



Ridgeway Annex School

450 East 5th St., North Vancouver, British Columbia, V7L 1M2

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Ridgeway Annex Mission Statement

Committed to a focus on learning, Ridgeway Annex, in partnership with the community, will enable students to develop their maximum intellectual potential, sense of self-worth, personal and social responsibility and love of learning within an open, safe and caring environment. The student motto states: I am a responsible Ridgeway Annex student. I care about:

myself and others my learning the world around me

Ridgeway Annex Code of Conduct

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Cooperative, Believe in Yourself and Others

Please visit our school website: www.ridgewayannex.ca

May 2011 Newsletter

Dear Parents and students:

At this time of year, one may think we are beginning to wind down, but in fact, at Ridgeway Annex, we seem to be winding up for a fantastic year end!

April was a particularly busy month with a focus on our environment. We had guest workshops by High Touch High Tech on bugs, matter and dinosaurs! Our salmon have grown healthy and strong, with the feeding by students and staff. They were released on the afternoon of Thursday, April 28th in the Lynn Creek. Go Salmon! Thanks to all the parents who came out to help us with the walking field trip! A huge thanks goes to Mrs. Ewens for all her work with the salmonids project. A number of students were sad to see the salmon go!

In addition to that walking field trip, two of the three classes made it to the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre to explore the Circle of Life up close in the stream and forest. Division two will have their turn early in May.



We were also represented, with a focus on the Ridgeway Annex Gardens, at the District Green Fair on April 19th. The display board is hanging in Mrs. Borden's office. Go visit her and see the beautiful art and garden work that was highlighted. A big thanks goes to Gr. 1 student Koleta and her dad, and Gr. 2 student Ethan and his mom for helping out at the Annex booth.

Outdoor play and exploration continues into May. Please take time as a family to attend the North Vancouver Outdoor School Open House on Sunday May 1st. Our Gr. 2 students will be able to give you their own personal tour! Thanks to the parents for assisting, we will be taking numerous field trips locally- to the Aquarium, the Arts Umbrella program at Granville Island and in June for some restoration work in nearby parks, with the help of District Parks' personnel. Parents are encouraged to attend these field trips, however with the number of K and Gr. 1 students attending, it is easier to leave younger children in the care of another caregiver for these outings.

Part of the feeling of gearing up for the year end may be attributed to the preparations for the Ridgeway Annex Closing Ceremony. We are in full swing with invitations out to former staff to attend, and hearing from individuals who wish to attend. All current Annex students will be performing at the May 26th event around 4:45 pm, for those able to attend. Please RSVP to the school, through your classroom teacher or by emailing ridgewayannex@nvsd44.bc.ca

Early in May we will be practicing our Earthquake Drill, but we will not be sending students home early for an early release. It will only be the in-school practice, and fire drill. This may be a good time, however, to review plans for yourselves in your own homes.

News from the Principal

May 15th is the date by which we will officially know whether or not we can move into Ridgeway for a September start. However, the new school is still on schedule and we are anticipating that this will be a reality come the end of August!!! We are very excited at the thought of becoming one big school and both the staff at the Cloverley site and at the Annex have met as one staff over the past two months. Both the Ridgeway and Ridgeway annex PAC have also come together to look forward to next year.

To view photos of the restoration project from April 2011 please click on the link below:

<http://nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Ridgeway/News/Ridgeway%20Restoration%20Project.aspx>

or go to our website at <http://nvsd44.bc.ca/schoolsites/ridgeway.aspx>

and click on more below the title Ridgeway Restoration Project on the right hand side of the page.

If you have any questions or feel that you are missing information regarding our transition back to Ridgeway, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by email at aburlone@nvsd44.bc.ca

Aline Burlone

Brush to Win Contest

Our Tooth-brushing contest, with the British Columbia Dental Association is now complete. Students who participated may send in their calendar to Mrs. Ehling. She needs them by back by Wed. May 4th please. She will then send the calendars on and see if we are awarded student or school prizes!

Make-A-Wish Foundation Fund-Raising

Our Fundraising for Make-A-Wish Foundation has now been completed. We celebrated our involvement on Friday, April 29th with an assembly. Overall we raised close to \$900.00 that will go to redeem a wish for a child with a terminal illness! Ridgeway Annex students, you should be proud of the collecting and donating you have done! Thank-you parents for supporting us in this cause.

Fun Day

Our traditional Fun Day is approaching in May on Friday the 20th. Begin planning now to come and attend the morning event. This year the theme is "**UP, UP and AWAY!**" We have Guest Musician Will Stroet who will be performing at the beginning of the day. All students will be dismissed by **12:40** pm on that day. There is a PAC Pizza lunch for all students who send in orders. Order forms will go out Monday, May 2nd. Parents, we need your assistance that day with a bike parade that will take place at the end of the morning. Help your child decorate his/her bike at home (we will provide some materials), bring it to school and assist with locking it along the fence. The parade will occur just before the 12:40 dismissal, so you can assist with unlocking the bicycle as well. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

Butterflies at the Annex!

Just when you thought the hallway might look a little empty with the fish gone, no worries! We have a new crop of animals that we are adopting- butterflies! The chrysalises will be arriving Monday, May 9th and again it will be exciting to watch their development!

Jump Rope For Heart

On Friday, May 27th Ridgeway and Ridgeway Annex are once again participating in Jump Rope for Heart. There are many benefits from such an event. First and foremost, it is a fun and unique program that gets children physically active. It also teaches our children about heart healthy choices and raises funds to support the **Heart and Stroke Foundation**. We encourage all students to bring a toonie for this event!

YEAR END REVIEW AND PLANING

This is the time when schools are making organizational plans for the coming school year. *It would assist us greatly if you would notify the school if you child will not be returning to Ridgeway in September.* **Withdrawal forms must be completed for students who will be attending an elementary or secondary school outside the North Vancouver School District or a private school.** Withdrawal forms may be picked up in the school office.

If you know of someone new to the Ridgeway community, please inform them of the need to register at the Lucas Centre, 2132 Hamilton Avenue, North Vancouver at their earliest convenience.

Between now and the end of June the staff will be meeting to organize classes for school opening in September. As in previous years, all organizational plans for the fall are tentative and subject to change depending on the enrollment registration throughout the summer. When planning for classes and student placement, the staff works as a team to ensure that thoughtful consideration of each child's social, emotional and academic needs are aligned with the need to create balanced and effective learning environments.

Much thought and effort goes into the placement of each child and we look carefully at their individual needs as well as the needs of the group at each level. Specific criteria are used to help with this task. The following criteria are not intended to be in any priority order or exclusive of any other. They act as a guide for consideration and discussion:

- Age distribution
- Ability distribution
- Teaching/learning styles
- Friendships
- Boy/girl ratio
- Previous experiences of teachers and students
- Parental input
- Student strengths and needs
- Work/organizational skills
- Special needs student distribution
- Group dynamics
- Positive leaders
- Teacher recommendations
- Resource team input

If you have specific information and/or concerns based on clear educational needs, please put these in writing and forward to Mrs. Burlone by June 3, 2011. The written information that you provide will be given to the team of professionals for consideration as one of the criteria listed above in the placement of your child. Please note that letters including names of staff members will not be forwarded to the team for placement consideration.

It is our goal to meet the needs of all students at Ridgeway to maximize their learning potential. We appreciate your on-going support in this complex process of organizing educationally sound and balanced classes.

Ridgeway School Plan – The School Plan for 2011/2012 has been completed and submitted to the School District. For next year, our two school goals are:

1. To increase student achievement through the use of digital technology.
2. To increase the number of students who feel that the school is a safe and caring community.

The Plan will be posted to our website in the fall. Our thanks to Aimee LeSage and Deanna Tonini for their valuable input.

2011/2012 Student Fees - The North Vancouver School District is dedicated to providing a wide range of educational opportunities for each student, including as many enriching activities as possible. In accordance with the School Act and with the School Board Fees Ministerial Order, we would like to advise all Ridgeway families of the possible school fees that could be charged for the 2011/2012 school year. A fee may be charged to recover some or all of the costs related to enriched or additional learning opportunities. In all cases, fees are kept to a minimum.

The Board may charge a fee at cost for: transportation, entrance fees and equipment rental associated with field trips or special events.

The fees for 2011/2012 school year at Ridgeway are as follows:

Agendas for Grades 1 to 7 – as a service, we offer a school specific student planner for **\$7.00**. The option remains, however, for students to provide their own generic planner.

Special Projects for K to 7 - If students have special projects requiring specific materials a maximum of \$20.00 may apply.

Field Trips – cost recovery

In order for families to plan ahead, please note the cost of these activities:

- Intermediate - Grade 6 Outdoor School (5 days) \$250.00
- Intermediate - Grade 4 Bighouse (2 days) \$95.00
- Primary - Grade 3 Outdoor School (3 days) \$140.00 ***

*** Please note that since we are consolidating the two schools grade 3 students will attend the primary Outdoor School in the future. Since the 2011/2012 grade 3 students attended in grade 2, they will not be going again next year. The grade 3 students in the 2012/2013 year will attend.

- Band Program - Grades 5 to 7 \$415.00 before July 16, 2011.
After July 16, 2011 the fee is \$460.00

It is the school's policy to assist families, in a confidential manner, to ensure that no students are excluded from participation in an activity or program due to financial hardship.

School Supplies for 2011-2012 School year

In anticipation of our consolidation in September 2011 student supplies will be handled in a different manner next year. Supply companies such as Teaching Things will not be used next year. We ask for your understanding and support in changing the way we traditionally have dealt with student supplies in order to help us in this transition.

For all students entering primary grades (Grade 1 to Grade 3) at Ridgeway Elementary in September 2011, we are offering a service to facilitate the purchase of student school supplies. The school will purchase all items needed by primary students in bulk and pool the supplies. This will enable the teachers to purchase the exact materials needed for the classroom. We are in the process of developing lists for the primary grades. A letter outlining the materials and cost will be sent home within the next month for your information.

UPCOMING EVENTS and Important dates to keep in mind:



May 1- North Vancouver Outdoor School **Open House**

May 2- Ridgeway Annex gym as a Polling Station for the Federal Election

May 3- 7 pm Subcommittee meeting for Closing Ceremony in library

May 2, 9, 16 – Music classes for K's and 1's (Div. 4 and 3) in the afternoon

May 4 or 5th- Jessie Miller workshop on Social Networking 7 pm at Ridgeway at Cloverley (To be determined)

May 5, 12, 19- Music classes for K/1's and Gr. 2's (Div. 2 and 1) in the afternoon

May 5 – Earthquake and Fire Drill 11 am

May 6- District Professional Day (No School)

May 10- Gr. K/1's to Ecology Centre "Circle of Life"

May 13- Gr. 1s to Arts Umbrella -Granville Island

May 14- Ridgeway Spring Fair

May 16 –Joint PAC Meeting 7 pm Choir room at Ridgeway (at Cloverley)

May 20 – Fun Day – "Up, Up and Away" 9:00 to 12:40 pm

May 23 – Victoria Day Holiday (No School)

May 26- All Classes Trip to the Aquarium 9-3pm and
Ridgeway Annex Closing Ceremony- 4-6:30 pm

May 27– Jump rope for Heart at Ridgeway - a.m.

May 30- Curriculum Implementation Day (No School)

June 2 -Volunteer Tea

June 10- Div. 4, Kindergarten Restoration Field Trip 1:00 to 3:00 pm

June 17 - Kindergarten/Gr. 1 Restoration Field Trip 1:00 to 3:00 pm

June 20- PAC Social 7 pm

June 24 - Camp Read

June 28 - Cates Park Year End Celebration Field Trip

June 29 - Last day for all students (K / Gr. 1/Gr. 2) Students will be dismissed at 10:30 am Reports go home with children

Reminder

May 6th is a District Professional Day, NO SCHOOL for students

May 24th is Victoria Day-Statutory Holiday-NO SCHOOL for students.

May 30th is Curriculum Implementation Day, NO SCHOOL for students.

Please make sure Daycare providers are aware of these dates.

Health

Please see our Health folder www.ridgewayannex.ca to view the monthly information provided by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) www.vch.ca . Another useful site is www.healthlinkbc.ca



PAC News

Family Photo Night

There are still spots left for Ridgeway Annex's Family Photo Night. Mountain West Studios will be providing family photos at the school on Thursday May 12th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This will be a great way to commemorate your family's final year at the Annex, before we all move on to "the big school". We do need a minimum of 10 families to proceed. Please contact Tanis Huckell (thuckell@gmail.com) if you are interested in reserving a time slot or for more information.

Spring Fair- May 14 11-2 pm

Ridgeway Annex has annually participated in all the springtime fun at the Ridgeway Big School's Spring Fair. Our PAC participates in a fundraiser that is 100% profit and has been very popular each year. We run a bake table with lemonade/cold drinks and we always have a steady stream of children and parents waiting to dig into the goodies!

All you need to do is bake! And if you are able to commit to a half hour at the bake table to pour drinks and take loonies that would be great too!

Please sign up on the yellow sign up board outside the school main entrance if you are able to provide some baking for the table...Squares (pre-cut), cookies, cupcakes, etc. (please no Rice Krispie squares). You can just drop them off at the baking table when you arrive at the fair, or if you aren't able to make it on Saturday, please leave them with Mrs. Ehling and we will get them to the fair for you.

Please ensure that your treats are Peanut-Free and if you are making something that is Wheat-Free or Lactose-free, please label it so that we can cater to those that might want a treat, but can't usually find it at a bake table.

Tea Towels

Our tea towel project is underway! Every child in the school will be drawing a self-portrait, all of which will be incorporated onto high-quality 100% cotton washable tea towels. Please find attached an example of this project from 2009. This will be a truly unique way to commemorate Ridgeway Annex's final year. Order forms will be forthcoming shortly.

