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**COOK COUGARS****NEWSLETTER**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019Issue #5

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**MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

As we enter the time of year of giving, remember, "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted" (Aesop) "Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." (Buddha) Make what change you are able to make now, and let the 'giving spirit' spread, infinitely touching the lives of people you may never meet, across boundaries you may never cross, in ways you may never imagine. That is the power of giving and your way to changing the world.

**A WONDERFUL REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY**

Our Remembrance Day assembly on November 8<sup>th</sup> was remarkable! A big thank you goes to Ms. Verkade, Ms. Ma, Ms. Tabi and Ms. Lee for organizing the event and the performances. Thank you to all the students who participated in our Parade of Nations with many nations represented. There were messages of remembrance and peace displayed on beautiful banners throughout the gym as well. Thank you to the classroom teachers for preparing these. The Cook school community is truly diverse and we recognize and celebrate our diversity each and every day.

**COOK-MCMATH CANDY CHALLENGE**

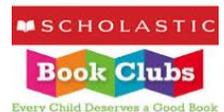
Our students from Cook School and McMath Secondary School participated in the candy challenge. The candy was delivered to the Good Shepherd Ministry in Vancouver that provides homeless people with candy bags.

**VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

We had another large and enthusiastic grade 6 & 7 Volleyball team this year. The Volleyball season ended with their participation in the City Centre Classic Tournament at MacNeill Secondary on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. They demonstrated skill, enthusiasm, and terrific sportsmanship! Thank you to Ms. Ornai and Ms. Benedet for coaching this year.

**SUSHI DAY – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>****PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Students will not come to school on this day. Staff will be attending various workshops throughout the district.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Mrs. Storey is hosting the Scholastic Book fair in the library the week of November 25<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great time to pick up holiday gifts for the children! The library will open be after school on Monday and then before and after school until Thursday.

**PAC NEWS**

Our next PAC meeting is on **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am** in the Multipurpose Room. We hope you can make it.



## **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

On the evening of Friday, November 29th at 6:30 pm, our Cook PAC will be hosting a movie night as a fundraiser. We welcome all students and parents to attend this evening of entertainment to watch “Angry Birds 2” with your family and friends!

## **WINTER MUSIC CELEBRATION**

Each year we have a Music Assembly in December. Ms. Lee’s music classes will perform along with a few other groups. This year’s assembly will be on **Thursday, December 5 at 1:00**. Parents are welcome to attend!



## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

This year’s Kindergarten Registration began on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. For children and parents with Canadian Birth Certificates or Citizenship Cards or Canadian Passports, registration will take place at Central Registration at the School Board Office. You may also register on-line and then bring documentations in to the School Board Office. For more details please check Richmond School District website at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca>

## **INSIDE DAYS AND OUTSIDE DAYS**

The weather in Richmond can be unpredictable. At Cook School all students go outside unless it is pouring rain or extremely cold. Students should dress for the weather each day even if they are driven to school in a vehicle. On inside days, students find quiet activities to do during their break times. They must stay in their classes during this time. Please come dressed for the weather and bringing a change of clothes is a very good idea if your child tends to get wet on inclement days.

## **STUDENT VACATIONS**

If you are planning on a family vacation before the end of this term, please fill out an **Extended Leave Form**, which can be found at the office. Remember that the Richmond School Board only allows for 20 school days absence at one time.

## **SUPPORT THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS**

We know that the holiday season puts a strain on the finances in many households. There are some organizations that help families through these times in small ways.



**Richmond Christmas Fund:** Each year the city of Richmond provides support for families in financial need during the Christmas season. Registration and distribution will take place at the Richmond Caring Place in late November and early December. Program registration and toy distribution will happen on the same day. This means that families will need to arrange for child care on the day they register (children are not permitted in the toy room) and families must be prepared to take toys home with you that day. There are certain documents required to access this service. Please see the notices we will be posting on our Parent Board in the hallway or for more information, please call or email the Richmond Christmas Fund at: 604-279-7035 or [christmasfund@volunteerrichmond.ca](mailto:christmasfund@volunteerrichmond.ca)

**Richmond Working Poor Fund:** Many families have at least one family member working but still have a hard time paying bills and buying food through the year. During the month of December, when finances can be stretched even further, the City of Richmond organizes what they call ‘The Working Poor Fund’. Families who are considered to have a low income can be nominated to receive an envelope with a gift card to a local grocery store and some recreation passes for the children. If families truly struggle with one parent working, the City can access sponsorship for these families.

If you would like more information on either of these programs, please speak to Mrs. Loat or Ms. Alderson in the office. All conversations are kept confidential.

## **SAFETY AT COOK**

This edition of the newsletter has important information regarding safety at Cook School.



We try to ensure that students are as safe as possible while they are at school. In order to do this, we must put some rules in place that we want all visitors, staff and students to follow. Please read this section carefully.

### **Morning Safety:**

All students are encouraged to walk to and from school. The younger students are encouraged to walk to and from school with a responsible older sibling or adult. We ask students to do this so that we can cut down on traffic dangers.

If you must drive, we ask that all drivers use the parking lot only to drop students off in the morning. **Do not park your car in the lot or leave your car in the lot to walk your child inside.** If you want to walk your child into the school, please park on a nearby street and walk the short distance to the school.

### **After School Safety:**

All students are dismissed from their outside doors. For those students who do not have outside doors, we ask parents to wait patiently outside the school until their children come to them. This will help the school monitor for strangers in the school. This will also help teachers continue to teach without interruptions until it is time for dismissal. A large group of parents can be quite noisy while waiting in the hallway. They can also block hallway access for students and staff trying to get through at the end of the day.

### **Entrance Doors at Cook:**

Our office door is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm each school day. There are three doors that open and close on a timer throughout the day. If you try to get in when the door is locked, you will need to walk around to the front of the school. That door remains open throughout the day.

### **Walking Safety:**

To keep everyone safe, we expect that bikes, scooters, roller blades and other wheeled devices will **NOT be used on school grounds**. Please make sure students walk this equipment until they are off school grounds. In this way, students walking will not be in danger of being hit by riders.

### **Recess and Lunch Safety:**

We have staff members on duty each recess. The staff monitors students as they play with their classmates outside. All staff members on duty wear orange safety vests. Students learn to come to the duty teachers with vests if they need anything. At lunchtime we have 4 noon hour supervisors on duty. They do the same supervision as the staff members at the morning break. They also wear orange safety vests for easy visibility. Our noon hour supervisors all carry first aid equipment. Like the staff at recess, they have specific areas on the school grounds that they supervise.

### **Afterschool Supervision:**

**Please ensure that you (parents or guardians) are supervising your children while they stay after school and play on the playground.** We have had some unsafe situations happening after school and so we would like to remind you that it is your responsibility to watch your child to ensure their safety after 2:45 dismissal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

### **Early Warning:**

Cook Elementary has an Early Warning Program. The Early Warning system is designed to ensure your child's safe arrival at school. **If your child will be late or absent, please leave a message at 604-668-6461**, stating your child's name, division, teacher's name and length of absence. When teachers complete attendance in classes, they indicate students who are absent without a reason. These are the students we check on by listening to the answering machine messages and then phoning home to be sure they are accounted for by parents and caregivers.

