



Taylor Park

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A happy, caring learning community

Newsletter

December 2017

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Principal: Hal Wall
Vice-Principal: Vicki Moro
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Dates to Remember ...

December 19 & 20, 1-2pm & 5:30–6:30 pm (tickets required for evening performances)..... Christmas Concerts
Week of December 18 First Term Report Cards go home
Monday Dec. 25 – Friday Jan. 5 School Closed for Winter Holiday
Friday, January 12, 9:15 am PAC Meeting
Wednesday, January 31 Celebration of Learning Assembly(Parents Welcome)
Monday, February 12 Family Day Holiday – No School
Friday, February 16 District Pro-D Day – No School for Students

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

An Expensive Gift

Every year at Christmas, I love to watch Christmas movies. [Home Alone](#) and [Miracle on 34th Street](#) are high on my list but my favourite is the original, [The Grinch Who Stole Christmas](#). These movies inspire me because of the way the characters struggle with and ultimately take their relationships to a higher level. For me, a school's culture and foundation for learning is defined by the depth of relationships between staff and students. At a recent staff meeting, one of our teachers voiced how much she cared for her students and how she tried to show it. I feel privileged to be the principal of a staff that so strongly voices this. When I hear the bell ring for students to come in at the end of lunch or recess I watch carefully. When they smile and run to their class, I smile too. They aren't running because they want to do writing or math, they are running because they know their teacher cares about them and supports them so that not only will they learn but they will enjoy it and be able to do it with their friends.

Gordon Neufeld, a local author and therapist has built a scale for [understanding the depth of our relationships](#). It can be applied to our relationships with our friends, [our family](#), teachers – to anyone with whom we share our time. This time of year is ripe with opportunities to develop the depth of our relationships with the people we care about. For some people, building relationships is a natural strength but for most of us, myself included, we need to consciously and intentionally reflect on what level of relationship we have and how to take it to the next step higher. Regardless of our level of natural ability, building relationships is based on our choices. At a time when our students are receiving their report cards I think about a report card about me and how I am doing at the depth of relationships I have with the important people in my life - my wife and children, my family, my friends, my staff and the students here at Taylor Park. Here are the six stages of attachment, according to Gordon Neufeld with my version of its meaning. Attachment is often applied to parents but it can also be used for other relationships. I invite you to reflect with me on what level you are at with the important people in your life.

1. Proximity – The most basic stage of attachment is developed by being physically close to someone.
2. Sameness – Feeling connected to someone because we recognize we have shared interests or passions.
3. Belonging – Through time spent together(proximity) and sharing time enjoying activities and conversations together(sameness) we develop a bonding that this is my friend, my dad, my teacher, my school...
4. Significance – We see and understand the strengths and uniqueness of each other and continually believe and encourage the use of those gifts. As a result, warm feelings help deepen attachment.
5. Love – Deep affection to the level that people can be separated and still feel emotionally attached. This happens when someone breathes into our lives a belief in us demonstrated through time and actions that makes a positive life changing difference.
6. Being Known – At this level, not only do we know our strengths but we also reveal our secrets – our weaknesses, our insecurities, disappointments and feelings of hurt... I consider this level unconditional love and each of us needs someone who is an "adult" at this level – someone who can not only hear our faults without judging but also support and inspire us to deal with them and become a more fulfilled and mature person.

The deepening of our relationships is no accident. We take it to the next level higher because we choose to spend time with somebody, listen to them, do activities with them, understand them, believe in them and support them. It requires time and energy, often hurts, but the reward is beyond measure. I know of no more expensive or worthwhile gift to give than that of ourselves and our love. It is my hope that through sharing your child's report card and spending time over the Christmas holiday, the relationships our parents have with their children will grow stronger. Space doesn't allow here but there are lots of ways that [we can develop the level of relationship that we have with someone](#). It is our intention that at Taylor Park we will be a place where we develop those relationship skills and, in turn, develop ever deeper and stronger relationships.

(Mr. Wall)



Christmas Concert Raffle – Win an iPad!!

We will again be holding a raffle draw at this year's Christmas Concerts. A huge thank -you to our local businesses for supporting our school. Lots of great prizes to be won. Here are some of the items New Apple iPad, 3 x \$100 gift certificates for BestBuy, Ukelele and music lesson package from: Bone Rattle Music, Music Box and Rufus Guitars(Value \$175), 4 Skoah facial gift certificates 4 to give away(Value \$85 each), \$50 gift card from White Spot, Dancin Stars gift certificate for dance classes (Value \$100), Theatre tickets from: Carousel Theatre, Axis Theatre, Align Entertainment, Naked Goddess Productions, Royal City Musical Theatre, a Waves gift basket and more. Tickets will be available at the door for all performances. 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10, cash or cheque only. Prizes will be drawn Friday, December 22nd. Money raised will go to

support our performances and the music department. We are also needing parent volunteers to help with selling tickets at the afternoon and evening presentations. Please email taylorparkschoolpac@gmail.com if you are able to help. Ticket sellers and PAC executive will have reserved front row seats for the performance.



Breakfast With Santa

Our annual Breakfast with Santa took place on Wednesday, December 6 and was a highlight for many students. Our students and staff came in their pajamas and enjoyed some pancakes together. We also had a visit from Santa. We appreciate the many parents who helped at this great event!

BC Government Grant for Parents - British Columbia Training and Education Savings Grant Information

Families in British Columbia are encouraged to start planning and saving early for their children's post-secondary education or training programs. To help, the B.C. Government will contribute \$1,200 to eligible children through the [B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant \(BCTESG\)](#). This \$1200 grant is available for children born in 2006 or later. Since this is a new program, if your child had their 6th birthday in 2013, 2014 or 2015, you have an extension until August 14, 2018 or the day before their ninth birthday, whichever is later to get the grant. If your child was born in 2006, you have an extension until August 14, 2019, to get the grant.

Sun Run

Be part of Taylor Park's team for next year's Mini Sun Run (2.5km) on **Sunday April 22, 2018!** It's a great opportunity to build school spirit, and participate in a fun community event that can strengthen our children's interest in physical fitness. Register by **February 2, 2018** to save. Click on the link below and register under "Taylor Park Elementary" <https://register.vancouversunrun.com/#!/events/2018-vancouver-sun-run>. For questions, please email sunrun.taylorpark@gmail.com

Staff Updates

- Welcome Ms. Merola, our new kindergarten teacher for Division 24. We want to also send our best wishes to Ms. Low as she starts her maternity leave.
- Welcome Ms. Godfrey, a new EA who will be working with a variety of students. She worked as an EA in the Richmond school district and for the past few years has been a noon hour supervisor here while her children were growing older.
- Ms. Chin will continue as the kindergarten teacher for division 25 as Ms. Brock is moving to Nanaimo and will therefore not be returning after her maternity leave.

Thank You's:

We would like to send a special thank you to the following people who help make Taylor Park Elementary School such a great place:

- Our Parent Advisory Committee(PAC): We can't even begin to name off all the things you do to help our students. They have paid for our recent Maker Lab program, organized our Pancake Breakfast, paid for iPads and laptops for students and much more. With their help and income from our upcoming raffle, we are able to have a projector and electric screen installed in our gym. Thank you to all who are helping!
- Save on Foods at Marine Drive for donating all the supplies for our Pancake breakfast.
- The Burnaby Fire fighters for bringing their stoves, mixing the batter and cooking pancakes.
- To all of our volunteers, a huge thank you. From counting PAC money, driving for fieldtrips and sporting events, to helping out in the classrooms, the list goes on and on. Parent involvement makes such a big difference in our school and your time and commitment truly makes a difference. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to help us. It is greatly appreciated.

Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams

Congratulations to our Boys' and Girls' Volleyball teams for a season full of excitement and skill development. The team members displayed great sportsmanship as they played in league games with other Burnaby schools. They ended by playing in district play days and local competitions doing an excellent job of representing Taylor Park. Thank you very much to our coaches: Mr. Petroski and Ms. Tanahara for our Boys' Volleyball Team this year and to Ms. Dunnett and Ms. Cheng for our Girls' Volleyball Team. Thank you as well to all of the parent drivers and fans! We couldn't do it without you!

World Competition Award

Congratulations to Lim Yang Quah and Tim Generalov for winning the Innovation Award at the World Educational Robotics competition held in China this past month. They competed against 3000 other students from 50 countries to win this prestigious award!

Love The Water? Check Out Water Polo!

Do you enjoy swimming? Do you like team sports? Try water polo! It's a great way to develop your water skills and it's a lot of fun as well! [Burnaby Water Polo Club](#) is now accepting registration for our Boys and Girls Beginners Water Polo (6-13 years of age). Our Winter program runs from January to April. Practices and games are at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, on Saturdays 3-5PM and Sundays 8-10AM. Not sure if you'd like it? Come give the game a try. Boys and girls are invited to join us for one of our free introductory water polo clinics on Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20 or 27, 2018, 3-4PM, at Bonsor Pool. Please call to reserve a spot as space is limited. Contact Zoran at 778-328-2657 or email us at burnabywaterpolo@gmail.com for more info.

DO YOU LOVE TO WRITE?

Talk to your teacher about
writing a story or poem
for this year's

WORDS WRITING PROJECT.

It might be chosen to be printed in
the 2017/18 WORDS Anthology!

Submit your written work to your teacher
by February 15, 2018

