



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

Newsletter

June 2017

7590 Mission Avenue, Burnaby BC V3N 5C7
Phone: 604-664-8226 (604-296-9034 effective June 22)
Fax: 604-717-5015
Website: <http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca>

Principal: Hal Wall
Vice-Principal: Vicki Moro
Head Teacher: Derek Cockram
Secretary: Mariana Chow

Dates to Remember ...

Wednesday, June 14 - 6pm Student Play – A Load of Rubbish
Friday, June 16 – 12:30 Dismissal..... Sports Day
Wednesday, June 21 – Friday, June 23 Grade 6/7 Camp at Elphinstone
Friday, June 23..... School Picnic for Grades 1-5
Monday, June 26 – 9:30 am Year End Awards Assembly
Wednesday, June 28 – 9:30 am Grade 7 Leaving Assembly
Thursday, June 29 10 am Dismissal..... Report Cards Go Home - Last Day of School for Students

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

Full STEAM Ahead!!

When I was in elementary school in the 1960s, I remember watching the astronauts on live TV. Our entire school of 400 students watched in awe as a rocket took off and astronauts went into space. In the 1960s there was a sense of wonder and awe as students and schools explored math and science. We explored, created and, as a result, we learned. With changes in technology, globalization and government, this creative approach to learning changed to more of a study of subjects with a focus on learning specific skills and gaining knowledge instead of developing a passion to think, design, and innovate... This skill based learning is similar to training chefs by teaching specific tasks such as cutting, grilling, baking and identifying spices. All these things are important but the most important goal is not the skill, the ultimate goal is in creating food that is healthy and tastes great. It is the difference between learning to read and reading to learn. Learning to read is building a skill for the sake of the skill, reading to learn is being able to enjoy reading and follow your interests.

For the past several years, our school has had a goal of helping students develop their writing skills. We did a school wide writing assessment in April and then looked at the results. About seventy percent of our students are fully meeting or exceeding expectations in writing. Considering that 250 of our 600 students are studying English as a second or third language this means that our student's writing skills are doing very well. This assessment shows that what our teachers have done and students have worked on has had a very positive effect on improving writing skills.

While we have been working on writing, the province has developed a revised curriculum that focusses on developing students to meet the needs of a 21st century world. Our teachers have been using an inquiry approach and using technology and design as a way of learning. This coming year we have decided to go further and use the STEAM approach to develop critical and creative thinking, collaboration and communication. The STEAM approach uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process.

In simple language, student will develop their thinking and social skills by designing and building projects. You may have seen your children or other students here making things with wood, fabric, paper, electronics, computer coding, etc. Each of these techniques can be used in a STEAM approach. Interestingly, the comments of students and parents after being involved in these projects here is that students are more engaged in their learning in all subjects and more connected with their school and peers.

In support of this, through our PAC fundraising as well as district and provincial learning grants we have set aside about \$16,000 to intentionally and collaboratively support the development of wonder, critique, inquiry, and innovation through the use of technology and design projects.

It's not just for at school. Many families are using this approach to, "nurture curious kids and strong family bonds through awesome creative projects." Your family might enjoy some of the projects that can be found on the website, <http://babbleddabledo.com/> You might want to celebrate Father's Day by trying out one of the twenty activities found at <http://makezine.com/2015/06/19/20-projects-make-whole-family-fathers-day/> If your family likes electronics, they may want to purchase an Arduino kit for about \$100 and try out some of these great activities <https://create.arduino.cc/projecthub/projects/tags/kids>

I am looking forward to going "Full STEAM Ahead" this coming year and hope you will take advantage of some of the opportunities listed above so that the whole family can experience and enjoy exploring together.

Mr. Wall (Principal)

Phone Number for the School is Changing

Our main school phone number is changing to 604-296-9034 effective June 22. Schools across the Burnaby School District are having their phone systems and numbers changing to use VOIP (Phone systems using the Internet) as a way of saving money and updating features.

Grade 7 year end events

We will be celebrating the end of the grade seven year with a leaving assembly on Wednesday, June 28 at 9:30 am. Because of the limitations of the size of our gym, each grade seven student will be able to have up to three family members attend. It is recommended that students dress up but expensive purchases like suits and custom dresses are not necessary and can distract from the importance of the celebration of community that we have when we learn and have fun together.

School Picnic

Please remember that Divisions 5-25 will spend Friday, June 23rd at Ron McLean Park. We hope that many parents are planning to join us! All children must bring a snack as well as a water bottle to school on Friday, June 23rd. Students on the Hot Lunch Program will be given lunch at the park, all other students need to bring a bagged lunch. Classes will be walking to and from the park. Please ensure that your child dresses for the weather: running shoes (no flip-flops!), a jacket, hat, and sunscreen.



Staff Appreciation Lunch

The Taylor Park staff were treated to a great lunch by our parents and want our community to know we deeply appreciate your support and caring. Thanks!

Pie-ing of the Principal

Our book fair fundraiser more than met our goal of \$3500 so we had a great time at our last assembly. Our vice principal, Ms. Moro, enthusiastically prepared the pie and it was delivered by Alyssa from Div. 7 with help from the pie crew of Angela L., Harry Y., Jaiden R. and Vivian W. It was a great time!

Gauss and Abel Scores

Many of our students participated in the recent Gauss and Abel math tests and were honored at our last assembly. Special congratulations to our top scorers: Hiro Y. and Matthew K. for the Gauss and Yi Ming Su for the Abel test.

Summer Reading Club

Join the Summer Reading Club at Burnaby Public Library. Registration starts Friday, June 16th and continues until the middle of July. Children who read over the summer do better in school, and libraries across BC are here to help. When kids sign up, they will receive a reading calendar, a reading record, a book mark, and stickers. After reading or being read to for fifteen minutes a day for fifty days, readers will be rewarded with the highly coveted Summer Reading Club medal. During the summer, the library offers fun and creative programs, extended loans for travelers, and book recommendations.

Calling all teens! Win prizes like Chapters gift certificates, books and a grand prize of a Best Buy Gift Card just for reading with Burnaby Public Library's Teen Summer Reading Club! Pick up weekly reading cards to record your reading and to enter for prize draws. You can do the reading at home; you only have to come to the library to drop off your weekly reading cards for a chance to win prizes. If you are looking for fun things to do at the library, check out all our summer programs at <http://www.bpl.bc.ca/teens/programs-and-contests>. Teens entering grades 8 - 12 in September are eligible to participate in this year's Teen Summer Reading Club.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

We had a great celebration on June 2nd with our library filled with parent volunteers from this year. We had twenty-three musical presentations from a variety of students. Thanks also to those volunteers that were not able to make it. We wouldn't be able to have the many fundraising, athletic and school wide events without our parent volunteers. Thanks for helping make this a great school!

Staff Update

Our former secretary, Ms. Quickstad has taken a position at another school closer to her home. We wish her well. Our new secretary until the end of this school year is Ms. Chow. You may recognize her from when she was with us in the fall.

PAC Update

At our PAC's Annual General Meeting on May 30th, our PAC executive for the coming year were elected and the PAC budget was approved. We also discussed results from our school wide writing assessment and the Student Learning Grant of \$27,268 from the provincial government. Our new executive will be: Co-chairs: Michelle Krywolt and Stephanie Wong, Treasurer: Fiona Xu, Secretary: Sandra Medeiros, Member at large: Jane Zhang. We will be in need of parent helpers for our Sports Day Concession, Pizza Hot lunch, school picnic and grade 7 lunch. Please sign up at the end of this newsletter and return the info to the school.

Sports Day

We will be holding our Sports Day on Friday June 16. There will be a concession with snacks available: juice, cookies, chips. We will have our event rain or shine. If it is lightly raining it will be held outside and we will be able to have many parents. If it is rainy and inside, unfortunately, due to the size limitations of our building we will not be able to accommodate strollers or a large number of parents.

Please Complete On-Line District Technology Survey

The Burnaby School District Educational Technology Committee has been working on a set of surveys to gain a better sense of the state of technology in our district. You are invited to participate in the parent/family survey on Survey Monkey by using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Families-Survey> Paper forms are available from the office if you are unable to do the survey online. A few things to note about the survey:

1. All Burnaby School District families have the opportunity to participate in the Educational Technology Survey.
2. For families with more than one child in a Burnaby school, the survey can be filled out once for the family, or it can be filled out more than once for each individual child.
3. The survey will be anonymous, but will ask for some demographic information:
 - a. Your child(ren)'s grade level
 - b. Your child(ren)'s school
4. Individual survey responses will be confidential. Only summarized data will be shared.
5. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.
6. The survey will be 'open' to all families from June 6 – June 23.

We encourage you to take the approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey. We really want to hear from all families, so we can get a good sense of the state of technology in the district and of the things we need to focus on moving forward.

Safety Drills

As part of our emergency preparedness procedures, our students have participated in fire and earthquake drills. Over the past two weeks we held a hold and secure drill and next week will be holding a lockdown drill. We want our students to know how to be safe in all situations so we practice these drills as do the other schools in our district.



PAC Volunteer Sign Up – Yes I can help with:

Pizza Hot lunch/Sports Day Concession(June 16), school picnic(June 23) grade 7 lunch(June 28)

Student(s) Name(s): _____ Current Grade(s): _____

Parent Name and cell phone/email: _____