



## 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.*

**January 31, 2022**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK!**

We are happy to see everyone back at school. It has been a busy month, filled with wonderful learning and engaging activities for everyone. Often in the new year we feel a sense of optimism. The New Year is a time to set goals and make a “fresh start”.

### **CHOOSING OPTIMISM**

#### **What is Optimism?**

Optimism is a way of seeing life hopefully and having an expectation of success and well-being. Optimism correlates strongly with good health and effective coping strategies. Optimism is a learned trait and, if practiced, can become a way of thinking.

#### **Why Practice Optimism?**

Choosing to view life optimistically can increase our brain capacity; it relaxes our amygdala, creates chemical balance in our brains, and allows our prefrontal cortex to take charge. Practicing optimism also makes it easier to learn – optimistic thinkers prime their brains to be ready to focus and make more room for new information to be absorbed and new ideas to stretch their wings. Socially, practicing optimism allows students to strengthen their perspective-taking skills and accept viewpoints different from their own, as well as connect with other people.



### **Optimism: A Learned Skill for Success**

The research is clear – attitude matters! Students who are generally optimistic enjoy better physical health, have more success at school, flourish in relationships, and are more well equipped to handle stress in their lives. Brain research has confirmed that optimism is more a learned trait than a genetic one. We can train our brain to have an optimistic perspective.

**GUNG HEY FAT CHOY!**



This month brings Chinese New Year, and we know we will see the excitement on the faces of our students who celebrate this special time. Chinese New Year is the main Chinese festival of the year and it is not a religious event. In China the holiday is called the Spring Festival. The date of this festival changes each year because it's based on a lunar calendar. The date corresponds to the first new moon in January or February. This year Chinese New Year starts on **February 1st**. It is traditionally celebrated for 15 days ending on the date of the next full moon. In China, the celebration is 3 days long. The Chinese lunar calendar is made up of a cycle of twelve years and each year corresponds to one of 12 animals. This year is the Year of the **Tiger**. Family is at the centre of Chinese New Year involving visiting and shared meals with loved ones. Red is the colour that honours this holiday, and we see it decorating many families' homes and businesses around Richmond. Thank you to our PAC for the beautiful display in our foyer for the entire school to enjoy!

### **FEBRUARY HOT LUNCHES: CANCELLED**

Due to COVID-19 protocols in schools we are being asked to continue to pause having PAC Hot Lunch programs during the month of February. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate these unprecedented times.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY AT BLAIR**

We remain in continued, daily communication with our District and Ministry regarding health updates. It is our aim to keep you informed to the best of our ability. The Blair staff would like to end this month by saying an enormous "THANK YOU" to all of you who have contacted the school or sent in messages of thanks for the job we are trying to do in continuing to educate, support and care for our Blair students.

Reporting Absences: As always with our everchanging landscape with the Omicron variant and health orders, we continue to adapt as necessary. Much of this is out of our control but our priority is to continue to work together in keeping our children safe and healthy. Please continue to keep your children home if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness and refer to the Health Flow Chart that was sent out to families this week for the most up to date information about COVID-19. When in doubt, please contact your health practitioner or 811 for more guidance.

Know that there will be times when staff and students are away. Let's work together to help each other during this difficult time by not making assumptions on why someone is absent. Please continue to report absences by calling 604-668-6318 and please leave a reason (i.e., cold, toothache, chicken pox, Covid). Know that your reasons for your absences will remain confidential.

### **CARING FOR SELF AND OTHERS: ONLINE SAFETY**

With more time at home and less events to attend we encourage parents to take an active role in supporting your child online. They need guidance and supervision. Have ongoing conversations and join them in their platforms so that you can understand the places they spend time virtually hanging out. Talk to your children about their online friends and activities just as you would about their other activities.



Conversations about the importance of safe and ethical social networking might include:


- Only adding people, you know as friends
- Treating people online with kindness and respect
- Not using a real photo as your main profile picture
- Using a nickname or first name
- Not sharing passwords with friends
- Teach your children to always ask you first before sharing personal information online.
- Talk to your children about their online friends and activities just as you would about their other activities.
- Encourage your children to come to you if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. (Stay calm. If you "over-react" they won't turn to you for help when they need it.)
- Protect your children from offensive "pop-ups" by setting your browser to block popups, disabling Java on your computer and/or using blocking software. Ad blockers such as Adblock can also keep kids from seeing banner ads with inappropriate content.

### **COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING**

This year *all communication of student learning* will take place on your child's e-portfolio. You will find ongoing formative posts (Formative assessment supports learning or informs students' learning through feedback and next steps suggestions) throughout the year and summative posts (Summative assessment summarizes learning from over a period that makes a judgement on how well learning is progressing. Essentially a summary snapshot in time) at the mid-point of the year and at the end of the year. You will be able to access your child's Mid-Year Summative Posts between February 1st-14<sup>th</sup>. You will receive communication from your child's teacher letting you know when the mid-year posts are ready for viewing.

<b>Communicating and Reporting – Option A</b>				
Communicating and Reporting: At certain points in the year, teachers provide summative judgements of students' learning progress. Purpose of Summative Progress Reports: Provide summative assessment information for students and families.				
<b>September - October</b>	<b>November - January</b>	<b>Late Jan – Mid Feb</b>	<b>March - June</b>	<b>Late June/July</b>
Progress Update - Formative	Progress Update – Formative	Mid-Year Summative Progress Report	Progress Update – Formative	Final Summative Progress Report

Summative posts will include the four-point provincial proficiency scale and will be used to communicate progress in all areas of learning. The Proficiency Scale is provided to us by the Ministry of Education.

Proficiency Scale				
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

I encourage you to check your child's portfolio often and stay involved.

SD38 RC-MOD

OCTOBER 30, 2020

# Eportfolios and My Child

Ideas for supporting the use of portfolios to support student learning




## Why e-portfolios?

- ▶ Share learning and accomplishments of children
- ▶ Enhance connection between school and home through more frequent and detailed communication
- ▶ Involve children more deeply in their learning and assessment
- ▶ Increase children's sense of ownership and pride in their learning
- ▶ Provide children with greater accountability for their learning
- ▶ Involve all stakeholders (child, parent, teacher) in the assessment process
- ▶ Participating in a safe online space, provides children with guidance and practice in navigating a digital landscape and becoming positive digital citizens
- ▶ Provide documentation of children's learning stories from K-12



**FILTER POSTS**  
Use tags to filter posts in various areas of learning.



**UNREAD POSTS**  
The golden halo around a post indicates there is new information to view.



**RECYCLE BIN**  
Accidentally deleted posts can be recovered from the recycle bin on the portfolio page.

Access the district portal on the internet using Safari, Chrome or Firefox. The address to the portal website is [portal.sd38.bc.ca](http://portal.sd38.bc.ca)

STEP 1

Log into the portal with your child's username and password. Remember to use the new username that the students received in September

STEP 2

Click the 'Portfolio' button and have a look or read about what your son / daughter is learning. Leave a comment in the 'Comments' section. If you are not sure what comment to leave, we have provided some suggestions on the other side of this document.

STEP 3

Here are some ways...

## How do I support my child with their e-portfolio?

A valuable way you can support your child's learning is to spend time together talking about their learning at school and looking at their portfolio posts together. When talking together (online and in person), it's important to remember posts on the portfolio are not final judgments of learning and ability; they are starting points to help your child stretch their thinking and learning as they grow. Ask questions and comment on perseverance rather than making judgements to support your child's growth.



### Here are some possible comments or conversation points:

I noticed _____.	Can you tell me more about your thinking? How did you get this idea?
I wonder _____?	
I'm curious about _____.	Can you think of another way you could solve this problem?
I love how you kept trying until you found a solution that worked!	How did you work together to solve this problem?
I can tell you put a lot of time and effort into this project. Thank you for working so hard! I am very proud of you.	I can see evidence of growth. You used to _____ but now you _____.
I am so proud that you are now able to _____.	I know you found this work challenging, but look at how you _____.
Why did you choose to post _____?	What are some things we can do to keep improving in _____?

### Sentence Starters for Parents

We encourage you, the parents, to make positive comments about your child's work on their e-Portfolio. Here are some sample sentences to help get you started:

我們鼓勵父母們，在孩子的 e-Portfolio 給予積極的評價。以下是一些示例句子，可幫助您開始：

English	Chinese Translation
I'm proud of you because...	我為您感到驕傲，因為...
I like the way you...	我喜歡你...的方式
I can see that you...	我可以看到你...
It's interesting to see that you...	有意思看到你...
I made a connection to...	我與...建立了聯繫
Here are some questions I have for you...	我有一些問題想要問你...
Why did you...?	為什麼你...?
What were you thinking when...?	在...期間你在想什麼?
I noticed...	我注意到...
I'm curious...	我很好奇...
I wonder...	我想知道...
What is your next step...?	你...的下一步是什麼?
How will you...?	你將會怎麼樣...?