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The Westwind wave

April 20, 2023

PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Mrs. Tse has been surveying the children about their favourite playground apparatus and by far, it is the Zipline. As you know, this is our last push this school year to see how much we can raise, and see if it's possible to raise enough for a zipline. If you're curious what this zipline is like, check out Grauer Elementary's zipline. Mr. Riddell, who plays there often, says "It's awesome!"

Yesterday, we received a \$1000 donation! If you or your workplace is able to make a donation to enhance the playground, that would be much appreciated. Tax receipts are available, and with your permission, we're keen to recognize your generous contributions.

CHOOSE AN OPTION TO DONATE to the WESTWIND PLAYGROUND:

1. Cheque / Tax receipt required >	CHEQUE PAYABLE to Westwind School <i>Memo Line: Westwind Playground</i>	Submit cheque and donation form to school office
2. Cheque / NO tax receipt Required >	CHEQUE PAYABLE to Westwind School <i>Memo Line: Westwind Playground</i>	Submit cheque to school office
3. ONLINE donation / Tax receipt required > (Richmond School District website)	via the Richmond School District website https://sd38.bc.ca/our-district/donations In "Message to School Board" please indicate that the donation is for the Westwind Playground. (Please note, you can sign-in as a registered user, or complete the donation using the "guest check-out".)	
4. ONLINE donation / No tax receipt required > (School Cash Online account)	Use your School Cash Online account to donate	

CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS FOR 2023/24

In June, our staff starts the class placement process for our upcoming school year. Our goal is to make balanced classrooms and optimal learning environments. This note is following a presentation that was made at the April 11th PAC meeting, and is designed to further assist parents to understand what it means (from the school's perspective) when we endeavour to create "balanced classrooms and optimal learning environments".

There are a number of **student and school organizational considerations** involved that we consider prior to making a placement decision. As a team of experienced, professional educators we are sensitive to the needs of each student and review these factors in an educationally sound manner to ensure the best placement possible for our students within existing school operational resources and constraints.

1. Student considerations in determining placement include:

- Learning styles and strengths
- Age and physical maturity
- Past academic performance and term goals
- Special learning needs
- Degree of independence in work habits
- Previous year's placement including history of placement in the upper or lower grades of a combined class
- Social and personal characteristics (friendships)

2. School organizational considerations include:

- Creating heterogeneous (mixed ability) rather than homogeneous class groupings
- Creating a balanced academic and social/emotional educational classroom setting
- Equitable class size and composition assignments as defined by contract

The process for creating balanced class groupings is as follows:

STEP 1: Gathering information

During the early part of June, our staff will collect and condense information for each student with respect to the student considerations listed above. Simultaneously, our Resource Teachers, our enrolling Teachers, and school Administration will work together to consider the placement of our children with special needs. We will collaborate to ensure balanced placements, honouring class composition guidelines determined by the Collective Agreement.

STEP 2: Meeting together in Teacher grade groupings with the Administration and Resource Team In mid-June, we will combine the special needs placement information along with our knowledge of the children in a school setting to make the best placements we can with the resources provided and the constraints that exist within our system. The goal will be to create heterogeneous, cohesive groups of learners for a positive learning environment. The students will have an opportunity to provide their teacher a list of names of peers they would appreciate having in their class. Even though each school year represents an opportunity for students to make new friends, we will do our best to include at least one of the names on that list.

STEP 3: Reviewing and adjusting

At the end of June and during the first few days at school in September, the child's present and future teacher, along with the Resource Team, and school Administration, will review the class composition to account for children who may have moved or who may have registered late and been placed in the school by the district's student placement officer. Depending on the number of children coming and going over the summer, it might mean that we'll add a classroom to our organization, or take one away. In both instances, that could mean that we have to start the whole class placement process over again, and explains why schools can't get into our classrooms officially on the first day of school.

STEP 4: Tally Tool to assess balance

Our last step to ensure class balance is that we utilize a tally tool that collects data on our balance. Should there be inequities, we'll make adjustments.

PARENT INPUT:

You can see that since our process is designed to create "balanced classrooms and optimal learning environments" as much as possible, what would happen to that balance if the last step was for the school to honour parent requests for child placement?

Past practice at the school has been to ask for parents to give placement requests, and the school will try their best to honour those requests.

PARENT INPUT continued...

Last year we had so many that mathematically it was impossible to honour them all, so as a result some people were left feeling disappointed that they didn't get their request met. That is no way to start the school year off on a positive note, and this practice does not lend itself to creating balanced classrooms.

We do appreciate input, but with regards to class placements, going forward, the teachers will be taking the lead. Teachers are acutely aware of their students' strengths, stretches, and next steps to their learning. This information, along with the teacher knowledge of current and potential peer relationships, and the peer preferences the students have indicated will be taken into consideration.

Because we need to prioritize balanced learning environments over peer preferences, we will not be asking for parent requests this year. Of course, if there is *new* information that your child's teacher needs to know *about their learning*, and you have not yet had an opportunity to discuss that throughout the year, then please by all means make sure that your child's teacher is aware.

Again, we do appreciate *new* information, but we are discouraging private meetings and/or emails with teachers as a way to get your request in through the back door.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Juhasz or Mrs. Tse if you have any questions regarding this process.

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE:

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY, please send a note or email to your teacher in advance so your child can be dismissed at the requested time. Allowing enough time for your child to gather their belongings and sign out at the office is appreciated. In addition to sending the notice to your teacher, you can also leave a message on the Early Warning voice mail. Please avoid calling the office. As a courtesy to your child's teacher and classmates, when possible, please have your child leave at a natural break (recess or lunchtime).

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL

A friendly reminder that if parents/guardians need to come into the school during school hours, we ask that you please sign in at the office and get a visitor badge. Thank you.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK Thank you for continuing to do a daily health check before coming to school and keeping your children home when they are not feeling well. If your child will be absent or late to school, please leave a message on our Early Warning phone number # 604-668-6498.

Reminders for when students are at school:

- Use coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Wearing a mask is a personal choice in all areas of the school
- Frequent Hand washing will continue to be encouraged

PAC FOOD DAYS ORDER SUMMARY – TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED!

Please see the lunch days below for April-June 2023. Kindly order by the indicated Ordering Closes date in order to avoid disappointment. If for any reason your child will be absent on a scheduled lunch date, please be sure to email the lunch contact noted to schedule a pick-up at the multipurpose room on the day of. Thank you!

Supplier	Date	Ordering Closes*	Contact	Restaurant Website
Grade 7 Fundraiser Dominos Pizza	Thursday April 13	Wednesday April 5	kimaspen@hotmail.com	https://www.dominos.ca
Anar	Monday April 17	Sunday April 9	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://www.anargrill.com
Takeya Sushi	Monday April 24	Sunday April 16	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://www.takeyasushi.ca
Grade 7 Fundraiser Dominos Pizza	Thursday April 27	Wednesday April 19	kimaspen@hotmail.com	https://www.dominos.ca
Boston Pizza	Monday May 1st	Sunday April 23	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://bostonpizza.com/en/locations/ironwood.html
Grade 7 Fundraiser Dominos Pizza	Thursday May 11th*	Wednesday May 3	kimaspen@hotmail.com	https://www.dominos.ca
Japadog	Monday May 15	Sunday May 7	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://japadog.com
Grade 7 Fundraiser Dominos Pizza	Thursday May 25	Wednesday May 17	kimaspen@hotmail.com	https://www.dominos.ca
Steveston Seafood House	Monday June 5th	Sunday May 28	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://www.stevestonseafoodhouse.com
Grade 7 Fundraiser Dominos Pizza	Thursday June 8	Wednesday May 31	kimaspen@hotmail.com	https://www.dominos.ca
Takeya Sushi	Monday June 19th	Sunday June 11	alannalunchday@gmail.com	https://www.takeyasushi.ca

*Grade 7 SLSS Fun DAY Field-trip, lunch will be provided on-site if your child is attending PLEASE DO NOT ORDER Pizza

EXCEL IN LIFE: AFTER-SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAM @ WESTWIND

Tennis XL is back at Westwind! Starting next week students will participate in the Tennis XL Pickleball program. Over two weeks each class will participate in four lessons.

Tennis XL teaches over 30,000 students per year in both elementary and secondary schools all over BC's lower mainland. Their programs are tailor-made for students of all ages and always instilled with messages of respect and positivity. They seek to promote the belief that if we can weave social responsibility, respect for others, and healthy lifestyle choices into the fabric of our community at a student level, we will see an increase in responsible leadership, a decline in health issues, and an uptick in community engagement.

The After School Tennis program aims to provide a continuation of tennis development for those currently experiencing and enjoying the Tennis XL Pickleball in-school program.

- > Location: Westwind Elementary Gym
- > Grades: **2-7 ONLY (Gr.1 exceptions will be made, if they had previous racket sport experience)**
- > Times: **3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
- > Dates: **April 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**
- > Program reference number: **26**
- > Full-Program: **\$150 for 10 days (\$15 per day), includes brand new T-Shirt**
- > Late-Start: minus \$10 for each day missed, includes brand new T-Shirt
- > Drop-In: **\$20 per day**
- > Equipment purchase: Pickleball or Tennis Racket \$30

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdB8yIfcBuLkHQzxGVB1YLCuFRaJbfdJ5vwFSDWIBn1e6QBwA/viewform>

Attention all aspiring tennis and pickleball players! The Full-Program & Late-Start participants are in for a treat - they'll receive a brand-new Tennis XL T-Shirt (regular price of \$20) for absolutely no additional cost!

WESTWIND WAVES IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, May 4	Spirit Day: Star Wars Day
Thursday, May 18	Track Meet at Minoru (Grades 3-7)
Friday, May 19	Professional Development Day – No school
Monday, May 22	Victoria Day – No School
Mon, May 29-Wed, May 31	Grade 6 / 7 – Outdoor Education Camp
Thursday, June 15	Band Concert, Times TBA
Friday, June 23	Spirit Day: Formal Day
Friday, June 23	Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
Thursday, June 29	Year-End Assembly
Thursday, June 29	Last Day of School for Students
Friday, June 30	Summer Vacation Begins



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