May 20, 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Welcome to Kindergarten:
We look forward to welcoming our new kindergarten students to the library on Wednesday, May 25 from 1:15 – 2:15 with their parents. If you are aware of any kindergarten age children living in our neighborhood who have not registered for school, please encourage them to contact the office so we can assist them. June 15, 2016 is the last day that families can register for guaranteed placement in their neighborhood school.

Outdoor Education – Grades 6 and 7
We were pleased to be able to announce our plans for a Byng Outdoor Education Experience next year, May 17 – 19, 2017 at Camp Sasamat. A notice from the PAC regarding fundraising for Outdoor Ed went out to families on Friday. If your child has not brought this information home please make sure your child forwards this information to you.

Administrative Announcements
The district has announced administrative placements for next year. We regret that Mr. Ferguson will be leaving our community but we are pleased that he will be the principal at Grauer Elementary School.
Mr. M. Ward is coming to Byng as the new vice-principal. He is currently the vice-principal at Gilmore Elementary School. He is looking forward to working with our students, staff and parents.

Jeans Day Fundraiser for B.C. Children’s Hospital
The Byng community by far exceeded expectations this year with our Jeans Day button fundraiser. Thanks to student volunteers from Div. 1 and Miss Wilson who organized the sales, we were able to raise an amazing $615 to support this wonderful event. Way to go, Byng!

Minoru Zone 2 Track Meet
Students from Lord Byng participated in the Zone 2 Track Meet at Minoru Park on Tuesday, May 10th. We are very proud of all of our student-athletes who demonstrated excellent skill, strength, speed, sportsmanship and patience! We are awaiting the ribbons from the meet and once they arrive at the school parents will be invited to join us for a brief track and field awards assembly.

Sports Day
We will be having Sports Day on Friday, June 3rd. This year’s theme is OLYMPICS. Parents are welcome to join us and cheer on the students. Our PAC will be sending home a notice for families to order lunch and they will also be providing a concession. All proceeds from the day will be sent to the Fort McMurray Relief Fund. Events will start with a Preschool race at approximately 9:25 AM. Students will be outside for the majority of the day and must be protected from the sun with sunscreen, a hat, and a water bottle. Please encourage your child to dress in their team color. Parents are reminded that dismissal is at 1:45 on this day. In case of rain, Sports Day will be postponed until June 10th. Hot dog lunch will still occur for our students but dismissal will be at our regular time.
Celebrate May is Better Speech and Hearing Month
Here are some tips to improve communication:
- Reduce background noises that may be distracting (e.g., turn off the radio or TV, shut the door or move to a quieter place)
- Be an active listener. Communication involves speaking and listening, but also our body language. Pay attention to eye gaze and gestures.
- Stick to one conversation topic at a time. Avoid quick shifts in conversation topics. Engage in topics that are of interest to your child.
- Read interactively. Use books that encourage children’s participation. Share favourite books and model reading yourself (e.g., let your child see you reading newspapers, books and other materials).
- Speak slowly and clearly. Allow extra time for responding.
- Talk often with your child, using rich and varied vocabulary. Ask your child questions, but also comment on what he/she said.

Grade 7 Year End Celebrations
The grade seven parents have organized an active end of year celebration for our grade seven students that includes a trip to Playland and an informal dance back at the school. All this is happening on Tuesday, June 28th. Thanks to the energy of a group of parents this event is being greatly anticipated by the students.
Our Grade 7 Farewell Assembly will be Wednesday June 29th at 9:00 am in the gym. Parents are invited to attend this assembly to say goodbye to our students.

Summer Courses
Richmond summer camps and summer school registrations are ongoing. Please see brochures in the Byng front foyer, visit www.RichmondCE.ca or phone 604-668-6123 for information.

Summertime Care:
Summer is a time for kids to play, run, get outside and have fun with friends. For more than 100 years, the YMCA has provided camp adventures that help kids learn about themselves, grow in self-confidence and gain new skills in a safe and caring environment. From overnight camps with activities like archery, climbing, sailing and canoeing, to day camps full of out trips, arts & crafts, sports and games—we have something for everyone. We hope you’ll join us!
The nearest YMCA day camp location to Lord Byng Elementary is the Homma YMCA Kids Club. To learn more or register, visit gv.ymca.ca, gv.ymca.ca/camps.

Gardening Update
Thanks to the PAC for funding an educational, fun and successful gardening program this year for our grade 2/3 classes! We were very lucky to have perfect weather for growing our crops. Students from divisions 7, 8, and 9 enjoyed planting, weeding, watering and harvesting their garden plots this spring. Kids learned soil science, the benefit of worms, and all about plant life cycles. Our school gardens coordinator, Munisha, also provided students with baking opportunities. Parents, stay tuned for your opportunity to support student learning about money as they sell their leafy green produce at their very own “Farm Market”. This year students grew radishes, arugula, spinach, kale, mustard greens and more…
September 2016

Many families are making plans for the summer vacation. If you find that you will not be attending school on the first day back, it is essential that you notify the office to ensure we can account for our registration numbers. If you are not able to be present at all during the first week it is essential that we are advised in writing to ensure that we are able ensure your child’s registration at Byng School.

Earthquake Preparedness Workshop:

Please join us for an Emergency Preparedness Workshop in the Byng Library on Wednesday, May 25th at 6:30pm. Guest speaker, Norman Kotze, is knowledgeable in the field as Richmond’s Coordinator of Emergency Social Services & Public Education

SCHOOL SAFETY

-if your child is using any “wheels” to travel to school please make sure they have their helmet
-please obey the City’s no stopping/parking signs at the front of the school

School Fees for 2016-17

As per School District Policy we are required to inform parent(s) / guardian(s) of all known potential costs associated with school fees, both required and optional, for the upcoming school year 2016/2017.

Basic school supplies grades K-7: $30.00 per student, due in September.  Grade1-7 Agenda fee: $6.00 per student, due in September.  In the fall, classroom teachers will inform you of any plans for Field trips, or in class experts that they have planned, and the costs associated with these activities. We are fortunate to have PAC support for many of these opportunities to offset the cost of an expensive Field trip. Thank you, PAC

If, in the fall, a potential cost places a burden on your family, please advise Mr. Dixon or your child's teacher in September. No student will miss, for Financial reasons, an opportunity to take part in a school activity. School fees will be collected in September. Do not send any monies at this time.

Again, please do not send any money at this time.

Class Placements For September

The process for creating the best possible learning environments for all of the students at Byng is complex, collaborative and thoughtful. When school staff
consider the placement of each student it is necessary to take many perspectives into consideration.

Due to many factors, classes can not be organized until September. At this time we encourage parents to share any information that they believe their child’s teacher does not yet know, that may be important to consider when the classes are organized. This may occur as part of the ongoing dialogue that you have with your child’s teacher or, if you wish, you may provide information in a letter addressed to your child’s teacher. Respectfully, specific teacher placements can not be considered. Thank you for your continued support of the strong positive communication that is part of the foundation of student learning.

Dates to remember:

- Mon., May 23 - Victoria Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- Wed., May 25 - Welcome To Kindergarten Workshop - 1:15-2:15pm
  - Earthquake Preparedness Workshop - Byng Library 6:30pm
- Thurs., May 26 - Ohare’s Pub Night Social - 6:30pm - Late
- Fri., May 27 - PAC Hot Lunch Day - Izumiya
- Fri., June 3 - Sports Day
- Wed., June 8 - PAC Meeting at 6:30pm
- Fri., June 10 - Byng Bear Day!
- Wed., June 15 - Walk Day Wednesday
- Fri., June 17 - PAC - A & W Lunch
- Wed., June 29 - Grade 7 Ceremony at 9am
- Wed. June 29 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL- EARLY DISMISSAL AT: 11:25am