Dear Families,

We are working together to make the best possible learning happen for your children.

Before they come to school, you have already:
- Made sure they’ve had a good sleep
- Given them the nourishment they will need for the day
- Acted as their coach and cheerleader – setting them up for success
- Shown them that they are loved and that you are excited to see them after everyone’s “work day”.

At school, we know that:
- Building relationships are foundational to learning. We make time to greet every child, ask them how they are doing, and let them know how happy we are to see them at school. We want every child to feel that they are cared for at school.
- Play is a very important part of learning! We know that children thrive when they are able to engage in their learning on many levels! I have seen children represent their learning in song, creating a tableau, making a “learning game” for their classmates, drawing, and building. Many inventions are discovered through play and the “discovery” can be such an exciting one. We make try to make time for play every day!

We want our students to think of themselves as learners. We work alongside them, commending their efforts, encouraging them to persist, supporting them as they progress. We know that their learning journey is important, especially finding ways to persevere when it’s hard.

Relationships, play and persistence – all important for learning. Our home / school partnership is foundational to making it all happen!
SHOWING RESPECT IN THE COMMUNITY

We are all fortunate to live and play in such a nice neighborhood. Every week, a division is responsible for picking up garbage around our school and that shows respect to our environment. In our hectic lives, we sometimes forget to show respect to our neighborhood and neighbors. Taking an extra five minutes to find a better parking spot instead of using a neighbor’s private property is one way we, as adult role models can show respect to our neighbors and our neighborhood.

UPDATE FROM P.A.C. CHAIR

Spring is now upon us although when you look outside it seems like it is hard to believe! We hope everyone had a nice Spring Break with your families.

Lots of things are happening with your P.A.C. in the coming months:

First, we have the Hanging Basket sales which have been a huge hit within the school. We have re-opened ordering to accommodate this high demand. Please order on Munch-A-Lunch: http://www.munchalunch.com/schools/homma/.

Many thanks to Sharmila Lakhani for organizing it all and to Randall Walrond for assisting with the payment process. If you have ordered a Hanging Basket for Mother’s Day, you can pick them up on Thursday, May 11th between 2:30pm and 5:30pm at the school.

The Homma Heritage Spring Fair planning is in full force now with Nikki Pena taking the lead with all of the volunteers in hand. Homma P.A.C. has applied for and received a government grant called the Richmond150, to celebrate and commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday this year. $2500 was given towards the planning/executing our springtime carnival with emphasis on heritage, community, history and legacy. If you are interested in volunteering for part of the evening, please complete the form that you were given or email the Homma P.A.C. at hommapac2015@gmail.com.

The next P.A.C. Meeting is set for Wed. April 19th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the school library. A reminder that we will be holding elections for the PAC Executive on the May 17th P.A.C. Meeting.

CLASS PHOTOS and PANORAMA

The class photos will be taken on April 10th. We are hoping the weather will cooperate so we can have the Panorama, whole school, photo, as well.

SPRING CARNIVAL AT HOMMA

Save the date!! Homma Heritage Days Spring Fair: Friday, May 26, 2017

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Homma P.A.C. is pleased to announce our inaugural Homma Heritage Days and Homma Heritage Spring Fair…formally known as the Homma Spring Carnival.

In keeping in line with the message of heritage; community; history and legacy the Homma planning committee came up with Homma Heritage Days and Homma Heritage Fair. We are hoping this will turn into an annual event celebrating the history and community of Steveston Village and its uniqueness. It is a three-day event starting on Wednesday, May 24th ending with our big celebration on Friday, May 26th... the Homma Heritage Fair. We are hoping the community; family; friends and neighboring schools will attend!

For the Fair to go smoothly we rely on our parent volunteers to help run certain elements; We will be sending out another call-out for parent volunteers this month as we are looking for more parent volunteers for GAMES, 100 SQUARES, TICKET SALES, PRIZE ROOM, and CONCESSION!

We are also kicking off our 100 Squares Donation Drive! In an effort to spread out the donations, we are currently accepting any “adult friendly” (i.e. wine, beer, spirits)) bottle donations to the main office.

If you do not wish to donate to 100 Squares, please note we will be launching our Donation Drive for Bottle Pull and Silent Auction Theme Baskets later this month. These items will be collected in the classrooms! For more info, please email: hommapac2015@gmail.com or nikkipena@shaw.ca.

JEANS DAY

Jeans Day takes place on Thursday May 4th all around the province. Homma has been a wonderful supporter of Children’s Hospital. Our senior students will be selling the buttons in the front entrance starting mid-April.

Buttons sell for $5.00 – thank you in advance for your support.

CHESS AT HOMMA

The hugely anticipated Chess Tournament has begun at Homma. All the students that signed up will be participating in a round robin style tournament. Good luck to all!
HOMMA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
As we observe the changing seasons once again, we request for all K-3 students learning in the garden and outdoor classroom to wear sunscreen and bring a hat on garden days.
Our students love to play in the outdoor classroom and garden! More toys equal even more fun! If you have any of the following items that you could donate, please drop them off to Mrs. Zeni:
- laundry baskets
- plastic dinosaurs
- fairies or other fantasy garden play items
- play kitchen pots, pans, dishes and bowls
- an old outdoor rug you would like to get rid of
- construction toy trucks
- diggers and/or dump trucks
Thank you for all your help!

WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR KIDS
Our school nurse is promoting a new free and fun program that empowers families with children aged 7-13 who are above a healthy weight to become healthier by participating in twice-weekly sessions (Wednesday and Saturdays) focused on healthy meal planning, goal setting and physical activity. More play, less screen time, and improved self-esteem are some of the many benefits of the MEND program. For more information and how to enroll go to www.bhealthykids.ca. Program graduates will receive FREE credits for recreation programs in Richmond!

RUNNING CLUB – THURSDAYS AT 8AM
Mme Grant & Mme Courtemanche would like to invite all students in Grades 1-7 to join us for running club on Thursday mornings at 8am. Kindergarten students are welcome if a parent is able to come along. Come enjoy the morning views in Steveston!

PINEWOOD DERBY UPDATE
Thanks to all who attended the informational session on Wednesday night. For those of you who have not yet received your kits, please arrange it with Mr. Warbinek, awarinek@sd38.bc.ca. Some of the kits were back-ordered so we will post information on our website when the kits arrive. http://homma.sd38.bc.ca/. Thank you for your patience!

FAREWELL, MME SZELAGOWICZ!
It's hard to believe that the time has come to say goodbye for now to Mme Szkelagowicz on Friday, April 21st. Mme Szkelagowicz has been on a temporary contract this year in one of our Grades 6 and 7 French Immersion classrooms. It has been a pleasure teaching and working with Mme Szkelagowicz and we will all miss her kind and thoughtful nature. Good luck in your next endeavour!

TRACK ATTACK
Track Attack at Homma begins next week (April 10th) for all students in Grades 4 to 7. Students will have the opportunity to try out many different track and field events during school time over the next four weeks. The stations include sprints, long distance running, relays, long jump, softball throw, as well as shot put and discus for the grade 6 and 7 students. We have scheduled ten practice sessions and are keeping our fingers crossed for great weather. Please ensure that your child is dressed in layers as we will be going outside as much as possible if it is not raining heavily. Our zone track and field meet will take place at Minoru on Thursday, May 18th.

HOMMA FAMILY MATH NIGHT
Mark your calendars for our second Family Math Night of the year on Wednesday, May 3rd. Janice Novakowski, our District Math Teacher Consultant, as well as our own staff members, will be engaging students in several activities with their parents in the gym. We are looking forward to a fun night of learning together. More information coming soon.

REMINDER
PARENT BOOK CLUB
THURSDAY, APRIL 27th AT 2:00PM
**SUMMER CAMPS WITH THE YMCA**

Summer is a time for kids to play, run, get outside and have fun with friends. For more than 100 years, the YMCA has provided camp adventures that help kids learn about themselves, grow in self-confidence and gain new skills in a safe and caring environment. From overnight camps with activities like archery, climbing, sailing and canoeing, to day camps full of out trips, arts & crafts, sports and games—we have something for everyone. We hope you’ll join us!

To learn more or register, visit [gv.ymca.ca/camps](http://gv.ymca.ca/camps)

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**WE DAY BAKE SALE UPDATE**

Thank you so much to our WE Day Committee and the many, many families who helped to make our Bake Sale in March such a success! With all the donations of delicious baking that came in from students at all grade levels, as well as the hard work of our Grade 7 students, we were able to raise $605.05 to bake for change. We will be donating this money to a community in need supported by the WE Day Education Pillar so that we can ensure that children in another country are also able to go to school like we do. Thank you for your KINDNESS and thinking of others, We Not Me. Together we are better!

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**STUDENT LEADERS**

Our third term student leadership program has begun. We have students in Grades 4 to 7 contributing to the school community by acting as morning announcers, gate keepers, crossing guards, playground monitors, and lunch monitors. Thank you for all that you do to be HELPFUL around the school and to keep everyone SAFE. We really appreciate your time and efforts.

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**“MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED”, A SPECIAL PRESENTATION...**

The Richmond School District and the Richmond District Parent’s Association invite you to a FREE (Registration Required) screening of the Sundance-selected educational Documentary, “Most Likely to Succeed”. This film examines the history of education in the USA revealing shortcomings of conventional education methods in today’s innovative world. Ideas which are reflected by the goals of the New BC Curriculum: Building Student Success. [https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca)

Join us at Richmond Secondary School (7171 Minoru Blvd. – Near Granville Avenue) at 8:30am for some refreshments, the movie starts promptly at 9:00am. Discussion opportunities will occur during and after the screening. Session ends at 12 noon with draw prizes. **Registration deadline: Thursday, April 13th, 12 noon**

**To Register, please click here:**

For more information, including the trailer, please visit [http://www.mltsfilm.org/](http://www.mltsfilm.org/)
### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**APRIL**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 10</td>
<td>Panorama/Class Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. 11</td>
<td>Parent Info Night – regarding Class Placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 14</td>
<td>Good Friday – School is closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 17</td>
<td>Easter Monday – School is closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 19</td>
<td>Quebec Parent Meeting, 5:30 – 6:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 19</td>
<td>P.A.C. Meeting, 6:30 – 8:00pm</td>
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<td>Thurs. 20</td>
<td>Jump Rope for Heart Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 21</td>
<td>Pizza Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 25</td>
<td>Staff Appreciation Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 27</td>
<td>Jeans Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 27</td>
<td>Parent Book Club, 2:00 – 2:43pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 29</td>
<td>“Most Likely to Succeed” film presentation for parents and educators, 9:00am at Richmond Secondary, <a href="http://www.mltsfilm.org/">http://www.mltsfilm.org/</a></td>
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**MAY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 1</td>
<td>Professional Day – School not in session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 3</td>
<td>Family Math Night, 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 4</td>
<td>Jean’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 5</td>
<td>Sushi Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 5</td>
<td>Newsletter posted on <a href="http://homma.sd38.bc.ca/">http://homma.sd38.bc.ca/</a> @4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. 9</td>
<td>BC Elections Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 17</td>
<td>P.A.C. Meeting, 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 18</td>
<td>Zone Track and Field Meet @ Minoru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 19</td>
<td>Pizza Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 22</td>
<td>Victoria Day – School is closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur. 25</td>
<td>Parent Book Club, 2:00pm – 2:43pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 26</td>
<td>Sushi Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 26</td>
<td>Homma Heritage Spring Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 28</td>
<td>Students leave for Quebec Trip</td>
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