



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

Newsletter

November 2017

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Principal: Hal Wall
Vice-Principal: Vicki Moro
Head Teacher: Derek Cockram
Secretary: Chantelle Kennedy

Dates to Remember ...

Friday, November 17..... Crazy Hair Day
Friday, November 24..... District Professional Development Day – School closed
Tuesday, November 28..... PAC Meeting – 7 pm in the staffroom
Thursday November 30..... Celebration of Learning Assembly 10 am – Parents Welcome
Wednesday, December 6 Pancake Breakfast With Santa
Monday, December 18 Term 1 Report Cards sent home this week
Tues/Wed, December 19/20 Christmas Concert Presentations 1 pm and 5:30 pm
December 25 – January 5 School closed for Christmas Break
Monday, January 8..... First Day of School for 2018
Friday, January 12..... PAC Meeting 9:15 am
Wednesday, January 31 Celebration of Learning Assembly 12:45 pm – Parents Welcome
Monday, February 12 Family Day – school closed

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

We Build! at Taylor Park

One of the areas where our Taylor Park students and staff have excelled is in the area of designing and building. We have had [newspaper stories](#), [a visit from the premier](#) and recently hosted a [robotics competition](#). When I visit classrooms I see students working on Rube Goldberg machines, taking apart electronics, building circuits, making medieval castles, spinning wool, building tall structures, sewing by hand and by machine and more... Students aren't just working with pencils and books, they are enthusiastically building a variety of things. With the change to a 21st century curriculum, there has arisen an excitement about building, not just at Taylor Park but also at elementary schools across Canada and the United States.

In April of last year, our staff started considering what the key areas are that we should work on at every grade level. In collaboration with our staff, PAC and students, we came up with two goals for 2017-2018:

- 1) Developing critical / creative thinking and collaboration skills using a [STEAM approach](#) (building things).
- 2) Developing the Social Emotional Skills of all students.

As a school goal, we are using the designing and building process not just to develop building skills but, more importantly, to develop creative and critical thinking as well as collaboration skills. What students are building varies based on the grade level and class. At our last PAC meeting, a parent raised an obvious question, "How many minutes are students supposed to spend on each of their subjects?" In other words, are students having to drop some subjects in order to spend time on building? Several other parents responded by telling how, "Our children are more engaged in their learning because they are integrating subjects like math, reading and social studies. When our children are designing their castle for Social Studies, they are actually doing math by multiplying, dividing and measuring. Except, they don't see it as math or even homework because they are so excited about building their project."

At our November 24 professional day, one of the areas we will be focussing on will be the social emotional areas of strength and areas needing development for our students. Last May, our grades 5-7 students completed a "Climate Study" to get their perspective on our school culture – including the social – emotional concerns of our students. Our social emotional committee and our staff are looking at these results along with our observations and results from past surveys to help us determine what our focus should be for the coming year. At our November PAC meeting we will look at the survey results and discuss how students, staff and families can work together on this.

Hal Wall (Principal)

A Pirate Christmas – Schoolwide Performance

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 will be presenting, "A Pirate Christmas" for our community on December 19 and 20. There will be an afternoon matinee at 1 pm and an evening presentation from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. We will be offering two tickets to families for the evening performances and will send home a notice for that in a few weeks.

Tuesday, December 19 Performances at 1 pm and 5:30 pm	Wednesday, December 20 Performances at 1 pm and 5:30 pm
Cast "A"	Cast "B"
Div. 2 - Ms. Bathurst	Div. 1 - Mr. Petroski
Div. 4 - Ms. Panesar	Div. 3 - Mr. Cockram/Ms. Downie
Div. 6 - Ms. Long	Div. 5 - Ms. Dittrich
Div. 8 - Mr. Woo	Div. 7 - Ms. West
Div. 10 - Ms. McDonald	Div. 9 - Ms. Scott/Ms. Haw-Humphries
Div. 12 - Ms. Chan	Div. 11 - Ms. Cheng/ Mr. McKay
Div. 14 - Ms. Tanahara	Div. 13 - Ms. Galindo/ Ms. Haw-Humphries
Div. 16 - Mr. Blazeovich	Div. 15 - Ms. Malito/Ms. Sim
Div. 18 - Ms. Dunnett	Div. 17 - Ms. Hasebe
Div. 20 - Ms. Ko	Div. 19 - Ms. Boyle
Div. 23 - Ms. Campbell	Div. 21 - Ms. Romano/Ms. Perello
Div. 24 - Ms. Low	Div. 22 - Ms. Osiris
Div. 26 - Ms. Chin	Div. 25 - Ms. Delore

Staff Changes At Taylor Park

Our office support position has changed from a 23 hour per week part time position to a 35 hours per week, five day, full time position. Our office clerk since 2005, Brenda Ferris, has moved to a four day position in the district so she will no longer be here at Taylor Park. Brenda has been with the school since it opened and she will be missed. We are currently in the process of hiring a replacement. We welcome Chantelle Kennedy as our new school secretary as Mariana Chow is on a leave of absence.

Online Yearbook

We are excited to again have a yearbook to share memories of the school year. Last year the yearbook was 44 pages and cost \$17. This year it will be 52 pages and will be offered for sale online only for \$17 in January. Orders by cash or cheque will be accepted in February for \$20. We will include only students whose parents have provided permission to use their photos and store photos on a server outside of Canada. We will also be providing instructions and access to an app with our next newsletter so that families can upload photos for use in our yearbook and monthly assemblies.

Annual Canned Food Drive (Oct. 3 – Nov. 24)

Once again the Grade 4/5 leadership council will oversee a school-wide canned food drive with all donations going to feed needy families. Our donations will be sent to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank who will in turn distribute it to the local community agencies. Send donations via your child to their classroom as we did last year. We thank you in advance for your support and canned food donation. The Top Five Items needed by families supported by food banks are: Peanut Butter, Beans in Sauce, Canned Fish, Canned Fruit and Cold Cereal.

Weather Related School Closures

The latest white fluff in the air over the last week is reminding us that winter is on its way! That means it is time to remind you of how you might learn of any weather related school closures.

All schools will remain **OPEN**, unless there is heavy snowfall, damage or other circumstances (e.g. power outage) that make it impossible to operate safely. In the event there are certain schools or the entire district closed due to snow, or any other weather-related issues, announcements will be made on local radio stations by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please **do not** call the radio station – tune in and listen for the announcements, or check the radio station websites.

Closure information will also be posted on the district website at www.burnabyschools.ca and on Twitter @burnabyschools (please follow us!). However, keep in mind that there may be situations where this is not possible, for example, if there are power outages or technical problems. The most reliable way to get school closure information is to listen to the local radio stations.

PLEASE NOTE: Information will only be provided on school closures. If there is no closure information, our schools are open for learning! However, the decision to send your child to school or not is ultimately a family decision. For more detailed information on weather related school closures, please [click here](#)

Please Don't Send Birthday Treats or Goodie Bags for the Class on Your Child's Birthday

Birthdays are important for students but we ask that treats and goodie bags not be sent to school. We have fifteen students with life threatening allergies so those students don't feel included when they can't have what their classmates are having. When goodie bags are handed out it causes problems for those students whose families can't afford or don't want to give goodie bags. We want all our students to feel included and appreciate your support for this.

Hot Lunch Sign Up Deadlines

Each month we place our order for the number of hot meals we will receive on the 15th. This means that we need to receive orders on or before the 15th. We understand some students may be absent and they may not pick up or give parents the monthly notice so if you think making the monthly deadline on the 15th, you may want to pay online or give post-dated cheques to the school so that you don't miss out.

Cross Country Team

Congratulations to our Cross Country teams for their effort, improvement and a great season!. The team members displayed great support for each other and did very well at the district Cross-country meet. Thanks also to coaches Ms. Dunnett and Ms. Downie.

Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society 6th annual Angel Christmas Breakfast and Toy Drive.

From November 15th through December 13th, @ Burnaby Fire Department will collect new unwrapped toys for delivery to @bbyservices 's Christmas Bureau! Residents near Taylor Park are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to the Burnaby Fire Station #2 – 7578 Edmonds Street

On December 1st, you can bring a new unwrapped toy or donation and join the firefighters at the Angel Christmas Breakfast & Toy Drive to receive a complimentary pancake breakfast at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown ballroom (6083 McKay Avenue) or a to-go breakfast courtesy of @McDonalds Restaurants. They are asking the community to join them in supporting the Burnaby Christmas Bureau and the CKNW Orphan's Fund.

PAC News

Due to changes in work schedules, we are needing to elect some new directors, including a treasurer. At our last PAC meeting we did not have the required quorum of ten parents so we were unable to choose someone. Please come and support our PAC as we cannot make decisions or elections with less than ten parents present. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28 at 7 pm in the staff room. We are also looking for prizes for our raffle that we are holding during the Winter Concert. This raffle will help raise money for a projector for the gym and musical equipment for all students to use. If you have a business or know of one who would like to donate, we truly appreciate the donations! If you are able to help with donations or help with selling the raffle tickets at our concerts Dec 19/20 12:30 – 1:30pm / 5 - 6 pm, please email: taylorparkschoolpac@gmail.com

Our PAC will again be hosting our pancake breakfast with Santa on Wednesday, December 6. We are looking for help with:

- Set up (Tuesday, Dec. 5: 3:00 – 4:00 pm)
- Serving (Wednesday, Dec. 6: 9:00 – 11:00 am)
- Clean up (Wednesday, Dec. 6: 10:30 – 11:30 am)

If you are interested in helping with our Pancake Breakfast please email taylorparkschoolpac@gmail.com

Please note that we posting all our newsletters on our school's website and email it to: subscribers on our website and, starting with this issue, to the parent emails provided at registration and through our yearly data verification.