



## 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

January 9, 2017

### A word from your Principal

**Happy 2017!** From all of the staff at Riverdale, we wish you a healthy, happy year of learning and new adventures! With the first week of 2017 behind us, it seems like the flurry of activity before the winter break is long past. However, it is worth mentioning that Riverdale staff, students and families were truly graced with many wonderful moments in the last week of 2016...from a Christmas Concert that not only rocked familiar holiday tunes, but brought brilliant interpretations of Sunglasses at Night, Stompin' Tom, Wavin' Flag with Djembe, and Life is a Highway. We were brought back in time to enjoy a French Canadian Christmas, and were introduced to creative lyrics for modern day French and English Canadian classics. Many thanks to all the staff who gave of their extra time and energy to help students rehearse, create artwork, and decorate the gym. Mr. Clark, our inspirational maestro, brought joy to hundreds of children and their families. Merci beaucoup! And thank you, our amazing community, for all of your support (and for braving the snowfall!)

As if that weren't enough, Stacy Ellis gathered a courageous group of parents from the Grade 6/7 Camp Committee to serve nearly 200 people fresh pancakes on the last day of school. What a brilliant success! Many thanks to Stacy and Karl Ellis, Mike Cortan, Nikki Patterson, Julie Trinczek and Tracy Kettner. Thank you to the many grade 6/7 students who helped clean up and have the gym ready to host our primary movie at 9am! I always find the New Year brings a wonderful focus to classroom learning. Students are refreshed and rested, yet they are familiar with the routines and expectations in their classrooms. This creates a perfect environment

where learning can really move forward! I look forward to witnessing the continued creativity, intriguing

questions, and critical thinking that are nurtured in every child at Riverdale!

### Kindergarten French Immersion Lottery

Parents must register their child at their local catchment school prior to applying for a Choice program (e.g. French Immersion).

#### Timeline:

- January 16: Regular Kindergarten registration at your local school;
- January 30: Online application for Choice Programs opens;
- February 15: Deadline to register at catchment school in order to apply online for Choice programs;
- February 20: Online application closes;
- February 27: Random lottery draw takes place; an email will be sent to all applicants announcing the lottery results. Please see the school or district website for further information.

### Kindergarten Registration – English Program

Children who turn five before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 are eligible to begin school in September, 2017. Registration begins on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see the school or district websites for further information re: documentation required for registration.

### FRIM Sibling Registration

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 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.** Late registrations are not accepted, and families will be placed in the regular district lottery after the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Drop Off Lane – No Parking Please**

Thank you for using the drop off lane for what it was intended. It is not additional parking space. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **Inter A District Program – Queen Elizabeth Secondary**

Information session for interested students in grade 7 and their families: January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6.30 at Queen Elizabeth Secondary (10441 132<sup>nd</sup> St).

### **PALS**

PALS is a program for parents and their PRESCHOOL aged children. It is designed to improve the children's performance in reading and writing at school and to build a connection between home and school. At Riverdale it will begin on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and sessions will run once a month until May. For more information and how to register, please see the attachment.

### **Feb. 2nd Early Dismissal and Curriculum Café**

On Thursday, Feb. 2nd, students will be dismissed at 1.30pm. Parents will be invited into classrooms to learn more about your child's learning to date. A notice with further details will be sent home from your child's teacher. There will also be a "Curriculum Cafe" that afternoon. We will focus on one aspect of the new curriculum, and have some hands on activities for parents to explore with their children. More details to follow!

### **French Story Time – City Centre Library**

Begins Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 3.45 to 4.15. A fantastic way to support French language development! Please see attachment for details.

### **Grade 6/7 Camp Committee Update**

**If you are the parent of a child in grade 6 or 7, the committee needs your support!** A small, committed group has been working hard to organize many successful fundraisers so far. These include:

- Hot chocolate sales

- Basket raffles
- 50/50 draw
- Pancake breakfast
- Movie night concession

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** at 6pm. Come out and start the new year right with a Zumbathon! Ticket info and details to follow.

The funds raised to date will be divided evenly **for both camps** (May 2017 for this year's grade 7 students, and Oct. 2017 for next year's grade 7s).

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

If you are able to help out, but cannot make the meeting, please email the committee chair, Corinne Moody at [living\\_to\\_love@telus.net](mailto:living_to_love@telus.net)

### **PAC Updates**

Many thanks to the hard-working and dedicated parents who organized many successful fundraising events before the break. Purdy's candy and frozen food sales brought in over \$1500! We also enjoyed a delicious Hot Lunch and Popcorn day. Thank you to everyone for making the ordering work smoothly through the online Munch-a-Lunch program. Thank you for a very successful Hot Lunch (Cobs Bread) last month. Students love these special lunches. Order online for January through munch a lunch.

Our PAC vice chair, Corinne Moody, has stepped down from her role for the remainder of this school year. Corinne has been an integral voice and champion of the school community, bringing forward various perspectives and initiatives that make Riverdale such a wonderful school. Many heartfelt thanks to Corinne for her positive energy and enthusiasm, and all that she has done on the PAC for our children.

Please join us for our next meeting: January 11<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 7.30pm. Childminding is provided. At this time there will be an election for vice chair. Hope to see you there!

### **Dressing for the Weather**

Thank you for packing warm clothes through the cold and rainy months. Having an outside pair of boots or shoes and clean socks is important. Children love going outside, and this fresh air and activity really help increase children's capacity to learn and focus.

## **Student Safety**

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 to inform the teacher of your arrival. This also makes for fewer disruptions in the classroom. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

## **Looking Ahead...**

- Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> – Fire Drill #4 (weather permitting)
- Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 6 -7.30pm – PAC meeting in the Learning Commons (Childminding is provided).
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – School-wide Lice Checks (PAC volunteers)
- Jan. 17 – Kindergarten hearing and vision testing
- Jan. 18 – Gr. 6/7 Camp Committee meeting 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

- Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – SPIRIT DAY: Dress as your favourite animal!
- Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – PAC Hot Lunch - Panago
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 9am Intermediate SOAR Assembly; 10.45am Primary SOAR Assembly
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – PALS Session #1, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – 6-8pm Zumbathon in the Gym (Camp Fundraiser)
- Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1.30pm Early Dismissal & Curriculum Cafe
- Feb. 6 – 10<sup>th</sup> – Scholastic Book Fair
- Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – 2.45pm Grade 7 Camp Movie Night Fundraiser
- Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – BC Family Day – School is closed.

***Ecole Riverdale...where we are all Ravens!***

***Nous sommes tous des corbeaux!***