Returning to School

ON - SITE LEARNING

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school next week who have responded yes to the survey. Our grades K - 5 students will be attending on Monday and Tuesday. The grade 6 and 7 students will be here on Friday. June is going to look very different from our normal school routine. One of the most important goals will be to balance your child(ren)’s educational needs within a supportive learning environment.

We appreciate that family’s will review the Welcome Back To School Poster with their children and email the school that they will complete the questions on a daily basis.

REMOTE LEARNING

For many of our students this may look different this month. Teachers will be in contact with their classes as some schedules and plans may need to be changed but they do look forward to continuing to support this opportunity. We all will continue to miss you and we will be in contact regarding plans to pick-up school materials.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS ARE RE-OPENING

We are happy to inform you that our playground structures will be re-opening for students on June 1st. This re-opening is a positive development as we know that outdoor physical activity and play is vital for children.

Please refer to a memo attached to this newsletter for more specific information.
Planning for September 2020

PLEASE FIND OUR BLAIR CALENDAR FOR THE 2020/21 SCHOOL YEAR ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL.
*PLEASE KEEP* – IT CONTAINS ALL THE NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANNING

Important Information about Class Placements

Many families wish to provide information to assist our staff in Class Placements. June is fast approaching and once again, the staff at Blair Elementary School will be gathering and sharing information in preparation for student placement in September. As professionals, the staff devotes much time, care and effort in determining September placement for each child. Sometimes, parents are able to provide the school with new information about their child.

This input should not include a request for placement with a specific teacher or location but rather some important personal or educational data that will assist us with our decision. This could include:

• your child’s learning strengths, interests and needs and/or their learning style.
• strategies and approaches that are effective in engaging and motivating your child, and
• peers that you believe might help your child to feel connected, to work productively and to be a successful learner.

Please note, while we take your information into account as part of our discussions, we are not able to guarantee requests.

Should you wish to provide the school with this information, please send a letter to Mrs. Ludwig (cludwig@sd38.bc.ca) by Monday, June 8, 2020.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ludwig

NOTICE OF LATE RETURN – September 2020

School District No. 38 (Richmond)
NOTICE OF LATE RETURN FORM – 2020/21
(Due to Extenuating Circumstances)

There is a form to be completed for any student(s) who expect to return to school LATER THAN 12:00 pm Wednesday, Sep. 9, 2020 AND ON or BEFORE Sep. 16, 2020. Please complete the form available at the school office and return to Mrs. Ludwig before the end of the school year. You will also be asked to attach a letter that contains an explanation of the extenuating circumstances for returning late in September.

Important Notice: Please Translate Information Important: Faire traduire l'information.
Social Emotional Learning at Home
SEL for Parents and Families

Social Emotional Considerations for June Re-Entry

The last few months of the Covid-19 global pandemic have impacted people in varying degrees. The level of stress and fear is different for each of us depending on our own situations of health, finance, and overall functioning. We’ve seen that it is okay to have mental distress, and when John Horgan in the May 6 press conference announced the reopening of schools in June, some experienced an increased level of stress. He referred to the re-opening as a “dry run”. However, whether or not June is a “dry run”, there are implications of your children returning to school in terms of their learning, their well-being, and the impact on your family? Therefore, as we consider sending our children back in June, we need to ask if being on-site is the best decision for everyone in the family:

1. **Health of the Family**
   - Is there a family member who is high-risk or immunocompromised? Keeping the curve “flat” should continue to be the focus.

2. **Your Child’s Mental Health**
   - Would your child benefit from in-person social interactions with their peers? Has their mental health suffered by being at home without their friends?

3. **Your Own Return to Your Work Situation**
   - Childcare is an important consideration. Will having your children on-site help facilitate your own back to work?

LivingMontessoriNow.com

The Richmond School District is the best place to learn and lead.
If we are sending our children back to school in June, what are some things we can do to prepare for an easier transition?

- Re-establish bedtimes for you and your child
- Re-visit appropriate guidelines for screen time
- Continue to eat healthy
- Teach proper hand washing routines
- Continue to be active and exercise daily
- Continue to follow routines set by your child’s classroom teacher

Conversations to have with your child:

- Talk about the importance of regular hand washing
- Ask your child how they feel about returning to school - listen authentically to their concerns
- When answering your child’s questions about Covid-19, be honest and truthful and keep to the facts. For up to date and reliable information, follow this link for the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Check in with your child daily about how they’re feeling about being at school (ie) are they enjoying seeing their friends? Are they enjoying connecting with their teachers?
- Before school each day, ask how your child is feeling physically. Take their temperature if needed
- For more information, follow KidsHealth.org

PLANNING TO WIDEN YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE? HOW TO NEGOTIATE ‘COVID BUBBLING’ WITH OTHER PEOPLE...

Source: Gideon Lichfield - MIT Technology Review

As physical distancing policies lift a little, households are starting to consider “buddying up” with another family for the sake of variety and mental health. To continue to be cautious and to promote safe social interactions, below are some guidelines for how to have conversations and negotiate forming acceptable ‘Covid-bubbles’ with another family:

1. Agree to have no hard feelings - agree that you’re all friends no matter what, especially if your friends chose to Covid-bubble with another family
2. Think about the risk - with a bigger bubble comes greater responsibility
3. Agree to all follow the same rules, whatever they are - (ie) if one family decides to wear masks, be willing to make that concession
4. Talk through your daily routines - give each other as complete a picture as possible of what you do and be honest
5. Maybe don’t post about it on social med a - if you’re having a wonderful time in your bubble, be sensitive to others and not flaunt about it
6. Give yourselves a trial period - agree to try your bubble for two weeks and decide whether to continue, again - no hard feelings if one family decides to not continue
Welcome Back to School Poster