Principal

With the first year of new curriculum well underway, our first formal reporting period approaches this week. For those teachers working with the Communicating Student Learning template, a report will be sent home on Tuesday, Dec. 6th. For those teachers working with the online portfolio (Freshgrade), a letter will be sent home on Tuesday, encouraging you to check your child's portfolio regularly.

Both options are supported by the Surrey School District, and both offer clear windows into your child's learning. A significant component of the reporting process involves student **self-assessment**. This is a critical part of supporting learning every day in the classroom. When teachers share **learning goals** in different subject areas, they also help students understand what the learning or task needs to look like. We refer to this as the **criteria for success**. Students then learn to assess where they are in relation to the goal, and what they need to do to continue moving forward. **Teachers guide students** every step along the way, **offering feedback** and next steps.

In addition to teachers' assessments of your child's learning, you will see examples of your child's self-assessments in both the written template, and in Freshgrade. Please speak with your child about these examples, asking them what they learned, and how they know they achieved these goals. As we support students to become more proficient at self-assessment, they begin to **own their learning**, and that is the ultimate goal for everyone!

Thank you in advance for returning the "Parent Feedback" section of the template, and for your comments on Freshgrade. We appreciate your feedback!

Drop Off Lane – No Parking Please

Please use the drop off lane for what it was intended. It is not additional parking space, and to use it as such creates extra congestion throughout the parking area.

If you arrive early in the afternoon to pick up your child, please park in one of the many parking stalls. **Please use the drop off lane for 1 minute drop off and pick up. It is not intended to be used for parking prior to the end of the day. Many thanks.**

A Winter in Canada Concert

December 15th Save the Date!

Ticket information went home last week. Due to fire regulations and gym capacity, we are limited to 3 tickets per family. Matinee performance (at 1pm) is free with a food bank donation. The evening concert is at 6:30pm and costs \$1 per ticket. Proceeds will go towards our fantastic music program!

Please make arrangements to have your child present for both performances.

See you there!



Kwantlen Park's Christmas Dinner

You are invited to attend KP's annual Christmas dinner on Thursday, Dec. 8th, from 5.30 – 7pm. Please RSVP asap to 604.588.6934.

Parent Letter from Minister of Education

Please see the attached letter from Education Minister, Mike Bernier.

Grade 7 Camp Fundraising Update

Gourmet Hot Chocolate and Candy Cane Sale – Two more chances!

- Monday, Dec. 5th
- Monday, Dec. 12th

Bring your toonies outside the gym after school for the best hot chocolate in town!



Many thanks to Stacy Ellis and the parent team who provided delicious treats at Friday's successful Movie Night fundraiser! We raised nearly \$500, to go towards Grade 7 camps this year (May) and next year (October)!

50/50 Draw at the Winter Concert!

Pancake Breakfast – Friday, Dec. 16th

Breakfast will cost \$2, and will be served from 7.30 – 8.15am in the gym. Ticket information will be out this week.

Raven Sports

Many thanks to our amazing Volleyball coaches, Ms. Base and Mr. Speak, for an excellent season! The grade 6 and 7 girls' and boys' teams showed excellent progress, and placed 3rd and 4th in the recent Playday. Thank you to the many parents who helped transport students to and from games over the season.

Basketball will be getting underway early in January! Many thanks to coaches, Ms. Wozney and Mr. Mountali for already getting a head start!

PAC Updates

Please join us for our next meeting: January 11th, 6pm – 7.30pm. Childminding is provided. Hope to see you there!

Thank you for a very successful Hot Lunch (Cobs Bread) last week. Students love these special lunches. Order online for January through Munch a Lunch.

Dressing for the Weather

The rain and cold weather have set in, so please ensure your child has outdoor gear for going outside at recess and lunch. Having an outside pair of boots or shoes and clean socks is important. Even if it is not raining, the grounds are wet. Children love going outside, and this fresh air and activity really help increase children's capacity to learn and focus. Thank you for your assistance.

Student Safety

We take your child's safety seriously. We have successfully completed our third fire drill of the year, and have our first Earthquake drill on Monday, Dec. 5th.

In order to ensure your child is safe at school, **it is district policy that parents/visitors first check in at the office before going anywhere else in the school.** We will then call down to your child's classroom and ask that your student meet you at the office. This makes for fewer disruptions in the classroom during teacher instruction time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Supporting Learning at Home

As the holidays approach us, you may be looking for some ways to support learning at home. Research tells us that one of the most important ways to support literacy development, in both French and English, is through **oral language**. Asking your child "**open-ended**" questions (e.g. asking his/her opinion about something you've seen or read, asking questions that begin with "How...?") force a child to think critically and creatively.

Another key part of healthy child development is **open-ended, imaginative play**. This does **not** include screen time. This kind of play is relevant and helpful for brain development and emotional development for children of all ages. Telling stories, building with Lego or playdough, acting out scenes that kids make up themselves, expressive art...each one provides meaningful learning experiences that kids usually love!

Looking Ahead...

- Dec. 6th – 1st CSL Template (Report) sent home
- Dec. 7th – PAC Frozen Food pick up in the afternoon in the gym
- Dec. 7th – Final JUMPSTART session in the gym afterschool
- Dec. 15th - 1pm and 6.30pm Winter Concert
- Dec. 15th – PAC Popcorn day (order online through Munch a Lunch)
- Dec. 16th – Last Day of Classes before Winter Break:
 - Pancake Breakfast in the gym
 - Pyjama and Movie Day
- Jan. 3rd - School opens following Winter Break

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

