**Newsletter: October 7, 2022**

During the month of October, we are typically focusing on Gratitude and read books and have class discussions about what we are grateful for. Here are some interesting facts about Gratitude.

1. Gratitude allows us to celebrate the present. It magnifies positive emotions. Research on emotion shows that positive emotions wear off quickly. Our emotional systems like newness. They like novelty. They like change. We adapt to positive life circumstances so that before too long, the new car, the new spouse, the new house—they don’t feel so new and exciting anymore.
2. Gratitude blocks toxic, negative emotions, such as envy, resentment, regret—emotions that can destroy our happiness. There’s even recent evidence, including a study by psychologist Alex Wood in the Journal of Research in Personality, showing that gratitude can reduce the frequency and duration of episodes of depression.
3. Grateful people are more stress resistant. There are several studies showing that in the face of serious trauma, adversity, and suffering, if people have a grateful disposition, they’ll recover more quickly.
4. Grateful people have a higher sense of self-worth. When you’re grateful, you have the sense that someone else is looking out for you—someone else has provided for your well-being, or you notice a network of relationships, past and present, of people who are responsible for helping you get to where you are right now.

**TERRY FOX RUN!**

We had a wonderful sunny day to run for Terry Fox and with the generosity of the Blair community we are proud to announce that Blair school raised over $1200.00 for cancer research! Thank you to Mrs. Khare and Ms. Bellefeuille for organizing this event. Thank you to our PAC for supplying a nutritious snack at the end of the run for all our Blair students and staff. Thank you so much for your support!

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent Teacher conferences are going to take place on Thursday, October 13, 2022. There will be an early dismissal that day at 12:00. Please pick up your child promptly at this time so that teachers can begin their parent-teacher conferences. Teachers truly appreciated the time they get to spend with each family, learning more about their students and asking questions whether they are virtual or in person. At Blair we want parents and teachers to work together to support children’s learning. When students know that home and school communicate, they feel supported and are more focused on their work. Please reply to your child’s teacher when conference forms are sent home.

**REPORTING GUIDELINES**

Reporting will look differently this year at Blair. We have moved to a district wide reporting structure of 4 Learning Updates (2 conferences and 2 written reports) and 1 Summary of Learning in June. The four-point Provincial Proficiency Scale will be used to communicate student learning in all areas of learning. The four points on the scale are Emerging, Developing, Proficient and Extending. Each student will have a Digital Portfolio to post Core Competency reflections. Digital portfolios can also continue to be used as a tool in documenting student learning, as a vehicle for formative assessment, and as a window into learning. If you have questions about your students’ learning or progress, please speak with your classroom teacher.

There will be a virtual Reporting Information Session given by the district, on Tuesday, October 25th from 6-7pm for all parents K-12. This session may also answer some questions that you may have.

**PRO-D DAY**

**Friday, October 21st** is our next Professional Development Day. **Students do not attend on that day.** Staff will be attending conferences throughout the lower mainland.

**VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN ACTION**

We are in the process of organizing our grade 6 & 7 Volleyball team this year. Mr.Weil and Ms.Benedet will be this years’ coaches. The teams have started practicing and they are looking forward to having games against other elementary schools during this season. Please come out and cheer on your child as they represent Blair!

**LEADERSHIP AT BLAIR**

We believe it’s important for students to have opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills. Our Grade 4 and 5 students are crossing guards in teams of three. Our older intermediate students, Grades 6 and 7 do a variety of jobs around the school. They help our early primary students stay focused on eating at lunchtime, they work in the office at lunch time answering phones, they take turns delivering the morning announcements, they help Mrs. Wood in the library and they organize special event days in the school. Each of these jobs is voluntary but we have so many students willing to help! It really shows how responsible our students are at Blair!

**HALLOWEEN SAFETY**

Halloween is a fun time for students of all ages. On Monday, October 31st costumes can be worn at school. Remember to be respectful and safe using these reminders as we enjoy this annual festival.

* ****Students in costume at school should be easily recognizeable and/or be sure to identify themselves to staff and other students when asked. No full-face asks permitted.
* No replica weapons (guns, knives, etc) are allowed on school property.
* Please refrain from sending any shared treats or candies to school with your child, individually wrappred treats are welcome.
* We celebrate diversity and inclusion at Blair. Halloween is not celebrated by all and wearing a costume is a choice.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Our RCMP Liaison Officers have been visiting the school and monitoring driving habits around Blair School. The speed limit on Lynas Lane during school hours is **30 km per hour**. Please drive responsibly. The RCMP will continue to monitor the traffic situation and take steps, including ticketing violators, to help keep everyone safe. Please do not leave your vehicle while you are in the drop off lane. **There is very limited parking in the parking lot, therefore walking to school is the best way to be on time for school each day.**

**BLAIR SCHOOL HOT LUNCH DAYS**

Our own school PAC provides a hot lunch twice a month for interested students. This year PAC is offering Pizza, Sushi, and Subway. Our first Sushi Day will be on Friday, October 14th. The PAC will advertise future dates once they are set. These items were chosen as they can be packaged individually and be delivered safely to the school. 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.

**DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

As Autumn approaches, the cooler temperatures and rainy days are inevitable. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather as Blair students learn outside and play outside rain or shine during recess and lunch. Fresh air and movement are necessary for a child’s growth and development. Teachers may have already asked for extra clothing, boots and rain gear be sent to school for these times during the school year. Thank you!

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2023**

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2018, turning 5 in 2023. These children will begin kindergarten in September 2023. Online registration opens on November 1, 2022. 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 3, 2023.

There are parent videos available on this site as well. These include information on 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 16 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. A link to the Zoom meeting is 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!