

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

**WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR!**

We are excited to start another school year. There are 10 divisions in our school again this year, and we have 242 students at Blair. We are welcoming some new students to Blair this September throughout all grades as we had students leave our catchment over the summer. We are so excited for a wonderful year of learning ahead!



Below is our school organization and staff members:

| <b><u>Division</u></b> | <b><u>Grade</u></b> | <b><u>Teacher</u></b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Div. 1                 | 6/7                 | Ms. C. Benedet        |
| Div. 2                 | 6/7                 | Mr. F. Weil           |
| Div. 3                 | 5/6                 | Ms. S. Bellefeuille   |
| Div. 4                 | 4/5                 | Ms. P. Thomas         |
| Div. 5                 | 3/4                 | Mr. D. DeLorenzi      |
| Div. 6                 | 2/3                 | Ms. S. Soo            |
| Div. 7                 | 1/2                 | Ms. M. Teng           |
| Div. 8                 | 1/2                 | Ms. A. Ridley         |
| Div. 9                 | K/1                 | Ms. S. Zekulin        |
| Div. 10                | K/1                 | Ms. S. Jones          |

**Non- Enrolling Staff**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Resource/ELL       | Mr. C. Statham     |
| Resource/ELL       | Ms. K. Halton      |
| Resource/ELL       | Ms. R. Berko-Gabay |
| Resource/ELL       | Ms. W. Jang        |
| Resource/ELL       | Ms. K. Berekowsyj  |
| Teacher Librarian  | Ms. J. Wood        |
| Band/Music Teacher | Ms. N. Quan        |
| Music Teacher      | Ms. K. Kordyback   |

## **Educational Assistants**

Ms. J. Dixon  
Ms. A. Hughes  
Ms. C. Williamson  
Ms. Y. Jiang  
Ms. S. Nomellini  
Ms. K. Harrop  
Ms. M. Foster  
Ms. J. Freemantle

## **Office Staff**

Principal      Mr. A. Livingston  
Administrative Assistant      Mrs. S. Chan  
Noon Hour Supervisor      Mrs. L. Grammatikos  
Noon Hour Supervisor      Mrs. E. Loong  
Noon Hour Supervisor      Mrs. A. Wong

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.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

As we begin a new year, we are excited to return to scheduling school community events like we did prior to the pandemic. We are pleased that we are 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. We continue to encourage regular hand washing, respecting each other's personal space and staying home if you are sick. Blair continues to be a mask-friendly environment, as mask-wearing continues to be a personal choice.

### **BELL SCHEDULE:**

8:40 – Warning bell - students should be lined up outside classroom door or at class meeting spot

8:45 – School begins

10:10-10:25 - Recess

11:50 to 12:42 pm - Lunch

12:42 - Classes begin

2:45 - Dismissal



### **PUNCTUALITY**

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.

### **MEET THE STAFF EVENT – Sept 20**

We invite the Blair community to the school to Meet the Staff on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We will meet in the gym to introduce staff. Then at 5:20pm we invite families to visit your child's classroom and teacher(s). At 5:40pm there will be another chance to visit your child's classroom and teacher(s).

### **TERRY FOX RUN – Sept 21**

Our Terry Fox Run will be taking place on Thursday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

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

### **PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Each year there are 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 to students for all Pro-D days. See schedule of Pro-D days on our school website.

### **ORANGE SHIRT DAY: WEAR ORANGE ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 30. A reminder that this is a commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. We will formally mark Orange Shirt Day at Blair on September 29, by wearing orange to honour the thousands of survivors of Residential Schools.

*The government recently passed legislation to make **September 30<sup>th</sup>** 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 Monday, October 1, 2023 for this day.*

### **PARKING and AFTER SCHOOL REMINDERS**

All parents and students are encouraged to walk to and from school. We 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 at 2:45pm.** Thank you!

### **SCHOOL FORMS**

A package of school forms will be coming home soon. Please make payment for the required school items by making a payment through Cash Online.

### **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 \$33 for school supplies which include items such as glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, duotangs, crayons, pencil crayons, felts, rules, etc. In addition, some divisions will be asked to purchase a school agenda, which is specially designed for student use. Your teacher will let you know if this is a required item.

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, [\*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, 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, or purchase shoes or clothing.

At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to Mr. Livingston, Principal of Blair Elementary, if you are in need of financial assistance. 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.

### **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.



### **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 complete a driver's authorization form if you will be volunteering as a parent driver for field trips or sports teams this year. A new form must be filled out each year, and must be signed by the driver and the owner of the vehicle (if different).

### **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.

### **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          |

### **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. 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 consider joining the PAC meetings! If you would like to be a part of the committee please contact Susan Deng at [susanblairpac@gmail.com](mailto:susanblairpac@gmail.com).

### **BLAIR SCHOOL HOT LUNCH DAYS**

Our own school PAC provides a hot lunch twice a month for interested students. Pizza, Sushi, sandwiches, and other options will be offered. 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/>

### **SETTLEMENT WORKERS IN SCHOOLS**

Our SWIS workers at Blair School can assist students and families, who are new to Canada, access community resources such as recreation services and after school activities. They can also help families better understand our public school system. Please contact our SWIS worker, Ms. Ruby Wang, at [rwang@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:rwang@sd38.bc.ca), who will be at our school on Thursdays.

### **BLAIR WEBSITE**

Please check our Blair website [www.blair.sd38.bc.ca](http://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 such as the Week at a Glance for the week ahead.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE**

Please respond to phone calls from the school as quickly as you can. The school may call parents if your child is sick or had an accident and needs to be picked up. A suggestion is to add Blair (604-668-6330) to your phone contacts so that you are aware if the school calls!

### **DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER**

Just a reminder that at Blair school we ask that students go outside to play at recess and lunch rain or shine. Please make sure your child wears appropriate clothing to school so they can be warm and dry when going outside. Some teachers may request a change of clothes be sent to school in case students get wet when playing outside so they have dry clothes to change into. If you have any questions please see your classroom teacher.

