



**December** is upon us and the excitement is certainly in the air. Students can feel the Holidays are near and staff are certainly feeling the energy and business of this time of year. Winter concert preparation, Report Card/ Student Inclusive Conferences, and special fun events like candy canes, tennis, door decorating and buddy activities are all happening daily. To help students and staff get through this period please help us by ensuring students come to school well prepared:

- a good breakfast – come to the breakfast program (8:20 start)
- get a good night's sleep
- limit/reduce or remove screen time

As we end the first term of the year we are well into our expected reporting period. As you know we do things a little differently. Communicating Student Learning has changed over the past several years in our schools. Here at RC Garnett, for those who have been here for a while, know that our school is a leader within our district in this area. For the past 3 years we have piloted and championed our Student Inclusive Conferences. This 'Window' opened after Design and Assessment Day and will conclude Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, with November 30<sup>th</sup> (last Wednesday) being a day set aside for conferences. We may extend times as needed, due to the Snow day last week.

Hopefully you have already, met with your child's teacher and your child to discuss their growth and achievements, but also set goals for their learning for the next term. For those new to the process, these conferences are not about what your child cannot do, or did not do, but rather a 'strength based' view. Ideally you will leave the conferences knowing a few things:

- Exactly where your child is at in their learning
- What they have accomplished
- What they need to work on
- Having set goal, collaboratively, for the next term

We have learned over the past 3 years that the conversations you, your child and the teacher have are rich and rewarding. As a parent we encourage you to be fully involved, in a positive and encouraging way in support of your child's learning.

### Upcoming Dates

#### December

7<sup>th</sup> – Grade 5 Business Fair - Gym

8<sup>th</sup> - Student Inclusive Conference  
window closed

13<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concerts -1pm/6:30pm

14<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concerts -1pm/6:30pm

16<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Day – Santa hats & PJs

16<sup>th</sup> – PAC Santa breakfast

#### January

3<sup>rd</sup> - School restart for Winter break

### Parking Lot Challenges,

Let's be honest, RCG Garnett's parking lot is far too small to accommodate the daily needs of the school. Between a staff of almost 70 members and then trying to work for parents and volunteers daily, it simply does not work. Unfortunately, the reality is that it is the best we have and will not get any bigger or better, hence, we require parent help to make mornings work.

We must leave the parking lot open for staff, regular and temporary.

[Please do not park in our parking lot prior to the start of school – 8:50am.](#) We must be able to have staff and any substitute teachers (TTOCs), or replacement support staff, who come and fill illness vacancies, find spots. We have had times when we have no teacher for a class because they cannot find a place to park. I cannot apologize for having this as a priority.

I understand convenience is an issue, I don't want to manage our parking lot any more than we have to, so please help us out with this. Your cooperation is most appreciated.  
Mr. Bako

# Tennis

The RC Garnett Parent Advisory Committee has graciously sponsored Tennis XL at RCG over the last couple of weeks. They provided Tennis instruction during PE periods for all students. This was an exciting time for students to learn and experience a great, but challenging, game. These experiences would not occur without the great support of our PAC. Many thanks to the parents who give their time, energy and thoughts to make the school experience at RCG more enjoyable for students. If you would like to know more, get more involved, or just be part of the conversation, please join us at regular **PAC meetings held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in our Library.** The next meeting is in January. We hope to see you there.



## Grade 5 Business fair – next week

On Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9-10 in our gym, the grade 5's will be testing out their ideas about which Business ideas will be successful. Each student is given a \$10 loan from the school, and is asked to partner up with another student to make something that other students will want to buy. The top three businesses in each class will receive a cash prize. Check out the prototypes in the display case in the foyer to see what will be available. Students will repay their loan to the school out of the proceeds of their sales, and all extra money will be donated to charity.

## Candy Cane Thank you!

The students and teachers of Division 1 and 13 would like to sincerely thank our RCG community for supporting our Candy cane Sale for Canuck's Place. In the past, we have raised over \$500 to provide clean drinking water in an underdeveloped country, as well as close to \$600 for B.C. Children's Hospital. This year, we were excited to continue this tradition of children helping children with another candy cane sale, and we chose to raise money for *Canuck's Place*.



Together as Grade 2 and 5 Buddy classes, our families generously donated over 1000 candy canes for us to sell at this event. Our students worked together by making announcements, creating posters to place around the school and having different responsibilities to make the event a success. We are so appreciative of our school community that visited our Candy Cane sale and were excited to buy a tasty treat in support of this great cause. We are thrilled to share that we raised \$667 to support the children and families that are cared for at Canuck's Place. As educators, we hope that our students will leave our classrooms as more caring and inspired individuals who feel empowered to make a positive difference no matter how old they are. As we reflect on this event, it is evident that they have learned valuable lessons about generosity, compassion and working well with others. Thank you for all your support!

Mrs. Boysen and Mrs. Henrey



## **Monitoring your children's exposure to negative influences**

Influences from outside of school can have a dramatic effect on what happens at school. It is a reality that today's children are exposed to a myriad of influences that affect their daily lives and not all positively. We see many 'trending' behaviours at school that children pick up from exposure to various media (TV, YouTube, Social Media platforms etc.). They also learn quickly, second hand, from their peers exposed to the previous list as well as older siblings.

Lately, we have seen an increase in negative comments, ideas and actions directly linked to Netflix Dramas meant for adults or adult focused cartoons (Family Guy, South Park and the like) . Student's perceptions of appropriate ways to express their feelings verbally or physically need more adult supervision and parenting than ever before.

Please understand that despite your child finding humour in these shows they do not, developmentally, fully understand, nor can process, how to appropriately manage the content. Often these influences play out on the playground through inappropriate games, comments and actions. At the school we cannot be the main filter to support positive, age appropriate media influences. Please limit your child's use of technology & monitor it vigorously. Handing a powerful tool, such as an iPad, or Smartphone to a child and expecting them to make good choices is unfair. Parents, unintentionally, have set them up for failure and potential harm that is lasting. Unless you are able to sit beside them and interact directly with them, as they use technology, the implications can be problematic.

These are very interesting and challenging times to be a parent. What is easy and convenient is rarely the right decision these days. Parenting is hard work and technology has more pitfalls than one would expect. Addiction to technology is just the beginning. Limiting exposure is key to healthy children. There is a host of good research to back this up. We all want our children to grow up healthy and happy. Please consider your part in this process and make decisions that are in the best interest of the child first and foremost.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Bako

## **Langley Children's Choir is looking for singers!**

Openings are now available for singers in grades 3 to 8

What are we looking for?

- ✓ School choir members (if your school has one)
- ✓ Good attitude and enthusiasm!
- ✓ Advanced vocal skills, and the ability to focus
- ✓ A firm commitment to the group
- ✓ Desire to develop as a singer and choir member

What do you get out of this?

- ✓ Make new friends who like to sing, too
- ✓ Learn about how to sing better and learn lots of music
- ✓ Perform at other schools (a day off!)
- ✓ Have fun on a choir tour or camp in the spring
- ✓ Sing at festivals and hear other great choirs



Rehearsals? Langley Secondary School, 21405 – 56 Ave on Tuesdays,  
January to May from 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Fees? \$150 for the term

Directors? Kim Hardy and Patti Thorpe (both Langley music teachers) plus accompanist Heather Hicks

How Do I Join? Email us for an audition time before Dec 15, 2022. We will be auditioning after school on Jan 3, 2023 (the first day back at school)

*Please include singer's name, phone number, school and grade.*

Patti Thorpe email [pthorpe@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:pthorpe@sd35.bc.ca)



**Responsible**

**Respectful**



**Kind**

**Safe**