

December 2016

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear ESR Families,



I will say that while reading through the first term report cards I was not surprised to see the academic progress children are achieving. As always, children do best when all the adults in their life work together in order to support them, and so it was heartening to see so many families here last Wednesday afternoon and evening. If you were unable to attend the conferences please know that our doors are always open and we welcome parents as crucial members of our school community. We would always rather meet sooner than later in regards to ensuring student success.

In regards to school visits I sometimes hear from parents who have been “holding onto” a question or concern for far too long. Please know that my door is always open, and don’t be afraid to visit the Principal’s office; your children are not! As a Principal I attempt to visit each classroom daily, to know what children are learning, and have them know I care about them and their success. When I am in my office students come to visit me for a variety of happy reasons; often to show me work of which they are proud.

If students do meet with me regarding a behavioral issue I abide by the BC School Act and our school “Code of Conduct” and approach discipline similar to “that of a kind, firm and judicious parent.” When a child is not meeting expectations of behavior (in relation to his or her age) I am most interested in the “why” and prefer to work with the children involved in any conflict in a restorative rather than punitive way. Over my years in education I have supported many children who move from a place where they are not meeting our expectations to becoming respectful and responsible people of whom we can be proud.

I am pleased to be an educational leader at a school with high expectations for both learning and respectful actions. It is not uncommon for visitors to our school to comment on both these facts and I am always grateful to both staff and parents who are such effective partners in making the lives of all children both rich and happy.

Melinda Dempster

It is that time of year again when the weather is turning cold. Please ensure that your children dress in layers and wear gloves so that they can withstand the colder temperatures. It is so important that we go out so they can enjoy the cool crisp air. Fortunately, we also have covered areas for the rainy days, although playing in the puddles is too much fun to resist. Thank you to those who also keep a change of clothes in backpacks for the slips that inevitably happen!



UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- 28 Parent Education Event Clarke Theatre, 7:00 pm
- 29 Booster Juice
- 29 Bannock/Food Drive – students exchange a food bank item or 50 cents for a piece of bannock
- 30 Milk Day
- 30 Santa Photos
- 30 Poinsettia Order due

December.

- 2 Div. 4 & 8 – Skating 9:15 – 11:30
- 2 Hot Lunch Subway
- 5 Div. 12 & 13 Burnaby Village Museum 8:40 am – 2:10 pm
- 7 Fruit & Veggie Delivery
- 14 Christmas Concert – odd divisions 1:00 matinee for grandparents & 6:30 performance for parents
- 15 Christmas Concert – even divisions 1:00 matinee for grandparents & 6:30 performance for parents
- 16 Last Day before Winter Break Sing a Long, 1:00 pm (optional for classes)

January

- 3 Welcome back to school – we hope you had a terrific holiday!

THE SEASON OF GIVING

I spend a lot of time talking to students about how being generous and kind is good for everyone, including the person who is “giving”. We talk about how deep and lasting happiness comes not from money or possessions but from what we give: time, caring, sharing. Long ago I stopped asking children what they “want” for Christmas, now I ask them what they are “giving.” During the next weeks at ESR we have a few opportunities where children may learn to share. On the 29th we are having a food drive and bannock day. We are putting a tree up in the lobby where children may hang socks, mittens and hats for the homeless, and at our Christmas concert we encourage folks to bring items or donations for the food bank. Thank you for your support in helping us teach the goodness of giving.

HOLIDAY BASKET RAFFLE

The PAC will be holding a raffle for gift baskets at the upcoming Christmas concerts on December 14th and 15th. The baskets will be on display Dec. 9th, to 15th and raffle tickets will be available for purchase before and after school as well as before each concert, they are \$1 each. Winning tickets will be drawn at the Thursday evening concert. Baskets will be available for pick up Friday. You do not have to be at both concerts to win.

The theme for the baskets is “Holiday Entertaining” If you would like to participate in the holiday fundraiser we would greatly appreciate the donation of a few small items for our baskets as follows:

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|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Division 1: | packages of flavoured tea | Division 9: | Store bought jams/jellies |
| Division 2: | packages of cookies | Division 10: | Festive Napkins |
| Division 3: | coffee –ground or beans or cocoa | Division 11: | Chocolates |
| Division 4: | chocolates | Division 12: | Festive candles & holders |
| Division 5: | Non-perishable dips or mixes | Division 13: | Festive candles & holders |
| Division 6: | Non-perishable dips or mixes | Division 14: | Christmas tree ornaments |
| Division 7: | Crackers | Division 15: | Christmas tree ornaments |
| Division 8: | Store bought jams/jellies | | |



Items can be sent to your child’s classroom no later than Monday Dec. 4th. thank you for your continuing support of PAC.

SANTA PHOTOS

Santa is visiting ESR on November 30th and in the morning we will gather siblings together for photos. Photos at “the mall” are becoming increasingly expensive and difficult for families to afford. The PAC, (along with some help from former school Superintendent Mr. Fletcher), has organized this event. On the night of the school concerts the photos will be available for you. We request a donation. Here is a photo from a previous year.



If you have a preschool child you would like included in the photo you may wait in the gym until it is your child’s turn for a photo. We will be starting the photos at 9:00 with the grade 5/6 classes and working our way to the kindergarten classes. We expect to be done about 11:00 but that is just an estimate for you to go by so that you could be here “about” the right time, should you wish.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

It is wonderful that staff at ESR continue to offer evening concerts for working parents to enjoy. **The evening concerts are reserved for parents only** as we are unable to accommodate everyone at once in the gym. Grandparents and other extended families are welcome to enjoy the event at our matinee performances.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration takes place in January.

However, parents with children **currently attending** school of choice: **Edwin S. Richards and Hillside** need to **register** their kindergarten-aged sibling **during the month of December**.

Proof of age is required at time of application for Schools of Choice: Birth Certificate - Other acceptable documents include: Passport, Permanent Residence Card, Aboriginal Status Card, Baptismal Certificate, Certificate of Citizenship or Immigration Canada document. Note: A Provincial Care Card is not acceptable proof of age

PARENT EDUCATION EVENT “SUPPORTING SCHOOL SUCCESS: What parents should know and be able to do” November 28th, 2016 at 7 pm. Clarke Theatre, 33700 Prentis Avenue,

Mission DPAC is pleased to present Dr. Charles Ungerleider, one of Canada's best known and most highly respected researchers in the field of learning and education. Ungerleider has written about a range of topics in education from assessment to xenophobia. He is author of Failing our Kids: How we are ruining our public schools, a critical examination of the state of public schooling in Canada, and numerous publications in scholarly, professional, and popular media. **Free child care is available at this event**

UNEXPECTED SCHOOL CLOSURES

As the air begins to chill, we are reminded that winter will soon be here, as will inclement weather conditions. Please listen to the radio or follow the School District website: www.mpsd.ca for information pertaining to school closures: select the tab across the top - “Schools”; then “Unscheduled School Closures”

You may also register directly on that page to sign up for Snow Closures Email List. A quick and easy way for notification to be received directly!

SCHOOL CLOSURE DURING THE DAY

Although it is a rare occurrence, there are times when we are obliged to close the school after the start of the school day. This is always difficult for everyone involved but if we lose power here at ESR we also lose the ability to use water and it can become cold quite quickly. It is good for parents and families to know of the procedure we follow so that we can work together during such a situation. This is also important for you to know should we face a large incident such as an earthquake.

Our primary concern is for your child’s safety. Teachers and staff will typically only release your child to go home with a person who you have placed on our list. However, in the case of a significant emergency we understand that “things do not always go according to plan” and you may contact a neighbor or friend to pick your child up from school. We will release your child after we have contacted you.

In events like this it is essential that we know who each child is going home with and unexpectedly dismissing 383 students can be a bit chaotic. We can only make this work well with your cooperation.

- We ask that when you, or your designate, picks up your child that you ensure the teacher has noted the name of the adult on the form they will have with them.
- Your unexpected designate may have to wait while we contact you and obtain permission
- Please do not take home your best friend’s child as a way of “helping out” unless we have had a conversation.

In even minor emergencies things can go awry when we are rushed or a bit panicked. However, in situations such as this it is vital that we know who each child is with and where they are.

It is my sincere hope that I am never sending children home from the school field after an earthquake, but it is my duty to be prepared, and we should consider more minor unexpected school closures as practices; as rehearsals of adults working together for the safety of children.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this information, Melinda