



Ridgeway Annex School

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www.ridgewayannex.ca

October 1, 2010 Newsletter



We are pleased to report that September has been an excellent month in just about every way possible. The weather has been fabulous, our parents have been active and supportive, our teachers are engaged in exciting projects, and our students have settled into the routines of their new classes. It is amazing how many smiling faces one sees around the school, either from success in class or happy times at recess and lunch. We look forward to building on this terrific start as the year progresses.

We try to keep parents abreast of weekly events with the use of the white boards outside the two main doors and will continue to do so. Another important means of knowing what is happening in the school is via our school website. Check often at www.ridgewayannex.ca to see what is occurring. You will find important dates on the school calendar, as well as our school newsletter, the PAC newsletter, and PAC executive minutes.

Star Piggy Banks For Make-A-Wish Foundation

Similar to last year, at the Thanksgiving assembly on Friday, Oct. 8th all new students will be receiving their Star Piggy Bank. Money collected up to April, 2010 will be given to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to help grant wishes to children with terminal diseases.

Anaphylaxis – Nut Free School

If your child is anaphylactic and you have not yet completed medical forms, please inform the school immediately. Our priority is to keep your child safe at school!



Due to the number of children with severe allergies to tree nuts and peanuts, we need to ask all parents to help make Ridgeway Annex a Nut Free School. Notices have been sent home outlining other possible snack ideas instead of peanut granola bars, peanut butter sandwiches and foods containing nuts. Thank-you for helping us maintain the safety for all children.

Fall Weather- Get Prepared



We have been blissfully spoiled with all these summer-like, sunny days, but with our fall weather coming, so are the rains. Please be sure your child has appropriate raingear to be able to get outdoors at recess and lunch. If the rain is constant and not showing signs of decreasing, then lunch playtime may be indoors, in the gym and library.

Sign-out / sign-in procedures



Students know now that if they are coming late or leaving early they need to sign in and out at the desk outside the office. Parents, please help us with this expectation, particularly if you are taking children home for lunch, or if your child has arrived after morning or afternoon attendance. It helps us keep track of who is in the school, particularly if there is an emergency.

Terry Fox Run

Ridgeway Annex students made an impressive showing with their numbers, cheers, and sign-waving abilities, as we hiked up around the "Green Necklace" on Thursday, Sept. 30th. Thanks to the coordination of Mrs. Ewens, the event went off



District Wide Professional Day
Friday, October 22, 2010
NO SCHOOL

without a hitch. All Gr. 2s were paired with Kindergarten buddies and set off at a comfortable pace. We collected money through our "Toonies for Terry" fund and will be sending it on to the Terry Fox Foundation, in hopes of finding a cure for cancer. Way to go Ridgeway Annex students, and thanks to all the parents and younger siblings who came out to enjoy the walk as well.

Reminder-For Before and After school Play

Just a reminder that there is no formal supervision on the part of the school before or after the school day, however we still ask that School outdoor rules be observed, such as no bikes, or dogs on the schoolyard, children leaving sticks and stones on the ground and sliding down the slide on their seats. This helps the children remember the rules during the course of the day.

Free Transportation – Walk to School Week!

October 4 – 8, 2010 is International Walk to School Week. Translink is providing free transportation for all students during this week. We have volunteers ready to pass out stickers/stamps to our walkers!

Walking is a) good for you, b) good for the environment, c) an excellent way to touch base with friends and neighbours, and d) it's free!

Emergency Update Forms

We have sent home a number of emergency update forms. Some of the information is necessary to update our school records and some are required for the North Shore Emergency Preparedness Program. You will note that some data is repetitive and will take time to complete. We do apologize for that but ask **that you return these forms as quickly as possible so that in case of emergency, we are prepared!**

Field Trip Drivers & Other Volunteers

Parents, please note that we really appreciate your assistance in driving for field trips. Without your assistance with driving, some field trips would not happen. If you are interested in driving during the year the following procedures have been put into place:

- A Volunteer application form must be completed for anyone volunteering in the school. These are available at the information counter by the school office.

- Volunteers who wish to drive are required to complete Volunteer Driver forms which request your Drivers Abstract from ICBC. These are available at the information counter by the school office. Instructions are located on this form to help expedite receiving your Driver's Abstract. You may request that the Abstract be faxed directly to the school office.

Dogs

As per North Vancouver District Regulations – NO DOGS are permitted on school grounds. Some children are frightened or allergic to your pets; as well as the obvious health concerns that dogs "leave" behind. We have been informed that there is a \$100.00 fine for leaving your tethered dog unattended.



Thank-you to our PAC!

We had a fabulous Goodbye Summer/ Hello Autumn Back to School Icecream Cone event! A big thanks to Deanna Tonini and her crew of scoopers who helped to keep the long line-up to a minimum. The icecream was delicious, and even more fun was to see all the families out, and attending the first PAC meeting of the year!

Ridgeway Annex Calendar Update

- Oct. 4-8th International Walk to School Week
- Oct. 6th Photo packages due back to school
- Oct. 8th Thanksgiving Assembly
- Oct. 11th- Thanksgiving- **No School**
- Oct. 12th- PAC pizza lunch
- Oct. 14th Fire Prevention Program (K's, Gr. 1 +2 will have assembly "Fire Safety Starts with You"
- Oct. 18th- Student Photos
- Oct. 19th- PAC meeting 6:30 pm Library
- Oct. 20th- Fitathon PAC fundraiser
- Oct. 22rd- Professional Day- **No School**
- Oct. 29th- Black and Orange Day

Parent Planning for Outdoor School

Primary Program (Gr. 2) Jan 24-26 \$140.00



ARTISTS FOR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES

FALL SESSION REGISTER NOW! REGISTER EARLY!

The next session of very popular AFK after school art classes will begin **the week of Oct. 18, 2010**. Brochures have been sent home with each family. Artists For Kids is again offering an amazing variety of classes: **Learn to Draw, Art For Small Hands, Primary Pottery, Clay Creations, Digital Photography, Painting Plus, Wonderful Watercolours and Senior Figure Drawing**. Visit our website at www.artists4kids.com to view all the exciting programming details. **TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL THE ARTISTS FOR KIDS OFFICE AT 604-903-3798 or 604-903-3796.**

PAC NEWS

Next PAC meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 12th. Please join us in the library at 6:30 pm. Child-minding is in the gym.

Oct. 20th- Fitathon. We need to strike up a committee so if anyone is interested in volunteering for this fundraiser, please contact Tanis Huckell at thuckell@gmail.com or Agnieszka Jaszczewska at brian.agnieszka@gmail.com or at the family photo night on Oct. 6th. What is the fitathon? A chance for the kids to stay fit as they walk around the field, raising money based on pledges or financial support that parents, friends, acquaintances give. We will need volunteers to help scoop ice-cream cones after the run for the students too. Please lend a helping hand!

PAC Executive

Chair - Matt Bishop
Vice-Chair - vacant
Treasurer - Brian Esmann
Secretary - Carolee McGillivray
Fundraising Co-Coordinator - Tanis Huckell
Fundraising Co-Coordinator - Agnieszka Jaszczewska
Communications Coordinator - Jenelle Coleclough
Lunch Program Coordinator - Deanna Tonini
DPAC Co-Representative - Carolee McGillivray
DPAC Co-Representative - vacant
Member-at-Large - Jen
Member-at-Large - Lily Chan
Member-at-Large - Marlene Warner
Member-at-Large - Bonnie

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER CLASS REPS

Ridgeway Annex PAC and Teachers are looking to have a designated Parent/Caregiver Class Representative for each classroom.

Class Rep Responsibilities:

- Liaison between teacher and parents, as necessary
- Establishes class phone directory
- Keeps their own class email/list accurately and up to date
- Checks email **daily** for PAC correspondence and fans out to parent list in a timely manner
- Discusses parent feedback with the teacher or PAC Chairperson as appropriate
- Has computer skills and internet access – to allow for email communications
- Assists Teacher to contact parents regarding pertinent issues
- Understands PAC structure and Communication Protocol

If you are interested in volunteering for a Class Rep position for your child's class, please email Jenell Coleclough at: jenell@shaw.ca