

## Taylor Park January 2024 Newsletter

### Stop Walk and Talk

We regularly go over how students can solve conflict with each other - it's the same process for adults. When people have good relationships, they learn more, learn faster and can deal effectively with the problems we all inevitably face. Often, the most difficult problems students face involve another person.

As a staff, we are coaching students how to say "stop", when to walk away and how to talk so problems can be solved. It's not so much an anti-bullying program as much as it is people skills. Through experience and research, we know the "No Tolerance" approach of escalating punishments doesn't stop mean and bullying behaviour. We also know that programs that just teach "anti-bullying" skills don't work very well either. The solution is to build relationships through a positive culture and teaching "people skills."

Stop means to use words (instead of hitting) to tell a person you don't like what they are doing. For a kindergarten student it may mean putting up a hand and saying, "Stop," if someone is grabbing them or something they have. However, it may mean that a grade 7 student goes up to another student and says, "Can we talk? Yesterday, when we were..." and then goes on to say that they are being hurt by what the other person is doing. There are hundreds of ways to say stop but the same method can be used to effectively deal with problems whether we are 5 or 55 years old. It's about people skills and learning how to express our feelings. Oh, and when someone says "stop" because they are doing something that hurts, the other person needs to stop.

Walking away is often needed when the payoff for the person causing the problem is seeing someone get upset. When the person walks away, it removes the payoff, and the behaviour often stops. Walking away before the person being hurt gets angry, retaliates, or makes it a bigger problem is also a wise move. What it doesn't mean is we should just ignore problems. If there is an ongoing or serious problem, the next step is "Talk."

For young children in kindergarten, talk usually means getting help from an adult. For people that are twelve years old it may mean talking – not gossiping – to a friend. That friend can help to understand the situation and come up with a solution. It doesn't mean posting information on-line. It would be a mistake to think that twelve-year-olds are always going to talk to a parent or teacher whenever there is a problem. They won't. For serious situations, there are many people for our students to talk with including parents, grandparents, coaches, our counsellor Scott, Taylor Park staff, the Kids Help Line and more.

We want students to have success in their friendships and in their learning. The two go together. We want to work as a team, with students, parents and staff working together, to build a culture where friendships are strong and people problems are dealt with in a way that enables students to build skills for the rest of their lives. (Mr. Wall)

### PAC Meeting

Our next PAC meeting will be Thursday, January 26 at 7 pm by zoom. At this meeting we will be discussing fundraising, school requests for funding, school goals, literacy levels and more. All Taylor Park parents are part of our PAC and are welcome to join us. [The agenda, minutes from previous meetings and our budget for the year are available online.](#)

## **PAC Volunteers**

Our PAC needs volunteers for short-duration, monthly events such as hot lunches and fruit & vegetable distribution. These events usually take about two hours. Fruit and Vegetable program people are needed for Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 10 – 10:30 am. If you are able to help, please contact the PAC at [taylorparkschoolpac@gmail.com](mailto:taylorparkschoolpac@gmail.com)

## **Lates and Absences**

Thanks to the many parents who are sending information about lates and absences to the school through email. It is often difficult to hear the names of students on phone calls, so we prefer emails. Our district phone service can sometimes be overwhelmed by the volume of calls so using email can be more accurate and efficient. Attendance information can be emailed to: [TaylorPark.Info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:TaylorPark.Info@burnabyschools.ca) Please include the following details: Childs' Name, Teacher / Division, Dates / Times, Reason for absence/late (Illness / Appointment / etc.)

## **Burnaby Firefighters Association Donation**

Our thanks again to the Burnaby Firefighters association for providing breakfast bars as snacks for students who have not had breakfast or are missing their snack for the day. Thanks to the contributions to their organization, we are able to support students needing breakfast or a snack with something to eat.

## **High School**

We are in the process of pre-registering grade seven students for high school based on the current address on file. For further information about high school you can see our [parent presentation PowerPoint](#) or go to one of the [high school information sessions](#). Registration and cross district applications start February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Taylor Park Website**

Our secretary, Lora Delorme, continues to update our Taylor Park website with information about topics of interest to our parents and upcoming school events. We recommend [bookmarking our website](#) and referring to it for information about our school.

## **Registration for September 2024**

Applications for students who will be starting at Taylor Park begins February 1st. Students currently attending Taylor Park will automatically be re-registered for September 2024.

We are welcoming registration of **students born in 2019** for September 2024 kindergarten – [registration is available online as of February 1st](#). Burnaby School District will provide an information evening for parents of children with diverse abilities Thursday, February 8th, 2024, 6:00-7:30pm at Ecole Alpha Secondary School Library located at 930 Alpha Avenue. [Please sign up online if you wish to attend](#).

Current grade 7 students are automatically enrolled in their catchment high school based on the address we have on record. Further information on high school open houses are posted on our website. Any grade 7 students wanting to attend a school outside their catchment or any of the cross-district programs, require a cross district application. Please note that cross district forms are due during the month of February – forms sent electronically are preferred. Acceptance into cross district schools for both elementary and high school as well as for special programs (French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, etc.) is based on school board policy and details are available on the [district website](#). Registration and [cross district forms are available online](#)

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024	12:45 – 2:45pm ~ Grade 7 Course Selection at Byrne Creek
Thursday, Jan 25, 2024	7:00pm ~ PAC Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, Jan 26, 2024	1:15pm Assembly ~ Students Only
Friday, February 2, 2024	Div 1 – 4 ~ Anti-Racism Presentation
Friday, February 16, 2024	Pro D Day ~ No School for Students
Monday, February 19, 2024	Family Day ~ No School
Monday, March 18 – Monday April 1, 2024	Spring Break
Tuesday, April 2, 2024	Back to School
Tuesday, April 2 – Monday April 15, 2024	School Wide Hip Hop
Friday, April 12, 2024	Pink Day
Monday, April 29, 2024	Pro D Day ~ No School for Students
Monday, May 20, 2024	Victoria Day ~ No School
Thursday, May 23, 2024	12:00pm ~ Dismissal for K Students Only
Thursday, May 23, 2024	1:45 – 3:00pm ~ Welcome New K's
Thursday, May 30, 2024	Thank You Tea
Monday, June 3, 2024	Pro D Day ~ No School for Students
Thursday, June 20, 2024	School Picnic
Monday, June 24, 2024	Grade 7 Lunch
Wednesday, June 26, 2024	9:30am ~ Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony
Thursday, June 27, 2024	Last Day of School 10:00am ~ Dismissal of all students Have a Great Summer