

September 14, 2022

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are excited to start another school year. We have 10 divisions in our school again this year. We have 242 students at Blair. We are welcoming 15 new students to Blair this September as we had students leave our catchment over the summer and we gained several students to our school. Below is our school organization and staff members:



<u>Division</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Div. 1	6/7	Ms. Benedet
Div. 2	6/7	Mr. Weil
Div. 3	5/6	Ms. Bellefeuille
Div. 4	4/5	Ms. Thomas
Div. 5	3/4	Mrs. Khare
Div. 6	2/3	Ms. Soo
Div. 7	1/2	Ms. Yu
Div. 8	1/2	Mrs. Ridley
Div. 9	K/1	Ms. Zekulin
Div. 10.	K/1	Mrs. Townsend

Non- Enrolling Staff

Resource/ELL	Mr. Statham
Resource/ELL	Mrs. Halton
Resource/ELL	Mrs. Berko-Gabay
Resource/ELL	Ms. Jang
Resource/ELL	Mrs. Berekowsyj
Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Wood
Band/Music Teacher	Ms. Quan
Music Teacher	Mrs. Kordyback

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Dixon
Mrs. Hughes
Mrs. Williamson
Mrs. Jiang
Mrs. Nomellini
Mrs. Harrop
Mrs. Foster

Office Staff

Principal Mrs. Loat
Sr. Administrative Assistant Mrs. Chan
Administrative Assistant Mrs. Beeksma (Wednesdays)
Noon Hour Supervisor Mrs. Grammatikos
Noon Hour Supervisor Mrs. Loong
Noon Hour Supervisor Mrs. Wong

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 AT 5:00-6:00 PM

Soon classroom teachers will be sending home important classroom information for parents to review. Please look for this information from your teacher and if you have any questions about the content please email the teacher or make an appointment to speak with them. More information about Meet the Teacher Night will be sent at a later date.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

As we begin a new year, schools have begun to re-open their doors as we continue to transition out of the pandemic. We are pleased that schools will now be able to welcome visitors to certain assemblies and school events, similar to how we did before the pandemic. Visitors should continue to arrive at the front door and check in at the office. Please note that there are no public washrooms in the school. We continue to be mindful that Covid19 still continues to circulate around the province and are maintaining many protocols such as hand washing, respecting personal space, limiting congestion in common areas and staying home when not feeling well. Thank you to everyone for respecting these protocols.

EARLY WARNING!

To help ensure the safety of all children on their way to school, we check attendance first thing in the morning. Please call the school if your child will be absent. A message can be left on our **Early Warning Line – 604-668-6318**

When phoning the Early Warning Line, please leave the following information:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1)Child's Name | 2)Teacher's Name or Division |
| 3)Reason for Absence | 4)Length of Absence |

BELL SCHEDULE:

8:40 – Warning bell - students should be lined up outside classroom door or at class meeting spot
8:45 – School begins
9:55 to 10:10 am - Recess
12:00 to 12:50 pm - Lunch
12:55 - Classes begin
2:45 - Dismissal



PUNCTUALITY



Being on time is a life skill that reflects respect of another person's time. We expect all students to be in class ready to learn at 8:45am. Our first bell rings at 8:40am. Please organize your morning to allow enough time to get ready and travel to school, setting your child up for a day of success.

TERRY FOX RUN

Our Terry Fox Run will be taking place on Thursday, Sept 22nd. All fundraising will take place on-line. The link below can be used to make a donation of your choice. Teachers will be sharing information with their students about Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope over the next two weeks. Please do not send any money with your child to school.



Archibald Blair Elementary Fundraising Link: <http://schools.terryfox.ca/ArchibaldBlairElementary>

PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

Each year there are 6 Professional Development Days (Pro-D Days) allowed by the Ministry of Education. Students do not attend school on these days. Teachers attend workshops designed to help them learn new approaches to teaching and improve their practice. Blair School will be closed for all Pro-D days. See schedule of Pro-D days on our school website.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: WEAR ORANGE ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29th

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 30. A reminder that this is a commemorative day that honors the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. Schools will be closed on this day. We encourage schools/departments to formally mark Orange Shirt Day on September 29, by wearing orange as a symbol of our sadness of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem, experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



*The government recently passed legislation to make **September 30th** a federal statutory holiday called the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. As such, all schools in the Richmond School District will be closed on Friday, September 30, 2022.*

PARKING and AFTER SCHOOL REMINDERS

Once again this year we are asking parents to respect the parking rules that we have in place at our school. All parents and students are encouraged to walk to and from school. We do have a **Drop Off/Pick Up** lane. If you are in this lane you must **NOT** leave your car unattended. If parents want to drive their children to school and walk their child to their classroom door or meeting spot they **must park on the street** and then walk their child to class. **We have no staff to supervise students after school so please ensure you pick up your child promptly.** Thank you!

SCHOOL FORMS

A package of school forms will be coming home on Tuesday, September 20th. Please make payment for the required school items by making a payment through Cash Online. The link is <https://richmondsd38.schoolcashionline.com/>. Instructions on how to sign on will be included in the package.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As a service to families of students in elementary school, the Richmond School District has purchased school supplies at significantly reduced prices. Students are charged \$30 for school supplies which include items such as glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, duotangs, crayons, pencil crayons, felts, rules, etc. The supplies purchased should last the year, but families might be asked to purchase extra glue sticks or felts later in the year. In addition, some divisions will be asked to purchase a school agenda. The cost of the agenda is \$5 and it is specially designed for student use. Some classes may not be purchasing an agenda if the teacher is not going to use one. Your teacher will let you know if this is a required item.

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to Mrs. Loat if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

There are times when teachers want to take their students on short walking tours around the neighbourhood to reinforce concepts taught in class. We ask all parents to consider signing this permission form and returning it to the school as soon as possible. Without this written permission, your child will not be able to participate in these walks.

DRIVERS AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please fill out the driver's authorization form if you will be volunteering as a parent driver on fieldtrips.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM

Parents, please review this form with your child's information. Please make any changes **right on the form** and return this form to your teacher.



USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION/RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY USE

Parents, please review this form and return this form to your teacher.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)

All parents/guardians of students at Blair are part of the PAC and are encouraged to join our parent group meetings. We will hold regular meetings to discuss events related to the school and school district that directly affect your children. Our meetings this year will be the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm. Our meetings will be virtual to allow for more parents to attend. School programs, school plans, food days, fund raising events, and volunteer helpers are regular topics of discussion. Please contact Connie Huang or Liuchun Yang our PAC Chairs at connie_bobo@hotmail.com or liuchunyang@live.com if you are interested in becoming a member of the PAC or would like to help out on a committee. We are also in the process of planning for a new playground. If you would like to be a part of the committee please contact Susan Deng at deng.susan@hotmail.com.

BLAIR SCHOOL HOT LUNCH DAYS

Our own school PAC provides a hot lunch twice a month for interested students. Pizza, Sushi and Subway will be offered this year. The PAC will advertise the dates once they are set. You will need to register on Munch A Lunch to place a food day order. You may use this link to do so.



<https://munchalunch.com/schools/blair/>. If parents have any questions, please contact Susan Deng at deng.susan@hotmail.com.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Each year we participate in the Fruit and Vegetable Program sponsored by the BC Agriculture Association. They deliver fresh fruits or vegetables to the school throughout the school year. Students get a chance to try new foods. If you **do not want your child to participate in this program or your child has specific food allergies** we should know about, please let your classroom teacher know.



SETTLEMENT WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

Our SWIS workers at Blair School can assist newcomer students and their families to access community resources such as recreation services and after school activities. They can also help families adapt to the local school system. Please contact the school office if you would like to access their services.

BLAIR WEBSITE

Please check our Blair website www.blair.sd38.bc.ca regularly for important dates and information. Monthly newsletters and Learning highlights will also be posted on our website as well as important reminders.

DONATIONS OF PLASTIC CUTLERY



The school is currently accepting donations of new and clean plastic forks and spoons. These are for when children forget to pack plastic cutlery for their lunches. Of course, we are still encouraging that parents do pack cutlery for their children as it is friendly for the environment. If you are able to provide new and clean plastic forks and spoons, please put them in a plastic ziplock bag and give them to the classroom teacher.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

While we recognize that cell phones and personal music devices are very much a part of our lives today, and cell phones have useful applications which can support learning, they can also be very disruptive to learning. We remind students and parents that cell phones and personal devices are NOT permitted unless specifically requested by the teacher for an educational purpose. Please note that staff may temporarily confiscate these devices should they find them disruptive to learning and/or if used without permission.



Also, we remind parents and students that sadly, the theft of cell phones and personal music devices sometimes happens. The school is not responsible for the theft or breakage of cell phones and personal music devices. We advise students and parents that these devices should be either left at home or in students' backpacks at all times, but **off** during the school day. School phones are available for all students to contact home should the need arise.