
COOK COUGARS**NEWSLETTER**November 15th, 2016Issue #4

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.

We also know that these holidays can cause financial challenges for families. There are a number of supports we can help families access to make your holiday a special one. If your family finds it hard to make bill payments each month and you would like to get some support from organizations in our community, please contact Mrs. Loat in the office. All conversations are confidential.

A WONDERFUL REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Our Remembrance Day assembly on November 10th was remarkable! A big thank you goes to Ms. Verkade and Ms. Quan for organizing the event and the performances. We had Cst. Tammy Walker join us dressed in her ceremonial serge and she shared how the RCMP is proud to be involved in many peace keeping missions overseas which was new information to many of us. Thank you to all the students who participated in our Parade of Nations with many nations

represented. The Cook school community is truly diverse and we recognize and celebrate our diversity each and every day.

COOK-MCMATH CANDY CHALLENGE RESULTS

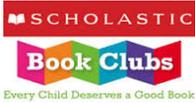
Our students from Cook School and McMath Secondary School collected and donated a new record of over 4000 bags of candy. The candy was delivered to the Good Shepherd Ministry in Vancouver that provides homeless people with candy bags.

**VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

We have another large and enthusiastic grade 6 & 7 Volleyball team this year. The Volleyball season will end with their participation in the City Centre Classic tournament at MacNeill Secondary on Wednesday, November 16th. Please show your great Cook spirit and go and watch our teams compete at MacNeill! They are sure to demonstrate skill, enthusiasm, and terrific sportsmanship! Thank you to Ms. Kay, Ms. Tennant, Mr. Carrigan and Ms. Underwood for coaching this year.

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION DAY

The Ministry of Education has given each school district 1 extra non-instructional day this school year for staff to continue to learn more about the new BC curriculum that is being implemented this year. **Our district has chosen Friday, November 18th, 2016.** Students will not come to school on this day.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Mr. Rosell is hosting the Scholastic Book fair in the library the week of November 28th to December 1st. 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

Thank you to all families who supported our first Cook Movie Night of the year. We raised approximately \$450.00. The funds raised will help purchase items on the Enhancement List provided by the school. Our next PAC meeting is on **Tuesday, December 6th at 8:45am** in Rm. 3. We hope you can make it. We will be discussing the Enhancement List and determining what our PAC can afford to purchase this year.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

This year Kindergarten Registration began on November 1st, 2016. For children and parents with Canadian Birth Certificates or Citizenship Cards or Canadian Passports, registration can happen at the catchment school until November 30th. For children and parents who are NOT Canadian citizens, parents must register at Central Registration at the School Board Office starting on November 1st.

The earlier date will allow parents to register without rushing to fill in transfer forms. Transfer forms will be accepted AFTER the winter break, starting on January 9th until February 10th, 2017.

As always, the District Programs Options (French Immersion and Montessori) are decided through a draw process and so applications are not time sensitive but must be submitted by January 11th, 2017

For more information, please check our district website www.sd38.bc.ca

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

The district will hold three different Parent Information Nights this year:

Nov 23rd Early French Immersion
Montessori Kindergarten
@ General Currie Elementary

Nov 24th Kindergarten Students with
Special Needs
@ Cook Elementary

January 11th Late French Immersion
@ Whiteside Elementary

Further information regarding start times can be found on the district website and on the Parent Board in our school.

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 call or email the Richmond Christmas Fund: 604-279-7035 or 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. Lee in the office. All conversations are kept confidential.

WINTER CELEBRATION – DECEMBER 6TH

Each year we have a Music Assembly in December. Ms. Quan's music classes will perform along with a few other groups. This year's assembly will be on Tuesday, December 6th at 10:40. Parents are welcome to attend!

Richmond International Student Program Interested in opening your home up for a rewarding experience....

The International Student Program allows overseas students to enter Grades 8 through 12 at selected secondary schools, and under certain circumstances, Kindergarten to Grade 7 at selected elementary schools in Richmond, Greater Vancouver. The program gives overseas students the opportunity to study alongside Canadian students in the BC public education system. As a Host Family, you will have an opportunity to welcome into your home, students from around the world. Your family will have a profound influence on the students' study abroad experience. Both your family and the students you host will ideally gain a mutual understanding and respect for each other's culture and world-view. In addition to economic remuneration, your reward will be the realization that your commitment to host international students will, in some small way, contribute to global understanding and world peace. Each member of your family and your student will come to know each other in depth. Our Homestay program is the ideal setting for this type of experience.

If you are interested in learning more about our hosting program please forward an e-mail for information.

Karen York Homestay Coordinator
International Student Program
Richmond School District 38
Tel 604-295-4303
kyork@sd38.bc.ca

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.

Stranger Danger Safety:

All adults entering the school **must report to the office.** Adults staying at the school for extended periods of time to help in classrooms **must get a visitor's tag from the office.** In this way, we know who has permission to be in the school. Staff may, on occasion, ask adults without tags their purpose for being in the school, and then direct them to the office for a tag. It is very important for the office to know who is in 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.

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 3 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.

We expect all students to go outside at recess and lunch. This break is as important for learning as listening to the teacher during lessons! Please take an interest in what your child does during his/her breaks so that they come to understand that you value the time they have on the playground.

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.

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.

Emergency Procedures:

William Cook Elementary provides practice opportunities for students and staff as outlined in our district and ministry guidelines. There are six fire drills and two earthquake drills each school year.

During true emergencies, the school has a plan, filed with the school district and kept in our office emergency bag, which outlines the specific responsibilities for managing an emergency situation. These include assignments such as first aid,

communication, reception area, search and rescue, and gas and electrical shut offs.

During an earthquake, if students are on their way home, they should continue home. If they are on their way to school, they should continue to school and assemble in the designated area.

We have a comprehensive earthquake plan in place at William Cook Elementary. This plan is reviewed by the staff and explained to the students at the beginning of each year.

During an earthquake, students and staff count to 60 during the shaking and then proceed to our evacuation areas outside the school building. Once the school has been evacuated, students are expected to remain in the designated assembly area in the South field under staff supervision until a designated adult (name on the Emergency Verification Form) comes to the school.

After school hours, we will walk the remaining students to the nearest reception centre. We anticipate the reception centre to be MacNeill Secondary.