



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

Newsletter

February 2017

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Dates to Remember ...

February 1 – 28	September 2017 Registration Cross District Applications Accepted
Tuesday, Feb. 7 – 6 pm	Multicultural Potluck (Notice sent home with details)
Monday, February 13	Family Day Holiday – No School
Tuesday, February 14	Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off
Thursday, February 16	PAC Movie Night
Friday, February 17	District Pro-D Day – No School for Students
Monday, February 20	Young People’s concert
Friday, February 24	Pink Shirt / Anti-Bullying Day Assembly (Parents Welcome)
Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 24	Spring Break (School Closed)

(See our website at taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca for the full year’s schedule)

Stop Walk and Talk

The most important thing for students and for their learning is relationships. When people have good relationships, they learn more, learn faster and can deal effectively with the problems we all inevitably face. Often, the most difficult problems students face involve another person.

Since coming to Taylor Park last September, I’ve had many students discuss problems they are having with other people. What has surprised me is the number of times their problem has been solved by saying to a person that they are being hurt by what’s being done. Numerous times I have had students in tears once they realized how they made someone else feel. As a result, the person causing the problems stops, and, in many cases, when I check back later they are better friends.

As a staff, we are coaching students how to say “stop”, when to walk away and how to talk so problems can be solved. It’s not so much an anti-bullying program as much as it is people skills. Through experience and research, we know the “No Tolerance” approach of escalating punishments doesn’t stop mean and bullying behaviour. We also know that programs that just teach “anti-bullying” skills don’t work very well either. The solution is to build relationships through a positive culture and teaching “people skills.” At the last school where I was the principal, there were 200 suspensions a year fifteen years earlier but that went down to less than five once the school started focusing on building relationships. This does not mean their program will work at Taylor Park but it does demonstrate how much of an impact relationships can have. We have needed to look at our community and our experience to figure out what would work best at Taylor Park, and we see a good fit with the concept of stop/walk/talk. Please note that if you google the phrase “Stop, Walk and Talk” you will not necessarily see what we are doing here.

Stop means to tell a person you don’t like what they are doing. For a kindergarten student it may mean putting up a hand and saying, “Stop,” if someone is grabbing them or something they have. However, it may mean that a grade 7 student goes up to another student and says, “Can we talk? Yesterday, when we were...” and then goes on to say that they are being hurt by what the other person is doing. There are hundreds of ways to say stop but the same method can be used to effectively deal with problems whether we are 5 or 55 years old. It’s about people skills and learning how to express our feelings. Oh, and when someone says “stop” because they are doing something that hurts, the other person needs to stop.

Walking away is often needed when the payoff for the person causing the problem is seeing someone get upset. When the person walks away, it removes the payoff and the behaviour often stops. Walking away before the person being hurt gets angry, retaliates or makes it a bigger problem is also a wise move. What it doesn’t mean is we should just ignore problems. If there is an ongoing or serious problem, the next step is “Talk.”

For young children in Kindergarten, talk usually means getting help from an adult. For people that are twelve years old it may mean talking – not gossiping – to a friend. That friend can help to understand the situation and come up with a solution. It doesn’t mean posting information on line. It would be a mistake to think that twelve year olds are always going to talk to a parent or teacher whenever there is a problem. They won’t. To expect that is a mistake and counter to our goal of building relationships. For serious situations, there are many people to talk with including parents, grandparents, coaches, Taylor Park staff, the Kids Help Line and more. Ironically, the more adults show students how to build stronger friendships by talking things out, the more willing they are to talk with adults.

We want students to have success in their friendships and in their learning. The two go together. We want to work as a team, with students, parents and staff working together, to build a culture where friendships are strong and people problems are dealt with in a way that enables students to build skills for the rest of their lives. February 24th is our pink shirt day, celebrating a day when one student’s friends stood up for him by wearing pink. Our theme is “Make Nice.” We encourage all our students and staff to wear something pink on Feb. 24th to visually represent the importance of working together to build positive and strong relationships. (Mr. Wall)

Registration for September 2017

Applications are now being accepted for new students in the Taylor Park catchment area. Students currently attending Taylor Park will automatically be re-registered for September 2017. We are welcoming registration of students born in 2012 for September 2017 Kindergarten. Grade 7 students are automatically enrolled in their catchment high school.

If parents are wanting to have their child attend a school outside of their catchment or attend any of the cross district programs, please note that the cross district form is due in to the office for signature by the principal during the month of February. Acceptance into cross district schools for both elementary and high school as well as for special programs (French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, etc.) is based on school board policy and details are available on the [district website](#). Taylor Park turned away a number of families who wanted to attend our great school this past fall so please be aware and register early. Registration and cross district forms are available online or at the school office. Registration for new students at Taylor Park needs to be done through an appointment made online at our school’s website. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the office.

Family Movie Night – 6:45 pm on Feb. 16 - Night Before Pro-D Day

Our PAC is sponsoring a family movie night for \$2 per family – pay at the Door. Come with your snacks and meet some of the other parents and students! Movie title is currently under discussion and will be announced at the school and on our website.

Multicultural Pot Luck

We will again be having our community pot luck to celebrate the diversity in our school. Families can come and meet others as well as being entertained by our students. We will have about 40 minutes of performances from a variety of our students. Notices have gone out from our PAC and are available outside the office if you need another.

Fall Food Drive Thank You

The Vancouver Food Bank has asked us to thank our community, “for raising 1125 pounds of food through your food/fund drive to support the work of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank! We sincerely appreciate the commitment, time and energy you’ve taken to create a great opportunity for people to give so generously. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank’s mission is to create empowering environments that provide and promote access to healthy food, education and training. We are proud of the many ways we demonstrate our commitment to achieve this, including working with local farmers to buy fresh produce, providing education and cooking demonstrations in schools and community kitchens, and expanding our volunteer program. We love to see many of our members begin to thrive and gain new confidence through the programs the Food Bank delivers. You are helping us to accomplish all of this and more! Thanks also to Ms. Long and the grade 4/5 student leaders for organizing this.

Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser Begins

Our annual Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser for the BC Heart and Stroke Association is starting. Each student will be bringing home a fundraising envelope starting this week. The envelope cover explains that donations are welcome on line at: www.JumpRopeForHeart.ca or money can be collected and placed in the envelope and brought to school to their classroom teacher by February 14th. The 14th is our special Jump Off finale where each class skips in the gym for a half hour of fitness and fun. All donations raised will support heart research. We are emphasizing the importance of collecting donation money safely through parents, families, work, or in the neighbourhood with a parent. As shown on the envelope, students who raise donation money will receive prizes based on the amount raised. The prizes will arrive generally about four weeks after the Jump Off Finale. We thank you in advance for any donation money collected. For any further questions, contact Ms. Long at the school.

Burnaby Firefighters Association Donation

Our thanks again to the Burnaby Firefighters association for providing breakfast bars as snacks for students who have not had breakfast or are missing their snack for the day. Thanks to the contributions to their organization, we are able to support students needing breakfast or a snack with something to eat.

Welcome to New Staff

Ms. Bouvette - She is replacing Ms. Brock as the kindergarten teacher for Div. 25 until the end of the year.

Ms. Downie – She will be teaching Div. 3 on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon so Mr. Cockram can work on his head teacher duties. Ms. Downie will also be helping teach kindergarten students, particularly in the areas of literacy and social skills.

Ms. Xun – She will be teaching ELL on Mondays and Wednesdays. All of the funding for her position and part of the funding for Ms. Downie’s position is coming from the provincial government’s \$50 million in additional funding that has recently been announced.

Mr. Katai - He will be working as an Educational Assistant primarily with students in Div. 2.

Christmas Concert Fundraisers

Our Raffle fundraiser brought in \$1365 for our music program. This money will be going toward our music program. We are currently looking at using our music program funds to help with upgrading our gym sound system so that concerts, assemblies, talent shows, dance programs and other musical/drama productions work well.

Reading Club Reminder Due Dates

The pink reading club sheets must be returned to classroom teachers between January 23 and February 3rd for students to receive a notebook.

Spring Break Camps

Have you thought about how your kids 6-12 years old can make the most of spring break? Why not leave it to the experts in fun! Leave it to the experts in fun! Sports, wacky arts & crafts, games and swimming every day are just a taste of the daily action-packed activities we’ve planned. Kids can join us for one day, all week or both weeks.

9:00am-3:00pm, \$32.40, per session. After program care is available until 5:30 for an additional \$6.50. Register [online](#) or at the Edmonds Community Center.

[Carousel Theatre for Young People’s Spring Break Drama Camps](#) are an opportunity for students to spend a whole week discovering theatre. Students will be grouped by age and will enjoy morning and afternoon blocks of drama games and activities, plus a supervised lunch break. Pack a lunch and snacks, and get ready for a week of fun and collaborative theatre explorations. All levels welcome! No previous experience required.

<http://www.carouseltheatre.ca/drama-school/spring-break-drama-camps/>

Edmonds Pro D Day Camp

Looking for something fun for your kids on the upcoming Pro D Day? Join us in a variety of sports, wacky arts & crafts, games and swimming. This program is open to 6-12 year olds for Friday, February 17 from 9:00am-3:00pm (Barcode # 414529, \$32.40, 1 session) After-Camp Stay & Play (only for those registered in our Pro D Day Camp) - Friday, 3:00-5:30pm, February 17, (1 session Barcode # 414501) \$6.50, 1 session Campers stay a little longer and play board games, create crafts and more.

South Burnaby Metro Club

Let’s Play Ball – online registration is now open for the upcoming spring 2017 baseball season. Programs available for all youth ages 4-18. For more information or to register online, please visit www.southburnabybaseball.com