



## Archibald Blair Elementary School School District No. 38 (Richmond)

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*Celebrating learning, treasuring each child, valuing diversity,  
teaching caring, and honouring the wonder of our universe.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

#### BLAIR SCHOOL STORY

Our school will continue to use an inquiry-based process called the Spirals of Inquiry to focus on our current school goal: **What social and emotional competencies, supports and environments do our learners need to help them thrive and learn in school and in life?**

This goal was chosen last year after gathering and considering useful information determined by asking students questions through surveys and interviews. This year we will be focusing on using consistent language throughout the school that will focus on a Social Emotional framework: **Blair Cares**. We have begun the process of discussing with students what this can look like, sound like and feel like throughout the day. Considering the challenges that the last eighteen months has posed for all of us, our focus in the classrooms this fall has been in creating supportive and inclusive communities of learners. Using the **Blair Cares** framework, we will be learning about and demonstrating ways to **Care for Self, Care for Others,** and **Care for Place**. We further invite parents to ask their child about this new framework and how it's meaningful to them.

#### COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

All teachers at Blair are using Communicating Student Learning and Reporting using digital portfolios, which will provide you with the information you need to understand where your children are in their learning and where they need to go. By using the e-portfolio, you get to read comments about your child's learning while simultaneously viewing a sample of your child's actual work. This gives you a clear link between student work and teacher assessment.

The most important kind of assessment for student learning is what educators call 'Assessment for Learning'. This is feedback that teachers give students as they are working. It guides student thinking and provides insights for improvement. This 'Assessment for Learning' is done every day in classrooms as students work and interact.

When teachers talk about 'Assessment of Learning' they refer to the kind of assessment done at the end of a unit of study or at the end of a term. This kind of summative information is helpful to parents and to teachers but is less helpful for students as they learn. It is not immediate enough for students and the suggestions can't be easily applied to the new work they are doing.

E-portfolio posts will happen on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. We hope that both you and your child will actively participate in an ongoing dialogue about learning through these e-portfolios.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY**

Our virtual Remembrance Day assembly on November 10th was wonderful! A big thank you goes to Mrs. Berko-Gabay and Mr. Statham for organizing the program and recording the performances. Thank you to all the divisions that performed and for all the students that contributed beautiful artwork for our back drops. The recognition and respect for those that have served in wars and messages of peace were heartfelt. Thank you to those that generously contributed donations to the Poppy Fund. We raised \$291 this year.



## **BLAIR-MCMATH CANDY CHALLENGE**



Our students from Blair School and McMath Secondary School participated in the candy challenge. The candy was delivered to the Good Shepherd Ministry in Vancouver that provides homeless people with candy bags. Thank you for your donations.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: NOVEMBER 22nd**

Students will not come to school on this day. Staff will be attending sessions on Social Emotional Learning and Truth and Reconciliation. We are excited for this day of learning together with our colleagues.

## **PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

**Please ensure that you (parents or guardians) are supervising your children while they stay after school and play on the playground.** We have had some unsafe situations happening after school and so we would like to remind you that it is your responsibility to watch your child to ensure their safety after 2:45pm dismissal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## **PAC NEWS**

Our next PAC meeting is on **Friday, November 19th at 9:00 am** on Teams. An invitation will come out in an email next week. We hope you can make it.

Thank you for all your support for our first Pizza day this year. The PAC made approx. \$400.00. The money raised from our Food days goes to supporting teachers and students throughout the year with special projects, technology and materials for the classroom.



## **Parent Survey: Youth Substance Abuse**

The Ministry of Health is sponsoring an initiative to expand and enhance the use of evidence-based approaches for BC schools to address youth substance use. The first step in this engagement is to listen and learn. Therefore, the Ministry is asking **parents and caregivers to complete a 10-minute survey about youth substance use between now and November 19**. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and anonymous. In addition, your responses to this **survey** will help identify the needs of students, parents, and caregivers to address youth substance use in school settings.

## **City of Richmond – Cycling Network Plan Update**

The city is updating our Cycling Network Plan and we want to hear from students. In Phase 1 engagement during June 2021, we asked you to share initial feedback such as suggestions for improvements and reasons for/against riding to school. Now we are looking for your help with prioritizing different improvements.



Please visit <https://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/studentcycling-ph2> to complete a short survey, add your thoughts to an Ideas Board, and use the Mapping Tool to identify high priority routes for implementation. The consultation period is open November 1 to 30. They look forward to hearing from you!

## **NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS NEEDED!**

We are actively looking for more Noon Hour Supervisors in our school district. We have a vacancy at Blair school. If you know of anyone that might be interested in working from 11:30am-1pm each day, please apply through Make a Future.

Here is the link for your reference:

[https://makeafuture.applytoeducation.com/Applicant/AttJobPosting.aspx?JOB\\_POSTING\\_ID=4fb2bfd2-5316-40ff-b597-42683ba2e7b9](https://makeafuture.applytoeducation.com/Applicant/AttJobPosting.aspx?JOB_POSTING_ID=4fb2bfd2-5316-40ff-b597-42683ba2e7b9)

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2017, turning 5 in 2022. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2022. Online registration opens on November 1, 2021. Please visit our website <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates and FAQs.

Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications completed any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions via emails from the school by February 4, 2022.

Instead of in person information evenings this year, we have posted short videos that provide our new parents with information about the registration process, English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options – Early French Immersion and Montessori. These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>.

Finally, there will be a Kindergarten Information Evening for parents of students with disabilities and diverse abilities via Zoom on November 17 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. A link to the Zoom meeting will be posted on the Kindergarten Registration website closer to the meeting date <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>

Thank you and please share this information with your friends and family who have Kindergarten aged children!

## **DRESSING FOR COLDER WEATHER**

As the weather starts to get colder, please ensure that you have warmer clothing for your child to wear while outdoors during the school day.

### **Wear a coat with a hood.**

Your coat should fit a little loose on your body so that you can comfortably layer clothing underneath it. Stick with zippers instead of buttons. Zippers provide a tighter seal when it comes to windy weather. Jackets are shorter than coats and tend to only keep your upper body warm. Longer coats will provide more protection from inclement weather.

### **Cover your head and ears with a thick hat.**

If your coat comes with a hood, feel free to get a hat made from wool, knit fabric, or a poly-cotton blend. Pick a hat that will cover your ears, since cold ears can make your entire head feel cold even if the top of your head is covered. Your ears don't naturally have a lot of protection, so it's important to keep them warm.



**Protect your hands by wearing a thick pair of waterproof gloves with padding.**

A thick pair of gloves is essential in cold weather. The cuffs of your gloves should extend past the cuffs of your coat to ensure that your wrists aren't exposed to the elements.

**Get thick socks and a pair of big boots to keep your feet warm.** To protect your feet, opt for a pair of thick winter boots. Get boots that rise above your ankles and buy a pair that is a half-size bigger than your regular shoe size to make room for your socks. Get a thick pair of wool socks.

**Keep legs warm with a pair of long underwear or snow pants.**

In very cold temperatures, wear snow pants over your pants to keep your legs warm. For most people, boots, a coat, gloves, and a hat are enough to stay warm. If it isn't too cold out, there's no need to wear any extra garments to protect your legs.

**SUPPORT THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS**



We know that the holiday season puts a strain on the finances in many households. There are some organizations that help families through these times in small ways.

**Richmond Christmas Fund:** Each year the city of Richmond provides support for families in financial need during the Christmas season. Registration and distribution will take place at the Richmond Caring Place in late November and early December. Program registration and toy distribution will happen on the same day. This means that families will need to arrange for child care on the day they register (children are not permitted in the toy room) and families must be prepared to take toys home with you that day. There are certain documents required to access this service. Please see the notices we will be posting on our Parent Board in the hallway or for more information call or email the Richmond Christmas Fund: 604-279-7035 or [christmasfund@volunteerrichmond.ca](mailto:christmasfund@volunteerrichmond.ca)