



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

Newsletter

September 2017

7590 Mission Avenue, Burnaby BC V3N 5C7
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Principal: Hal Wall
Vice-Principal: Vicki Moro
Head Teacher: Derek Cockram
Secretary: Mariana Cho

Website: <http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca> **Dates to Remember ...**

Friday, September 22.....	Terry Fox Run, 2:00 pm – Parents welcome
Tuesday, September 26.....	PAC Meeting – 7:00pm - Library
Wednesday & Thursday, September 27-28.....	1:45 dismissals for Parents as Partners Conferences
Friday, September 29.....	Professional Development Day – School closed
Tuesday, October 3.....	Individual Student Photos
Monday, October 9.....	Thanksgiving Holiday - School closed
Friday, October 13 – Thursday October 19	School Wide Event – Maker Lab
Friday, October 20.....	Professional Development Day – School closed
Monday, October 23.....	Curriculum Implementation Day – School Closed

(See our website at taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca for the full year's schedule)

Welcome Back!

On behalf of our staff, I would like to welcome all new and returning students to Taylor Park for the 2017/2018 school year. We are looking forward to a great year together. Taylor Park is a great school because of having great students, families and staff. This coming year is going to be particularly exciting as students will be putting more time into designing and making things with their hands and using technology. We will provide more information about this at our first PAC meeting and in our upcoming online newsletter. If you haven't already, sign up on our school's website to receive updates as we expect this to be our last all school newsletter for this year..... Hal Wall (Principal)

Opening Week and Placement in Classes for the Coming Year

This week our students will be learning about "Being the Best You can Be" as they get back into school routines. Students will be in their classes from last year until our new organization and classes are set up. We hope to assign students to classes by Tuesday, September 13.

Taylor Park classroom teachers, learning support teachers, education assistants, support staff and the principal and vice-principal put a great deal of thought into organizing classes that will provide nurturing, productive learning environments. A number of criteria are considered such as: academic needs, maturity, attitude, behaviour, friendships, adult support time needed, and leadership qualities. We also try to balance the number of boys and girls and make sure each child can have students they can be friends with in their new class. We are unable to place students solely on the basis of their friendships from the previous year because of the need to balance classes. With these guidelines in mind, children are grouped into classes. We strive for balanced classes at every grade level. There is further information about how we choose students and grade configurations on our web site.

Welcome to New Staff!

Please join us in welcoming new students, families and staff members to our great school. Our new staff members:

- Ciara Chin (filling in for Ms. Brock's mat leave),
- Jessica Downie (Learning Support, ELL and Head Teacher Relief)
- Jennifer Osiris (Early primary teacher),
- Adema Romano is returning from maternity leave and will be sharing an early primary class with Lindsey Perello who is joining our school this year.
- Jeremy McKay is returning to the school after a one year leave and will be sharing a class with Ms. Cheng
- Scott Anderson will be our new counsellor and will be here three and a half days a week
- Marcela Baranova, Tessie Rebello and Mutsumi Matsumoto are joining our staff as Educational Assistants.

Parents as Partners

Students from grades 1 – 7 will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27th and Thursday, September 28th to enable parents and teachers to meet. Please sign up for a meeting online through our school web site – registration will open approximately September 15.

No More Paper Newsletters

Upcoming events and information are posted on our school's website, taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca. We are planning to not print newsletters this year as parents can receive email updates by subscribing on our website. A limited number of paper newsletters will be available at the office for those who can't access them online. You can also sign up to have the important school events sent to your phone or email calendar. Our school website at <http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca/> is a great place to check for up to date school information. You will find our monthly Hot Lunch Menu, calendars, newsletters and upcoming events all in one easy location. Visit often!!

School Meals Program

The School Meals Program will again be offered for the 2017/2018 school year. Please note that the price is **\$70.00** per month. Menus and envelopes have been handed out on the first day of school along with information about our new vendor. All orders will be due back to the school by Monday, September 11 if you are wishing your son/daughter to participate. As usual, no late orders can be accepted as we order a specific number of meals based on envelopes received. We recommend paying online so you can have a receipt and be assured of your purchase.

Online Payment of School Fees

We are pleased to offer parents the option of paying all school fees online. You can make payment for planners, supplies, Hot Lunch, field trips etc. directly to your child's account. Imagine how great it would be not to have to search for the exact change to pay for your child's activities!! Please go to our school website at <http://taylorpark.sd41.bc.ca/> for directions on how to sign up for the SchoolCash program.

Library Help

Our librarian, Diana Zimmerschied, is looking for parent volunteers to help with shelving as well as putting labels on books. Please see her if you are interested.

Terry Fox Run

Our annual run will take place Friday, September 22 at 2:00 pm. We will have an assembly in the gym for about 15 minutes before the run to warm up and go over the route. All parents are welcome. We will begin collecting donations for the Terry Fox Foundation Cancer Research Fund on Monday, September 18.

Traffic Concerns

Many people expect to find parking for drop off and pick up at a school, but that is not possible at Taylor Park. Our school is within walking distance for almost all our students so I recommend that families walk – and even enjoy walking, even in the rain☺. When students walk to school, the exercise and fresh air gets their brain ready and they are calmer and ready to learn when they enter the school. When there are parents parking illegally in the turn-around area, emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances cannot get to our school. There is only a very limited drop off/pick up area that stretches along the school side of Mission Ave. Remember that the driver of the car must remain behind the steering wheel while stopped in a loading area. Our school welcomes the enforcement of traffic and parking rules for the safety of our students by the RCMP. Violators of traffic and parking rules will be ticketed.



Professional Development Days for 2017-2018

The following Professional Development Days have been set for the 2017-2018 school year: September 29, 2017(Taylor Park Pro-D Day), October 20, 2017(Provincial Pro-D Day), October 23, 2017(Curriculum Implementation Day), November 24, 2017(District Pro-D Day), February 16, 2018 (District Pro-D Day), April 23, 2018(Taylor Park Pro-D Day), June 4, 2017 (Taylor Park Pro-D Day).

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

All parents of students attending Taylor Park are automatically members of the Taylor Park PAC (Parent Advisory Committee). We hold meetings each month to discuss issues of concern for our students' learning and how to support programs at the school through fundraising. The Principal, Vice-Principal and Head Teacher bring issues for us to discuss and we have an opportunity to bring up school wide concerns with them as well. Our meetings are informal and have lots of laughter combined with the satisfaction of contributing to the learning of our students. Monthly meetings alternate between Tuesday evenings at 7pm and Friday mornings at 9:15am. All meetings are held at Taylor Park in the library for evening meetings and in the staff room for morning meetings.

School Routines and Expectations

School Hours

8:50 a.m. – bell to line up **at classroom doors**

8:55 a.m. – instruction begins

3:02 p.m. – students are dismissed

Student Absence

For your child's safety and security, parents are asked to call the school and leave a message to let us know if a student will be absent or late (604-296-9034).



Late to School

It is important that your child arrives to school on time. Students miss important instruction at the beginning of the day and interrupt the learning of others if they arrive late. The teacher will mark your child late after 8:55. If your child does arrive later than 9:20 am, he/she needs to report to the office to 'sign in' and receive a late slip for class. This informs the secretary that your child is safe at school.

Leaving School Early

A student leaving school early, either with a parent or with parent permission needs to report to the office to 'sign out'. If a student is ill, the secretary will phone home to ask you to pick up your child or to get permission to send your child home alone.

Parents Visiting the School

If you need to see your child for any reason or wish to leave a message for your child or the teacher during school hours, please report to the office. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom. If you are helping or volunteering in a classroom, you need to sign in at the office and receive a visitor's badge.

Morning Entrance

We are unable to provide supervision before school so students should not arrive at school before 8:45. They should line up outside their classroom door when the bell rings at 8:50. This builds community by providing a time and space for a connection between families and the teacher. It also gives students a sense of ownership for their place. When students arrive early they can talk with their friends before school so their level of comfort is higher and their brains are ready to learn. It also allows the teachers to meet and greet children and their caregivers at one door and helps us monitor who is in the building. When students rush in at the last moment or come late, their brains and emotions are not settled and they will not learn as well as they could if they were a few minutes early.

Cell Phones

We realize that many parents provide their children with cell phones. Our position is that these cell phones should only be used to contact you before and after school hours. With that in mind, we ask for your support in reinforcing the following guidelines:

- Cell phones (or any expensive items such as iPads) are here at your child's own risk in terms of loss or breakage.
- All cell phones are to be turned off during class time unless the teacher has made arrangements with the class/student to use the device for a lesson/project.
- If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the office.