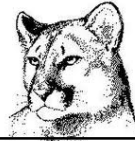

COOK COUGARS**NEWSLETTER**Monday, May 15th, 2017Issue #15

GRADE 7s AT CAMP!

Our Grade 7 students and their teachers had a wonderful time at Camp Jubilee the first week of May! The students enjoyed so many outdoor activities including rock climbing, archery and a ropes course. They came back happy and exhausted! Thank you to Ms. Kay, Ms. Tennant, Ms. Underwood, Ms. Oye and Ms. Brar for giving your time for three days and two nights with the students. It's an experience our Grade 7s will treasure for many years to come!

**EMERGENCY DRILLS AT COOK**

Each year our school runs through a variety of drills with the students. These include 6 fire drills, 2 earthquake drills, a lockdown drill and a lockup drill. In the first week of April we had a lockdown drill. Students and staff practiced this drill under the supervision of our RCMP Liaison Officer, Constable Walker. During a lockdown drill students and staff lock their classroom doors, draw the window blinds and move to an area of the classroom that is not in the line of site from the door or windows. They must stay quiet and they cannot use their technology. This drill is intended to simulate a situation where an intruder has entered the school and is threatening to harm others. These drills are very important to practice so that, if there were to be an emergency such as the one described above, all the students and staff in the school will know what to do.

Constable Walker reported that we did a very good job performing the drill.

GATEWAY PERFORMANCES

Over the past two weeks there have been a number of daytime performances at Gateway Theatre. Our district booked performances and we had fifteen classes participate. Six of our classes saw a hip hop dance show called "Metaphor". The themes of inclusion, exclusion, bullying and acceptance were covered during the performance. Five other divisions saw the ZarYeka Ballet performance of "The Jabberwocky". Four other divisions attended a magic show, performed by Sheldon Sasavant. These classes reported being hugely entertained. We thank our district for organizing these shows for our schools and another thank you to PAC who subsidized some of the classes on this field trip.

GREAT FUN AT 'WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN'

We welcomed some of our incoming Kindergarten students at our 'Welcome to Kindergarten' event. The children and their parents moved through 4 different stations around the school, meeting our current Kindergarten teachers Ms. Lo, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Neudorf and our Teacher Librarian Mr. Rosell. It was great to see these little ones for the first time. We can tell they will be a fabulous group of students starting in September.

If you know of any children ready for Kindergarten in September who have not

registered, please have them contact the school or the district to start the registration process. Students registered by June 15th are guaranteed a spot in the school. After June 15th, students are put on a waitlist for the school until September.

PANORAMA AND CLASS PICTURES

We had our Panorama, Team & Club Pictures and Class Pictures taken last week. It was a beautiful day so the photos were taken outside. All students will get a free class photo. Any family wishing to purchase a copy of the Panorama or Team & Club Pictures will receive an order form shortly.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAY MAY 23rd

On Tuesday, May 23rd, students will end their day at 2:00pm. This early dismissal is arranged throughout the district and allows all staff in the district to attend a meeting with the Richmond School District Superintendent, Ms. Sherry Elwood.

DENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS LAST WEEK

Students from Vancouver City College Dental Assistant Program came and did presentations in all of our classrooms last week. The College students taught our student population about how to keep their teeth and mouths clean, healthy and safe so they can keep their own teeth into their senior years!!

GRADE 7s TO VISIT MACNEILL

Our Grade 7 students heading over to MacNeill Secondary next year will be visiting the school on Wednesday, May 17th for an orientation event. It's a great chance for the students to get to know MacNeill and learn a few new teachers and leadership students who are already attending the school. This is done each year and the students LOVE it!

ZONE TRACK MEET – WEATHER PERMITTING

Our Zone Track Meet is on Thursday, May 18th. We are hoping for clear weather but we never know what the weather will be like

until very close to the day! If your child is attending the meet, please read the notice carefully and have your child dress for the weather. If the sun is shining, sun screen (and possibly a hat) will be needed. If it is windy or cloudy, a light jacket might be required. Students going to the track meet will remain at the meet until a designated family member picks the students up or until they walk back to the school with a staff member.

We wish our students success in the track meet and more importantly, we expect that they represent Cook School with pride, respect and enthusiasm!

MONDAY, MAY 22nd – VICTORIA DAY

Victoria Day is a provincial holiday. School will be closed that day. We hope everyone has a lovely time on their extra long weekend!

MORE GARDEN BEDS AT COOK SCHOOL:

We are very excited to get planting for the new growing season at Cook! We received new soil to add to each bed, and we are beginning to use the new garden shed to store supplies, tools and the hose. Each garden bed has been assigned to specific classrooms or buddy classrooms, and the students are very proud to see the fruits of their labour. Please help us by reminding children to play in the playground rather than around the garden. We don't want people to trip and squash the soil where baby plants are growing. We want the community to enjoy observing our gardens grow, so please kindly remind others to leave our plants and markers in the soil for the classes to harvest.

We are wondering if there are families in the neighborhood who are interested in taking responsibility for half a garden bed? Please let Ms. Loat know if you would be interested. We may be able to arrange something for you.

MAY 30th

Our next PAC meeting is scheduled on May 30th at 8:45am in Room #3. A note is going home asking for volunteers for the PAC executive. Next year's PAC executive will be determined at this PAC Meeting based on the forms people send in. We hope you will consider helping the PAC in the work that they do. It certainly helps our school a great deal!!

MUSIC ASSEMBLY MAY 26th

Our third term Music Assembly will be on Friday, May 26th starting at 10:45am. Parents are welcome to attend. All the students from Ms. Quan's music classes will be performing. There may also be some other classes performing that morning. We hope you can make it.

SPORTS DAY – JUNE 9TH

Our annual Sports Day will be on Friday, June 9th. We spend most of the day outside. Students are in multi-age mini-teams and participate in creative relay races against other mini-teams. It's a great day for parents to visit and watch the excitement! PAC will arrange a Pizza Day for that day as well as selling snacks at a concession for parents. We hope you can join us!

FUNDRAISER DEADLINE FOR ORDERING

Parents, please be aware that the PAC food fundraiser deadline for ordering is this Friday, May 19th, 2017. Please don't miss out on this super deal.

SCHOOLCASHONLINE

We appreciate the effort that many families showed in being able to access our new district cashonline program. For families who require more information about the program, please see the insert for any questions and answers that would be helpful to you.

APPRECIATION LUNCH – THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH

Each year our PAC and staff combine efforts and organize a pot luck lunch for everyone. This is an opportunity to enjoy each others' company and thank each other for the hard work we all do on behalf of our students/your children.

A notice will go home closer to the date inviting you to come and asking families to contribute to this tasty lunch. Families are asked to bring main dishes. Staff will provide desserts.

'MAY IS BETTER SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH'

This message is from our Speech and Language Pathologist, Ms. Lavender.

Here are some tips to improve communication:

- Reduce background noises that may be distracting (e.g., turn off the radio or TV, shut the door or move to a quieter place)
- Be an active listener. Communication involves speaking and listening, but also our body language. Pay attention to eye gaze and gestures.
- Stick to one conversation topic at a time. Avoid quick shifts in conversation topics. Engage in topics that are of interest to your child.
- Read interactively. Use books that encourage children's participation. Share favourite books and model reading yourself (e.g., let your child see you reading newspapers, books and other materials).
- Speak slowly and clearly. Allow extra time for responding.
- Talk often with your child, using rich and varied vocabulary. Ask your child questions, but also comment on what he/she said.



