



Archibald Blair Elementary School School District No. 38 (Richmond)

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*Celebrating learning, treasuring each child, valuing diversity,
teaching caring, and honouring the wonder of our universe.*

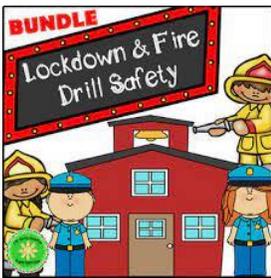
May 16, 2022

Message from Administration

The year continues to fly by! May and June are busy months, with field trips and outside activities. It will be especially important for families to check backpacks regularly for notices over the next two months. A reminder that students and teachers spend some time each day outside and it is important that they have the proper clothing for the temperature. It has been unseasonably cool, however when the weather warms up, please ensure that your children has sunscreen on and, if possible, a hat for extra protection on sunny days. We want everyone to enjoy their time outside and take care to protect their skin!

Another health related reminder is to monitor sleep patterns for your children. Our daylight hours are getting longer as summer approaches. Although it's hard to go to bed when the sun is still out, it is more important to get enough sleep. Experts tell us that children, aged 5 – 12, need at least 9 ½ hours of sleep a night with many needing 10 – 11 hours. If your child is not waking independently, is grumpy in the morning, forgetful or upset, they may need more sleep!

EMERGENCY DRILLS AT BLAIR



Each year our school runs through a variety of drills with the students. These include 6 fire drills, 2 earthquake drills, and 2 lockdown drills. In the first week of May we had a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill students and staff lock their classroom doors, draw the window blinds and move to an area of the classroom that is not in the line of site from the door or windows. They must stay quiet and they cannot use their technology. This drill is intended to simulate a situation where an intruder has entered the school and is threatening to harm others. These drills are very important to practice so that, if there were to be an emergency such as the one described above, all the students and staff in the school will know what to do. Students may come

home and talk about the emergency drill that took place that day. Discussing the importance of these drills at home may help your child better understand why we practice them.

CLASS PICTURES

We will have our Class Pictures and Team & Club Pictures on Thursday, May 26th. If it is a nice day, photos will be taken outside. All students will get a free class photo. Any family wishing to purchase a copy of Team & Club Pictures will receive an order form.



GRADE 7s TO VISIT BURNETT



Our Grade 7 students who are heading over to Burnett Secondary next year will be visiting the school on Friday, May 27th for an orientation event. It's a great chance for the students to get to know Burnett and learn a few names of teachers and leadership students who are already attending the school. This visit is an in person this year and the students are so excited.

SPORTS DAY- NO EARLY DISMISSAL

Sports Day this year will be held during regular school day this year and will have a slightly different format than in previous years. Therefore, there will be **NO EARLY DISMISSAL** on June 10th. The students will be dismissed at 2:45pm as usual, on that day. PAC will provide a small Sports Day treat! Thank you!

GARDEN BEDS AT BLAIR SCHOOL



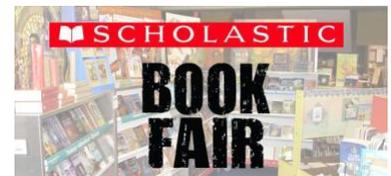
The Blair Garden is in full swing. Many divisions in the school have pitched in to help prep the gardens for planting season. They then planted, and are watering and weeding on an ongoing basis. We were very lucky this year to not only get a seed donation from Westcoast Seeds but to also be included in Urban Roots Giving Gardens. Urban Roots donated over 100 starter plants per school to more than 200 schools and community gardens across the Metro Vancouver area. This year Urban Roots focused on vegetable and herb plants to promote food literacy and increase sustainability within schools and communities. This year our gardens are full of beans, peas, strawberries, chives, oregano, parsley, basil, cauliflower, cucumber, broccoli, tomatoes, romaine lettuce, kale, spinach and buttercrunch lettuce. We also have our Butterflyway garden which was started last year with the help of the David Suzuki foundation to attract butterflies to our area. Our pollinator garden is also in place to attract pollinators to our garden. As always, we are looking for help watering and weeding in the summer. If you are looking for a fun activity to do with your kids that also helps Our Place, please contact Mrs. Ridley to be added to the garden watering schedule for the summer. aridley@sd38.bc.ca

PLAYGROUND BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER:

We had great participation in our first Fundraising event for our new playground. The whole school participated, between odd and even divisions and a friendly competition was a motivator to see which divisions would bring in the most bottles and cans. Mr. Chan and our Student Leadership students collected and sorted the bottles for PAC each day. Susan Deng (our Fundraising Chair) would collect all the bottles at the end of each week and take them to the Return It Depot. The three Divisions with the highest number of items collected were Div. 4, Div. 5 and Div. 10. We would like to thank Nature Valley that donated over \$400.00 worth of Gift Baskets for this fundraiser. Thank you to all the families and classroom teachers for their participation in this fundraiser. We have made \$450.00 during the month of April. The Blair account at the Return It Depot is still open; therefore, families can still return their bottles and cans through the month of May, and they will still count towards our fundraiser. Thank you to Susan Deng for all her organization and hard work in support of our first Playground Fundraiser. Stay tuned for more fundraising events in the future!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you all SO much for your support and participation in our Scholastic Book Fair! We felt your excitement and thoroughly enjoyed meeting new faces and reconnecting with families we haven't seen in a while. Blair families bought over \$5400 in books, which in return, raised close to \$3500 for our school library!! These funds not only allow us to purchase the latest books for students and teachers to read and borrow, but also other exciting



materials for our Library Learning Commons, such as new furniture, STEM engineering and coding technology and loose parts story-telling materials that are shared within our school. A very BIG thank you to our fabulous PAC team who Mrs. Wood would not have been able to do this without! It is because of your dedication to events such as these that we can continue to keep Blair students excited and passionate about reading. Thank you to the following volunteers who gave freely of their time to make the Book Fair such a success! Connie Huang, Sarah Zhang, Susan Deng, Emily Sun, Joyce Niu, Sandy Mo, Diana Han, Carol Zhang, Liuchun Yang, Vicky Yin, Eva Li, Cecilia Zhao, Rebecca Wang and Jennifer Shu.

PAC MEETING ON JUNE 17th

The next PAC meeting on June 17th is the PAC's Annual General Meeting. An email was sent out last week asking for volunteers for the the PAC executive. Next year's PAC executive will be determined at this PAC Meeting. We hope you will consider helping the PAC in the work that they do. It certainly helps our school a great deal!!

Positions that are available include:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary (meeting Minutes and Agenda)
- Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee
- Vice Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee



If you would like be a part of our PAC Executive, please nominate yourself, or if you know someone who would like to be more involved then please email Connie Huang : connie_bobo@hotmail.com.

MONDAY, MAY 23rd – VICTORIA DAY

Victoria Day is a provincial holiday. School will be closed that day. We hope everyone has a lovely time on their extra long weekend!

'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.

