

COOK COUGARS**NEWSLETTER**October 30th, 2017

Issue #5

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

November is the month that teachers write report cards and do many informal and formal assessments as they teach students. They also encourage students to assess their own learning. The most important kind of assessment for student learning is what educators call 'Assessment for Learning'. This is feedback that teachers give students as they are working. It guides student thinking and provides insights for improvement. This 'Assessment for Learning' is done every day in classrooms as students work and interact.

When teachers talk about 'Assessment of Learning' they refer to the kind of assessment done at the end of a unit of study or at the end of a term. This kind of information is helpful to parents and to teachers but is less helpful for students as they learn. It is not immediate enough for students and the suggestions can't be easily applied to the new work they are doing.

Report card time is also a great time to set new personal learning goals. Parents may want to talk to their children about what they are good at and what they want to get better at in school. Setting small goals is a great routine for children to get into when they are young. It helps them become lifelong learners!

Some of our teachers are trying a new way of *Communicating Student Learning* using digital portfolios, which will provide you with the information you need in order to understand where your children are in their learning and where they need to go. By using the e-portfolio, you get to read comments about your child's learning while simultaneously viewing a sample of your child's actual work. This gives you a clear link between student work and teacher assessment. E-portfolio posts will happen on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. We hope that both you and your child will actively participate in an ongoing dialogue about learning through these e-portfolios.

CONFERENCES A GREAT SUCCESS

The Parent Teacher conferences earlier in October were very well attended. Teachers truly appreciated the time they got to spend with each family, learning more about their students and asking many questions.

At Cook School we want parents and teachers to work together to support children's learning. When students know that home and school communicate, they feel safer and are more focused on their work.

Thank you to all the parents who took time out of their busy days to attend the meeting!

PAC MEETING

Our next PAC meeting is being held on Wednesday, November 1st at 8:45am in the multipurpose room.

DINING IN THE DARK!

During the week of Oct. 30th - Nov. 3rd our school Eco Team is sponsoring 'Dining In The Dark'. Classrooms are asked to eat lunch with the lights out to promote energy conservation. The windows will provide enough light for students to easily see their food and move around in the class. The focus is on small ways we can all save energy without compromising our quality of life.

PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER
16th

If any families wish to have their child's picture re-taken, please complete the section "Need A Retake?" on the order form, with a parent signature, and return the form to the school on re-take day for the photographer.



HALLOWEEN ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, October 31st we will be having our annual Halloween Assembly. Students are allowed to dress up for all or part of the day. Classroom teachers will provide families with more details. There will be some classes performing seasonal songs at our assembly. Our Dance Team traditionally performs a wonderful holiday themed dance for us at the end of the assembly! It should be great fun.

Each year, we ask the 'trick or treaters' at the school to donate a portion of their candy to charity. We will collect the loot at the school the week following Halloween (November 2nd – 9th). We will then package the candy and it will be donated to the Good Shepherd Ministry, an outreach program to support the homeless in Vancouver. We hope as many children as possible participate as a way of learning to give to others in need.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Please see Page 4 of this newsletter for upcoming dates and times for the Parent Information evenings.

PIZZA DAY

Our Pizza Day is Thursday, November 9th.



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**



Parents are invited to attend our Remembrance Day ceremony on **Friday, November 10th at 10:40 am**. I will be approximately 50 minutes long. Again this year, the planning committee has organized a

Parade of Nations highlighting the many different countries of the world that our students were born in. Several classes will be performing during the assembly.

For this assembly students who are part of Brownies, Cubs, Sparks, Beavers, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Cadets and St. John's Ambulance are encouraged to wear their uniforms on this day. All students will receive a poppy on November 10th. We ask for a small donation for the poppy. All funds go to the Poppy Fund that

provides support to the veterans of wars.

The assembly we have each November is solemn and serious. Students and members of the audience are asked not to clap at the presentations they watch. They are expected to sit quietly and listen carefully.

School will be closed on Monday, November 13 2017.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN ACTION

We have a large and enthusiastic grade 6 & 7 Volleyball team this year. They will be participating in the MacNeill Volleyball Championship on November 15th at MacNeill Secondary from 3:00pm – 7:00 pm.

Student
Registration

KINDERGARTEN **REGISTRATION**

This year Kindergarten Registration will begin on November 1st, 2017. For

children and parents with Canadian Birth Certificates or Citizenship Cards or Canadian Passports, registration can happen at the catchment school November 1st – 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 11th to February 10th, 2018.

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, 2018.

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION DAY – **NOVEMBER 24TH**

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 24th, 2017.** Students will not come to school on this day.

SELF-REGULATION AT COOK

Self-Regulation is part of Social Emotional Learning, one of our school goals. Self-Regulation is the ability to respond effectively to stressors and return to a state of calm. Teachers at Cook School have talked extensively about Self-Regulation, how to help students learn about it, how to arrange a classroom to support it and how to design lessons and schedules to accommodate it.

In a classroom that helps students self-regulate you might see different kinds of work areas: desks, tables, standing areas, kneeling areas, floor space, and quiet working space. There could also be special tools that students are taught to use if they need them. These could include: noise cancelling headphones, wiggle cushions, stools, benches, desk dividers, and fidget toys.

Along with the areas and equipment, teachers help students learn about their brains and how to handle both positive (excitement) and negative (disappointment) stressors. There are a variety of 'programs' that teachers use to introduce and teach Self-Regulation. Mind-Up, Zones of Regulation and the Alert Program are just three of the programs available at the school for teachers to use with students. Most teachers use a combination of all available programs to create one that suits the needs of their classrooms.

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 notice we posted 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