

Taylor Park Parent Newsletter December 14, 2020

Christmas During Covid

One of the things that has surprised me during Covid restrictions is the amount of excitement and joy that our students have in coming together, learning together, spending times with friends and making memories.

In a typical year, there are many Christmas traditions that bring us together with family, friends and neighbours but because of Covid safety guidelines they are no longer possible. This means we need some creativity and extra planning to celebrate and spend time with the people who are important to us.

At Taylor Park this year we have a Christmas program featuring Divisions 14 to 27 but instead of setting up the gym with staging, lights, curtains and decorations, we have set up one of our music rooms – room 102 – and are putting together a version of the Nutcracker. Instead of performing live, we have spent the last two weeks with students coming in their costumes for filming and are now working on the editing process. We will also have performances from our grade seven band and several intermediate groups. Our performers have been excited to be under the lights and have learned to perform for a camera – a very different skill than performing in the gym. In the gym it's hard to see performers' faces so we are trying to get every student's face on video with the use of specialized equipment, careful planning and editing. I am thankful to our music teachers, classroom teachers and students as changing to this format has required extra preparation and extra work outside of regular classes. We are also holding a pajama day and multi-class bingo party as part of our last week festivities.

I'd also like to provide a suggestion of some family games to share. I will be meeting with family and friends over Zoom and playing games together. You may have already found some activities to do but in case you haven't, you can search for "family Christmas games over Zoom" and come up with [sites like this](#). I hope our students, staff and families will be able to connect with cousins, family and friends over the Christmas holidays and enjoy being together, even if it is over Zoom!

Christmas Assembly by Zoom

Our next assembly will be on Friday, December 18th from 1:15-2:00 pm. Our presentations include:

- Grade Seven Band – Jingle Bells - Directed by Ms. Stitt
- Divisions 14-27 will be presenting a dance version of the Nutcracker – Directed by Ms. Hintersteiner
- Div. 1 (Emily G., Emily Y., Zoe & Talan): Carol of the Bells Guitar Quartet – Directed by Ms. Chang
- Div. 2 (Tyler, Noorai, Kaitlynn, Agraja, Surabhi, Rachel, Laiba, Yolanda and Veronica)- Wonder/Chosen Last/Waves Mashup – Directed by Ms. Chang
- Div. 3 (Tiya, Salina, & Maya): Surrender/Say You Won't Let Go/ Lose You to Love Me Mashup – Directed by Ms. Chang
- Div. 6 (Tiana, Ella, Arianna, & Lyn): Jingle Bells Guitar Quartet – Directed by Ms. Chang
- Div. 3 (Tamara, Salina, Mattias, Apollo, Drew, April, Jessica, Sho, Maya and Tiya) Jingle Bell Rock – Dance– Directed by Ms. Panesar

All participants [need to register](#) and will then get their own individual link (which can't be shared and will only work for one person at a time). This link will be able to be used for the whole year and is different than the link from last year.

Pajama Day

We will be having Pajama Day and school wide "Bingo" on Thursday, December 17th! We encourage all students and staff to wear their pajamas to school (there isn't room to change in the washrooms). Students should have pajamas that are appropriate for the weather as we will still be going outside for recess and lunch. Looking forward to a fun filled day to celebrate the season!

Covid Safety Update

We are continuing to follow the [safety guidelines from Fraser Health](#) and these are being updated regularly to clarify and detail how to stay safe. In order to stay safe, all our students and staff should bring a mask each day. The mask guidelines state that students do not need to wear a mask when they are in their learning group (max 60 people) but they are optional – many students and families want family members to wear masks as much as possible and we will happily support that. We can keep our learning groups separate for most of the time, but it is not possible all the time. If students from different learning groups meet at lunch or after school, they should be wearing masks. If we have a fire drill it is impossible to keep students two meters apart when they exit from their classrooms so everyone should have their mask ready to use. I recommend wearing clothes with pockets and storing a mask if it is not in use in a pocket. I carry two masks, one in my right pocket which I use when I am going in the hallways, into classrooms or on recess/lunch supervision and a spare in my left pocket in case I sneeze into or get my other mask dirty. Please help us keep to the safety guidelines by going over mask safety at home.

Donations Update – Adopt a Family Extended

We are pleased to announce that the November Poppy Fund raised \$434.10 for Canadian veterans. We have extended our Adopt a Family donations deadline in order to raise enough for the families we are committed to supporting. Donations can be made through [schoolcashionline](#). The deadline for donations has been extended to December 14th. Thank you for your support.

Every year we collect donations for the school during our Christmas Concerts - mainly to support our music program. In the past month we have used our donations for: clothing for needy families, classroom supplies for teachers and video equipment for assemblies. Thanks to the donations we have received over the past year we are able to buy the extra equipment and supplies needed for students to perform. If you wish to support us in this way you can make your donation through [schoolcashionline](#). Tax receipts for donations to the school larger than \$20 will be issued a tax receipt.

Staffing Updates

This will be the last week for Ms. Lukianiuk as she will be going on a maternity leave starting in January 2021. We welcome Ms. Kada-Wong as the new teacher for division eleven!

Our new secretary, Ms. Santoso, will be arriving in mid-January. We want to thank Ms. Spartano who has been filling in since November and wish her well as she goes to a new position.

Counselor's Blog

Our school counsellor, Scott Anderson, provides an article and ideas about the [Power of Play](#) this month.

Report Cards Distributed this Week

This week teacher's will be sending parents an interim report by email, weblink or on paper. We thank you for being partners in your child's learning. We want you to know how your child is doing and have input on their learning. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

PAC Update

All Taylor Park parents are welcome to join our PAC meetings on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Our next meetings are:

- January 28th: 7pm General Meeting
- February 25th: 7pm General Meeting
- April 29th: 7pm General Meeting
- May 27th: 7pm PAC AGM Meeting

[Our PAC minutes and information is available on the PAC web site.](#) The same link used for assemblies can be used for PAC meetings. [Register online and receive your link for all assemblies and PAC meetings.](#)

Upcoming Dates:

Week of December 14-18 – First term Interim Reports sent out

Friday, December 18 – 1:15-2:00 pm – Christmas Assembly by Zoom

December 21, 2020 – January 1, 2021 – Christmas/Winter Holiday – school closed

Monday, January 4, 2021 – First Day of School for 2021

Jan. 18 – Nov. 26 FSA Assessments (Postponed from October 5 to November 13)

February 15, 2021 – Family Day Holiday

February 26, 2021 – District Pro-D Day

March 15 – 26 Spring Break

You have previously provided consent for the school to send you electronic information related to your child's educational experience. To unsubscribe please contact the school office at 604-296-9034.