



# Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

## Newsletter

December 2016

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Principal: Hal Wall  
Vice-Principal: Vicki Moro  
Head Teacher: Larry Ryan  
Secretary: D. Quickstad

### Dates to Remember ...

Wednesday, December 7 ..... Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by PAC and Burnaby Firefighters  
 Friday, December 9 & Monday, December 12 ..... Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsals  
 Week of Dec. 5 ..... First Term Report Cards go home  
 Wednesday Dec. 7 ..... Firefighters Pancake Breakfast  
 Friday Dec. 9 / Monday Dec. 12 ..... Xmas Concert Dress Rehearsals  
 December 14/15 1-2pm & 5:30 – 6:30 pm ..... Christmas Concerts  
 Friday, December 16 ..... Last Day of School before Winter Break  
 Monday Dec. 19 – Monday Jan. 2 ..... School Closed for Winter Holiday  
 Tuesday, January 3 ..... First Day of School for the New Year  
 Thursday, Jan. 26 ..... Second Young People's concert  
 Friday, Jan. 27 9:15 am ..... PAC Meeting  
 Tuesday, Feb. 7 ..... Multicultural Potluck 6 pm  
 Monday, February 13 ..... Family Day Holiday – No School  
 Friday Feb. 17 ..... District Pro-D Day – No School for Students  
 Monday, February 20 ..... Young People's concert

(See our website at [taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca](http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca) for the full year's schedule)

### Pausing and Thinking

One of the things I like most about the Christmas holidays is the time I get to spend with my family and friends. However, with staying up late and so many more things to do I'll admit it, sometimes I get grumpy or even angry. One of the areas we all struggle with is frustration or anger. We all get frustrated. That's not wrong. It's what we do when we feel that way that can be right or wrong. One of the things students are learning about is "self-regulation." That's the ability to pause and think about the person you want to be and then make the best choices. At our November PAC meeting, several parents spoke in support of students learning to self regulate. Self-regulation is as much an issue for adults as it is for students. As I have dealt with my own anger and the anger of others I am learning to pause and to help others pause so we all make the right choices.

We need to think before we speak. That's true as much for our students as it is for staff and parents. Delay is a tremendous remedy for anger but we don't need to delay indefinitely. If we've got an issue to deal with, we shouldn't wait too long to deal with it. Anger delayed indefinitely becomes bitterness. Bitterness is worse than anger. Bitterness is always wrong; anger isn't. When we respond impulsively, we tend to respond according to our feelings instead of doing what we know is right. That's why we teach students to tell someone to stop if they are doing something that hurts their feelings and to walk away if the situation doesn't get better or if they are getting angrier. When we walk away and wait to talk about whatever conflict we are having, we are more rational and reasonable.

When conflict arises and we give ourselves time to think, what should we think about? We can consider these five questions:

- T: Is it truthful? Is what I'm about to say the truth?
- H: Is it helpful? Or will it simply harm the other person?
- I: Is it inspirational? Does it fill our buckets or empty them?
- N: Is it necessary? If it's not necessary, why do I need to say it?
- K: Is it kind?

THINK before we speak. Reflect before we react. It'll slow down our anger and enable us to build relationships and make a positive difference in the lives of others. It is our desire as the staff of Taylor Park to empower our students to self regulate and, as a result, build deeper and stronger relationships with the people they work with and with their family. This is what self-regulation is about and part of what we're focusing on at Taylor Park this year to help us continue to be a great school! (Mr. Wall)

### Thanks and Best Wishes to Mr. Ryan!

Mr. Larry Ryan, our Head Teacher, has been appointed as a vice-principal in the Coquitlam School district. Over the past years in Burnaby, he has served as: a classroom teacher, a District Alternate program teacher, a community school coordinator and as a head teacher. In all these areas he has been a leader in helping both students and staff to be successful. This appointment as a vice-principal is a confirmation of his leadership and we wish him well in this new position. We will miss his leadership at this school and in the district.

### Breakfast With Santa

Our annual Breakfast with Santa will be taking place on Wednesday, December 7. All students will be attending the breakfast with their class. We encourage all students to come in their pajamas and enjoy some pancakes with their classmates. We will also have a visit from Santa! We are also looking for adult volunteers! Please sign up below if you are interesting in helping out at this fun event!

### Breakfast With Santa

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I am able to help with the Breakfast With Santa on Wednesday, December 7.
- I am able to help with:
    - Set up (Tuesday, Dec. 6: 3:00 – 4:00 pm)
    - Serving (Wednesday, Dec. 7: 9:00 – 11:00 am)
    - Clean up (Wednesday, Dec. 7: 10:30 – 11:30 am)

Name of volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Report Cards - Time to Look at the Donut and not the Hole

Our report cards for the first term will be coming out this next week. A report card is a great conversation starter for parents to use with their children. How the conversation goes is often based on the way we, as adults, react and the questions we ask. The report card is a snapshot, of what's happened in the past. My goal as the father of two sons was to use the report card to reinforce the things they've done well and then inspire and equip them to do well for the next term. A good way to start is to thank your child for bringing the report card and say something like, "I'm looking forward to seeing what you've accomplished!" Some questions and comments to consider for the discussion of the report card are:

- What are you proud of accomplishing this past term?
- What do you feel you did best at?
- Are you satisfied with this report card?
- Are your grades and work habit marks what you expected?
- What are your goals for this coming term?
- What can we do at home to help you accomplish your goals?



Think of specific helpful comments to make about your child's report card. Comments like, "That's a good report," or "I'm disappointed" don't have the desired kind of impact compared to comments like, "I've seen you put a lot of effort into your math this term and I'm really proud of you for working hard." Or "It seems like math has taken a lot of time and been frustrating for you this past term. What can we do to help for this next term?" Your child's teachers want them to be successful so if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact them and arrange an appointment.

My children are currently in University and my wife and I still use the report card as a way to overwhelmingly focus on the "donut," the overall picture, instead of the "hole," or things that didn't go well. As our children get older they wonder what they should do next for schooling and for a job. The report card discussion parents have in Elementary school is a way to keep the conversation going with our children, to support them and build our relationship with them, to discover and encourage their passions and ultimately, if we do it right, to inspire and empower them to be the best they can be! *Mr. Wall*

## Staff Updates

- Congratulations to Mr. Derek Cockram as he has been appointed as the head teacher at Taylor Park from January to July 2017. Mr. Cockram is currently teaching a grade 6/7 class and will be taking over the leadership of a number of areas as Mr. Ryan leaves.
- Welcome back Ms. Cheng! Ms. Cheng has returned from her mat leave and is again teaching Division 11.
- Ms. Panesar has taught division 11 for the last part of Ms. Cheng's maternity leave and she is in the process of starting a new position in the district.
- Ms. Sather has been teaching division five with Mr. Ryan and has accepted a full time position at Morley. Her position has been posted and we are in the process of interviewing a replacement who will be teaching in Mr. Cockram's class so he can then look after his head teacher responsibilities, just as Mr. Ryan did.
- Ms. Solteiro, Educational Assistant with division four, has taken a full time position at Morley. We would like to welcome Ms. Papali who is taking over this position.
- Mr. Ma, Educational Assistant with divisions 5, 7 and 25 has taken a position at Marlborough. This position has been posted and we are in the process of filling it.

## Thank You's:

We would like to send a special thank you to the following people who make Taylor Park Elementary School such a great place:

- Our Parent Advisory Committee(PAC): We can't even begin to name off all the things you do to help our students. They have paid for our recent animation program, organized our Pancake Breakfast and hot lunches, paid for one of our new water fountains and much more. Your dedication and efforts truly make our school great. Thank you to each and every one of you.
- Save on Foods at Marine Drive for donating all the supplies for our Pancake breakfast.
- The Burnaby Fire fighters for bringing their stoves, mixing the batter and cooking the pancakes.
- To all of our volunteers, a huge thank you. From counting pizza money, to making popcorn, driving for fieldtrips, helping out in the classrooms, the list goes on and on. Parent involvement makes such a big difference in our school and your time and commitment truly makes a difference. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to help us. It is all greatly appreciated.

## Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams

Congratulations to our Boy's Volleyball teams for a season full of excitement and skill development. The team members displayed great sportsmanship as they played in league games with other Burnaby schools. They ended by playing in a district play day and did an excellent job of representing Taylor Park. Thank you very much to Mr. Petroski and Ms. Tanahara for all the time they volunteered to coach and mentor our volleyball team this year!

Congratulation to the Girls' Volleyball team for an awesome season of learning and skill development. The team represented Taylor Park well in all of the games. We had an excellent recreation play day at Gilpin Elementary. Ms. Dunnett and Mr. Woo would like to thank all the girls Volleyball team for their effort, enthusiasm, and smiles. We also want to thank our coaches, Ms. Dunnett and Mr. Woo!

Thank you as well to all of the parent drivers and fans! We couldn't do it without you!

## Christmas Concert Raffle

We will be holding a raffle draw at this year's Seasonal Concerts. A huge thank -you to our local businesses for supporting our school. Lots of great prizes to be won. Here are some of the items: Sky Zone Trampoline birthday package, Funtopia climbing package with pizza, Starbucks coffee machine and Menchie's gift certificates. Tickets will be available at the door for all performances. 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10, cash or cheque only. Prizes will be drawn Friday, December 16th. All money raised will go to the music department.



## Sign-up For Email Updates of School News

As of October first, we have just over 170 parents receiving updates on school news because they entered their email on our school's website. We will not be having a listserve this year. News and event updates are available by e-mail only by signing up on our school's website at <http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca/>