

*"Celebrating Our Diversity As Learners"*

**Mrs. S. Loat**  
Principal

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Vice Principal

## COOK COUGARS



## NEWSLETTER

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Issue #1

### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are excited to start another school year. It was great to see familiar faces and learn new names last week. The school is looking terrific thanks to the hard work of our custodial staff, Mr. Hajirakar and Mr. Villegas.

We have grown over the summer and we now have 19 divisions and 485 students at Cook! We have lots of new staff to welcome to Cook. Ms Jiminez has joined our staff as a Resource teacher. She has come to us from Anderson Elementary.

Mr. Mezzarobba has also joined our staff as one of our Resource Teachers and to teach Physical Education to the primary classes. He has come from Byng Elementary. Ms. Oye is our new Grade 6/7 teacher. She has joined us from Ferris. We are pleased to have Miss. Underwood back for another year. She is going to be teaching Grade 6/7 for Ms John while she is on maternity leave. Ms. Storey has also joined our staff and will be teaching a Grade 2/3 class this year. She has joined us from Grauer Elementary. We know they will help make Cook an even better place for learning!

Welcome back to Ms. Borden who will be teaching Resource this year. Ms. Neudorf is also back from maternity leave and is teaching one of our three Kindergarten classes this year.



### SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

We have 19 divisions in our school this year. As usual, we lost a number of students who moved over the summer and we gained a number of students who moved into our catchment area. We are starting the school year with 484 students. We wish everyone a good year, no matter where they go to school.

In creating our classes each child's placement has been carefully considered from academic, social and emotional perspectives. Grade combinations and gender balance have also been considered. We believe it will be a great school year for all! Below is our school organization:

Div. 7	4/5	Mr. Hawke
Div. 8	4/5	Ms Brown
Div. 9	3/4	Ms. Ma
Div. 10	3/4	Ms. Verkade
Div. 11	2/3	Ms. Houston & Ms. Lee
Div. 12	2/3	Ms. Rawlick
Div. 13	2/3	Ms. Storey
Div. 14	1/2	Ms. Iwanaka
Div. 15	1/2	Ms. Panda
Div. 16	1	Ms. Araki
Div. 17	K	Ms. Lo
Div. 18	K	Ms. Bailey
Div. 19	K	Ms. Neudorf

Division	Grade	Teacher
Div. 1	6/7	Ms. Kay
Div. 2	6/7	Miss. Underwood
Div. 3	6/7	Ms. Tennant
Div. 4	6/7	Ms. Oye
Div. 5	5/6	Ms. Rollo
Div. 6	5/6	Ms. Fournier & Ms. Hislop



*New Members Are Joining*

## MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE

**On Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we invite all parents to our Open House at 6:00 PM.** Classrooms will be open for parents to visit. Some teachers will have activities for parents to do, some will have presentations and some teachers will have students lead parents around. If you are not able to attend, we encourage you to send a relative or friend. It's a great opportunity for families to see the classrooms in action.

## TERRY FOX RUN

Each year schools across Canada participate in the annual Terry Fox Run in September. Three years ago we re-named our run in honour of one of our students who lost his battle with cancer. Hao Hao loved to run and was very quick on his feet. We encourage all students to wear red t-shirts on our Run Day. We will be collecting donations for Cancer Research from September 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause. Our Terry Fox Run will be held on **Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm.**

## PRO-D DAY – SEPTEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>

Each year there are 6 Professional Development Days (Pro-D Days) allowed by the Ministry of Education. Students do not attend school on these days. Teachers attend workshops designed to help them learn new approaches to teaching and improve their practice. Cook School will be closed for all Pro-D days. Our first Pro D day is Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Teachers will be attending an all day mini conference with a few other schools on various topics about the new curriculum.

## PARKING AT COOK

Once again this year we are asking parents to respect the restrictions we have with our parking lot. All parents and students are encouraged to walk to and from school. Our parking lot is open in the morning for parents to drop off their children. Please do so at the south end of the parking lot in the DROP OFF ZONE. You are not permitted to park in the lot during this time of the day. If parents want to walk their child to class they **must park outside on the street**. On the advice of the RCMP, parents are **not permitted** to pick up their children **after school** from our parking lot. It is just too dangerous with so many students dismissing at the same time. Please park in the neighbourhood and walk to the school to meet your child.

## ONE FORM – 3 PERMISSIONS

A form is going home with this newsletter. On it, you will see three permission requests. Details are below:

### \* SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As a service to families of students in elementary school, the Richmond School District has purchased school supplies at significantly reduced prices. Students are charged \$30 for school supplies which include items such as glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, duotangs, crayons, pencil crayons, felts, rules, etc. The supplies purchased should last the year, but families might be asked to purchase extra glue sticks or felts later in the year.

Families may choose to purchase their own school supplies rather than take advantage of the school district order. In our experience the school district prices are much more reasonable.

In addition, students in grades 2 – 7 have the opportunity to purchase a school agenda which is an important organizational tool for students. The cost of the agenda is \$6 and it is specially designed for student use. It is also personalized for Cook School.

Please return this form indicating the items you want.

### \* FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Each year we participate in the Fruit and Vegetable Program sponsored by the BC Agriculture Association. They deliver fresh fruits or vegetables to our school 13 times through the school year. Students get a chance to try new foods. If you **do not want your child to participate in this program or your child has specific food allergies** we should know about, please indicate this on the form.

### \* WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

There are times when teachers want to take their students on short walking tours around the neighbourhood to reinforce concepts taught in class. We ask all parents to consider signing this permission form and returning it to the school as soon as possible. Without this written permission, your child will not be able to participate in these walks.

## **DOOR ACCESS AT COOK SCHOOL**

Student safety is important to our school district. Our school has an automated system installed on five of our outside doors. These doors open automatically in the morning before school and most lock automatically during instructional hours. Any doors not on this automated system remain locked through the day. The front door near the office remains open 8:00 – 4:00 on weekdays. If you come across a locked door while trying to come into the school, please enter through the front door. This will allow us to monitor who enters the school.

### **EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

To help ensure the safety of all children on their way to school, we check attendance first thing in the morning. Please call the school if your child will be absent. A message can be left on our **Early Warning Line – 604-668-6461**.

When phoning the Early Warning Line, please leave the following information:

- 1)Child's Name
- 2)Teacher's Name or Division
- 3)Reason for Absence
- 4)Length of Absence

Of course you can also speak to a staff member directly, after 8:00 a.m. or before 4:00 p.m.

## **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

Students are allowed in the school at the 8:30 bell. Administration and staff will be circulating around the school starting at 8:30 to provide supervision. Recess supervision is done by all teaching staff on a weekly schedule. There are 5 teachers on duty each recess. Lunch hour and Friday recess supervision is provided by our three noon hour supervisors. Similar to last year, we expect all students to respond respectfully to their guidance.

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without written parent permission during recess and lunch times, unless they go home for lunch. Students are not permitted to go to a friend's home for lunch **unless both families have given written permission to the Principal**.

At 3:00pm students are expected to make their way home. We have no staff to supervise

students after school so please ensure you pick up your child promptly.

## **COOK SCHOOL'S FOOD PROGRAMS**

### **Breakfast Club**

Each year we provide a Breakfast Club three mornings a week for our students. We are in the process of organizing this program for our school once again this year. We anticipate it will run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30 in the gym.

The Breakfast Club is open to any students in the school. Staff and parent volunteers serve a variety of foods to students that could include toast, cereal, yogurt, grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit and juice. The gym is open for play activities after students have eaten. It is a lovely way to start the day and helps ensure everyone has a healthy start! Breakfast Club will begin next week.

In addition, we have food available for students who forget to bring their lunches to school and cannot contact a parent. Students know to ask a noon hour supervisor for food if they need it.

### **Funding for Breakfast Club and Lunch Cupboard**

We receive funding from a variety of sources for our Breakfast Club and Lunch Cupboard. **Breakfast For Learning**, a national program, provides a grant to us on a year to year basis. In addition to this grant, SuperStore – a major funder of Breakfast For Learning – has been extremely generous in supporting our school! We receive a significant grant from **Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Adopt-A-School Program**. This grant comes from some local private donors who request that their funds be directed to our school. **Feeducate** is a local charitable group organized by a former district administrator and they provide funds to schools who have Breakfast programs. We are truly lucky to have such amazing support for our students.

### **Cook School Hot Lunch Days**

Our own school PAC provides a hot lunch once a month for interested students. In the past few years they have done Pizza days. The PAC will advertise the dates once they are set.

**Nova Foods Hot Lunch Program** – will no longer be available at Cook this year.

## **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

The beginning of the school year is an important time to discuss the following basic safety precautions with your child.

- Review routes to and from school with special attention to street crossings. You may want to practice walking these routes with your child on occasion.
- Have your children come straight home after school and “check-in” before starting after-school activities.
- Review with your child what should be done if approached by a stranger.
- Children riding their bicycles to school should wear a helmet and lock the bicycle in the racks provided or in the courtyard. Roller blades or skateboards should not be used to travel to school.

We would also appreciate parent cooperation when dropping off and picking up students by car. For student safety, **our parking lot is closed to parents from 1:30 - 3:15**. We need to keep our parking lot as safe as possible. Please observe the 30 km signs as you approach and leave the school area.

## **PARENT HELPERS**

We need parent helpers! There are many ways that parents can help at our school. PAC is sending home a notice for parent volunteers with this newsletter. Please consider helping out at the school. It's a great way to meet neighbours. Forms can be returned directly to the office. We look forward to seeing you in our school.

## **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)**

All parents/guardians of students at Cook are part of the PAC and are encouraged to join our parent group meetings. We will hold regular meetings to discuss events related to the school and school district that directly affect your children. School programs, school plans, food days, fund raising events, and volunteer helpers are regular topics of discussion. Child minding is available. Mrs. Laura Margolin is the chair of our P.A.C. group this year.

## **SETTLEMENT WORKERS IN SCHOOLS**

Our SWIS worker at Cook School can assist newcomer students and their families to access community resources such as recreation services and after school activities. They can also help families adapt to the local school system. Please contact her during school hours:

Iris Lim - Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) will be at Cook every Thursday morning. She can be reached at: 778-835-1018

## **COOK EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**

At the Cook Early Learning Center we offer 3 programs: Together Time which operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:15-11:15am. The Cook Early Learning Program which operates on Monday - Thursday from 1:30-3:30pm, and Families who speak Chinese can participate in CAP-C on Thursdays 9:30 – 11:15. For information on this specialized program please call 604-279-5599.

Both programs are free, drop-in, parent participation programs for preschool aged children and their siblings. We offer a safe and friendly environment where you and your child can explore, play and learn together. We provide materials and activities that provoke curiosity, wonder and interaction with others. Activities are facilitated by an Early Childhood Educator and include stories, songs, art, sensory play and much more! Our goal is to become a resource and support for families and children. Come visit us in Portable 4.

City Centre Community Centre also has a registered program on Tuesday and Friday mornings: Two's Time. For more information: 604-204-8588

## **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT COOK**

**Friday Fun:** City Centre Community Association is once again offering Friday Fun. This is a recreation program for students on Friday afternoon. Contact City Centre to register.

**Homework Club:** City Centre also runs a Homework Club for students in grades 4 – 7 on Mondays and Wednesday at 3:15 – 5:00 pm. Students will work with a high school student to complete homework. Once homework is completed, students will have the opportunity to participate in sports activities in the gym. Registration for this program is online.

## **CONGRATULATIONS MS JOHN!**

Ms John had a beautiful baby boy on Thursday July 28, 2016. His name is Kazuki Ming John. He weighed 5 lbs 15 oz. Kazuki is Japanese and it means peace and hope. Ming is Chinese and means clever. We are very happy for Ms John!

