**December 16, 2022**

**Message From The Administration**

As we enter the time of year of giving, remember, “No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted” (Aesop) “Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.” (Buddha) Make what change you are able to make now, and let the ‘giving spirit’ spread, infinitely touching the lives of people you may never meet, across boundaries you may never cross, in ways you may never imagine. That is the power of giving and your way to changing the world.

**Early Warning**

****Blair Elementary has an Early Warning Program. The Early Warning system is designed to ensure your child’s safe arrival at school. If your child will be late or absent, please leave a message at 604-668-6318 **before 8:30am**, stating your child’s name, division, teacher’s name, and reason and length of absence. When teachers’ complete attendance in classes, they indicate students who are absent without a reason. These are the students we check on by listening to the answering machine messages and then phoning home to be sure they are accounted for by parents and caregivers.

**Winter Concerts**

It was so nice to see so many parents at our Intermediate and Primary Winter Concerts this month. Being together as a community was very special at this time of year. Thank you to our wonderful Music teachers, Ms. Quan and Mrs. Kordyback who organized, practiced and bring their love of music to their students each and every day! Thank you to the PAC for providing coffee, tea and treats for parents at these two events. It was much appreciated. It was also wonderful to welcome Mrs. Debbie Toblotney our School Board Trustee to our concerts. She was so impressed with all the wonderful musical talents shared by the Blair students.

**Safety at Blair**

We try to ensure that students are as safe as possible while they are at school. In order to do this, we must put some rules in place that we want all visitors, staff and students to follow. Please read this section carefully.

**Morning Safety:**

All students are encouraged to walk to and from school. The younger students are encouraged to walk to and from school with a responsible older sibling or adult. We ask students to do this so that we can cut down on traffic dangers.

If you must drive, we ask that all drivers use the drop off lanes to drop students off in the morning. Do not park your car in the drop off zone. Please park your car in the smaller parking lot or on the street and walk your child inside.

**After School Safety:**

All students are dismissed from their outside doors. For those students who do not have outside doors, we ask parents to wait patiently outside the school until their children come to them. Please pick up your child and leave the school grounds as quickly as possible.

**Do not park your car in the drop off zone. Please park your car in the smaller parking lot or on the street when picking up your child.**

**If your child is staying to play on the playground, then it is your responsibility to supervise your child. There are no staff on supervision after school**.

**Lost and Found**

We will have the Lost and Found clothing and belongings set out on tables near the office for students and parents to check out during the next few days. Any clothing not claimed will be given to charity on the last day of school. Please check for your belongings before the week is out!

**Student Leadership**

We have over 40 grade 6/7 students in Student Leadership this year. The sponsor teachers for this group of students are Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Berko-Gabay. Their first leadership initiative was collecting non-perishable food items for the Richmond Food Bank during our Book Fair event. We would like to acknowledge and thank our community for their generosity as we collected over 750 items.

The student leaders have also organized some fun Spirit days during the last week and are organizing some arts and craft stations on Friday for some of the primary classes. We look forward to other leadership initiatives from this enthusiastic group of students.

**Kindergarten Registration**

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2018, turning 5 in 2023. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2023. Online registration opened on November 1, 2022. Please visit our website <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates and FAQs.

Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications completed any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions via emails from the school by February 3, 2023.

There are parent videos available on this site as well. These include information on English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options – Early French Immersion and Montessori. These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>.

Thank you and please share this information with your friends and family who have Kindergarten aged children!

**Scholastic Book Fair**

Thank you all SO much for your support and participation in our Scholastic Book Fair. Blair families bought $4,543.08 in books, which in return, raised close to $2500 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 I 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 Susan Deng for all her organization and hard work for our first Playground Fundraiser. Stay tuned for more fundraising events in the future!

**PAC News**

The PAC has been very busy this term with organizing Food Days, the Fruit and Veggie program and fundraising for our new playground. Susan Deng our fundraising chair would like to thank all the families for supporting the Purdy’s Chocolate Fundrasier this past term. We were able to raise $700.00 towards our final goal of $150,000.

If you would like to make a charitable donation to Blair School for the Playground, please go to https://sd38.bc.ca/our-district/donations. The school district will be able to issue you a charitable tax receipt for your generosity.

**Playground Bottle Drive Fundraiser**

Just a reminder that the Blair account at the Return It Depot is still open; therefore, families can still return their bottles and cans and they will still count towards our fundraiser. Thank you to Susan Deng for all her organization and hard work for our Playground Fundraiser. Stay tuned for more fundraising events in the future!

To minimize the physical distancing, an account has been set up at any Return – It Express Depot in Richmond to allow our children and families to drop off their recycling.

Our next PAC meeting is on Wednesday, Janurary 25th at 8:00pm on TEAMS. A link will be sent out closer to the date. We hope you can make it.

Happy Holidays from the Staff at Blair! Wishing you a Happy, Healthy New Year!

