

"Celebrating Our Diversity As Learners"

Ms. S. Loat
Principal

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COOK COUGARS



NEWSLETTER

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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."

Thinking of ways to maximize the number of lives you hope to touch or trying to think up ways to increase your range of influence isn't as important as the actual act of giving and getting started! If you do have big plans that can make a real impact in the lives of many, by all means, pursue them! But don't let that interfere with the small deeds anybody can do on a daily basis. Remember, "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted".

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 supports 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. 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 RESULTS

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.

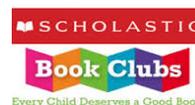


VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

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 15th. Thank you to Ms. Kay, Mr Lee and Mrs. Groenhyde for coaching this year and to Mr. Dunbar for his help with the tournament.

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



Every Child Deserves a Good Book

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Mr. Rosell is hosting the Scholastic Book Fair in the library the week of November 27th to November 30th. This will be a great time to pick up holiday gifts for the children! The library will be open after school on Monday and then before and after school until Thursday.

PAC NEWS

Our next PAC meeting is on **Tuesday, December 5th at 8:45am** in the multipurpose room. We hope you can make it.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

This year Kindergarten Registration began 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 until November 30th. For children and parents who are NOT Canadian citizens, parents must register at Central Registration at the School Board Office.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

The district will hold two different Parent Information Nights **beginning at 6:30 pm each evening.**

Nov 22nd Kindergarten Students with
Special Needs
@ Cook Elementary

January 10th 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.

Family Movie Night Thursday, November 23rd

On the evening of Thursday, November 23rd 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 “**Despicable Me 3**” with your family and friends! Please see notice that went home on Friday, November 10th.

SUSHI DAY – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd



WINTER MUSIC CELEBRATION

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 Thursday, December 7th at 11:00am. Parents are welcome to attend!

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.

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. We do open the computer lab for students on rainy days. We have more frequent inside days after the winter break. So during the winter months we try to have a few activities for students on inside days.

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.

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.

