

"Celebrating Our Diversity as Learners"

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COOK COUGARS NEWSLETTER

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Issue #7

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope everyone had a restful and fun-filled holiday. We are happy to see everyone back at school. It will be a busy term, filled with great learning and engaging activities for everyone.



GUNG HEY FAT CHOY!

This month brings Chinese New Year and we know we will see the excitement on the faces of our students who celebrate this special time. Chinese New Year is the main Chinese festival of the year and it is not a religious event. In China the holiday is called the Spring Festival. The date of this festival changes each year because it's based on a lunar calendar. The date corresponds to the first new moon in January or February. This year Chinese New Year starts on **January 25th**. It is traditionally celebrated for 15 days ending on the date of the next full moon. In China, the celebration is 3 days long. The Chinese lunar calendar is made up of a cycle of twelve years and each year corresponds to one of 12 animals. This year is the Year of the **Rat**. Family is at the centre of Chinese New Year involving visiting and shared meals with loved ones.

Red is the colour that honours this holiday and we see it decorating many families' homes and businesses around Richmond. Children often receive gifts and money.

This year we will be hosting a **Lion Dance on Friday, January 24th @1:15 in the gym**. Parents are welcome to attend!

CHRISTMAS COTTAGE SUPPORT

We are happy to report that our students and teachers helped raise \$860.00 towards Canucks Place this year. **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Students who are registered in the Richmond School District are able to apply for an out of catchment transfer. The application form will be available online at the SD38 District website, school offices or at the Central Registration office on Monday, January 27th. Once completed, transfer forms must be dropped off in-person to the requested school(s). For more information on this process, check the school district website (<http://www.sd38.bc.ca/>).

For 2020/21, **Round 1 Transfer Application period will be from February 10 – 28, 2020**. Transfer decisions will be provided to parents by Friday, March 13th, 2020.

Round 2 Late Transfer Application period will be between March 2 – May 15, 2020. The transfer decisions will be communicated to parents by Friday, May 29th, 2020.

COLLABORATION & BREAK OUT SPACES

As you are aware, we have new collaboration spaces and break out rooms in the new addition of our school. These are spaces for learning and not to be used after school for any reason. Teachers are having meetings, planning and working in these spaces and therefore we kindly ask that you refrain from using these spaces as places to meet friends or play before or after school hours.

PARKING LOT SAFETY



To ensure your safety during our seismic upgrading please ensure that you are using the walking path along the west fence or using the walking path that has been lined with orange cones so that you and your parents are not walking through or too close to cars that are picking up or dropping off children in the parking lot. This is only a temporary path and when the demolition of the front section of the school is complete we should get our regular walking path back for use.

Parents should also be dropping off and picking up students at the regular spot and under NO CIRCUMSTANCES be driving into the school grounds past the chain. This area on the blacktop is off limits to the public. Cars and trucks that you may see in that area are district vehicles or vehicles that the construction workers require to do their jobs. Thank you for thinking of the safety of all our students!

GR. 7 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Our grade 7 students will soon begin the transition to High School. A letter has been sent home indicating their catchment high school and the corresponding school's grade 7 parent information evening date and time. Counselors from MacNeill Secondary visited our school on Thursday, January 16th in the morning. During this time all students from the MacNeill catchment area completed their program planning sheets. *An evening meeting for parents of current grade 7 students in the MacNeill Secondary School catchment will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30pm.*

GRADE 8 INCENTIVE OUTDOOR ACADEMY PROGRAM

MacNeill Secondary hosts the district's Incentive Program for grade 8-10 students. The program focuses on outdoor experiences and has an accelerated academic program. The Incentive program is offering an information session on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:30pm in the Small Gym.

READY SET LEARN

Cook School would like to welcome all 3 and 4-year-old children in our neighborhood to come to a special event during the afternoon of Wednesday, February 12th from 1 – 2:30pm in the Gymnasium. Join us in some fun activity stations. If you plan to attend this event with your child, please contact our school at 604-668-6454 as soon as possible. If you have friends or neighbours with young children, please share this information with them and urge them to attend this valuable session.



READERS CHOICE IS BACK!

Readers' Choice has started at Cook School! This annual event, organized and run by Mrs. Storey, is a reading program to select the best book of 2019-2020 in both picture book and novel genres. Mrs. Storey has selected 8 new books in each category and has purchased several copies of each title. Thank you to the PAC for providing funds for the purchase of books. Intermediate students sign out books from the library, read at least 3 and complete a book review for each. At the end they will vote for their favourites. Also, 8 names will be drawn for door prizes as long as you have read at least 3 novels and completed at least 3 book reviews. The book review worksheet is available in the library. Primary students will have the books to read to them by their classroom teachers and they vote for their favourites as well. This is a much anticipated event for students and a great deal of reading goes on! Thank you to Mrs. Storey for organizing this event. There will be a Reader's Choice Book Awards presentation at the Sharing Assembly in March!



BASKETBALL SEASON STARTS

Our grade 6 and 7 students have been invited to join the basketball team at Cook. There is a grade 6/7 Girls team and grade 6 & 7 Boys teams. The teams will practice in the morning, at lunch time and occasionally after school. There are scheduled games between other schools that are held after school. *If your child is on the basketball team, a note will have gone home outlining the practice times and game dates.*

A big thank you goes to Ms. Naka for coaching the girls Gr. 6/7 team, Ms. Tennant and Mr. Hawke for coaching the boys Gr. 7 team, and Mrs. Storey for coaching the boys Gr. 6 team. We appreciate you volunteering your time to support our students!

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS AT COOK SCHOOL

Our Early Learning Centre (Portable 4) runs a number of programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Here are the details:

Cook Early Learning Centre – Run by Richmond School District; Monday through Thursday afternoon 1:30 – 3:30pm; no cost for this program; drop in program, no registration required; birth to 5 years.

Together Time – run by Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre; Monday and Wednesday mornings 9:15 – 11:15am; no cost for this program but registration required (604-279-7020); birth to 5 years.

Time for 2s – run by City Centre Community Centre; Tuesdays and Thursdays; a cost for this program; registration through City Centre Community Centre; 2+ year old; for more information please check their website: [https://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/centres/thompsoncentre/preschool/Time for Twos.htm](https://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/centres/thompsoncentre/preschool/Time%20for%20Twos.htm)

CAP-C Program – run by Touchstone Family Association; Thursday mornings 9:30 – 11:15am; no cost for this program; registration required (604-207-5036); birth to 6 years.

Gr. 7 boys:

Coaches: Ms. Tennant and Mr. Hawke
Practices: Tuesday & Wednesday at lunch, and Thursday 2:45 - 4:15pm

Gr. 6 boys:

Coach: Mrs. Storey
Practices: Mondays at 8am, 12:15pm and 2:45pm

Gr. 6/7 girls:

Coaches: Ms. Naka
Practices: Wednesday 2:45-4:00pm and Friday 7:50-8:30am

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

Wear a coat with a hood. Your coat should fit a little loose on your body so that you can comfortably layer clothing underneath it. Stick with zippers instead of buttons. Zippers provide a tighter seal when it comes to windy weather. Jackets are shorter than coats and tend to only keep your upper body warm. Longer coats will provide more protection from inclement weather.

Cover your head and ears with a thick hat. If your coat comes with a hood, feel free to get a hat made out of wool, knit fabric, or a poly-cotton blend. Pick a hat that will cover your ears, since cold ears can make your entire head feel cold even if the top of your head is covered. Your ears don't naturally have a lot of protection, so it's important to keep them warm.

Protect your hands by wearing a thick pair of waterproof gloves with padding. A thick pair of gloves is essential in cold weather. The cuffs of your gloves should extend past the cuffs of your coat to ensure that your wrists aren't exposed to the elements.

Cover your face with a scarf or balaclava. Covering your face will keep the wind and cold air away from the most sensitive parts of your body. Get a scarf and loop it around your neck. A balaclava is like a hat that covers your entire head, with small openings for your lips and eyes.

Get thick socks and a pair of big boots to keep your feet warm. To protect your feet, opt for a pair of thick winter boots. Get boots that rise above your ankles, and buy a pair

that is a half-size bigger than your regular shoe size to make room for your socks. Get a thick pair of wool socks.

Wear pants made of wool or thick fleece. Unless you're going to be spending a lot of time outside, fleece and wool pants will both work well in the cold. The thicker the fabric is, the better. Thick denim is great in the cold, but if it's snowing or raining it's not a good choice.

Keep legs warm with a pair of long underwear or snow pants. In very cold temperatures, wear snow pants over your pants to keep your legs warm. If you're going to work or want an added layer of protection, wear a set of long underwear under your pants to give your legs some added protection. For most people, boots, a coat, gloves, and a hat are enough to stay warm. If it isn't too cold out, there's no need to wear any extra garments to protect your legs.

