



# NEWSLETTER

3883 Rumble Street, Burnaby, BC V5J 1Z5 604-664-8862  
Website: [suncrest.sd41.bc.ca](http://suncrest.sd41.bc.ca)

Mr. A. Lee, Principal  
Ms. M. Mulhern, Head Teacher

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** *At Suncrest School, our mission is to create a respectful, safe, supportive community in which each student reaches full potential in order to empower all to become life-long learners and contributing world citizens.*

Dear Suncrest Community,

We are quickly arriving at the end of our 2016 calendar year. November and Remembrance Day have sped by and our holiday season is just around the corner.

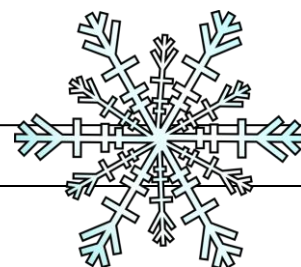
During November, I am always touched by the depth of meaning and reverence that students demonstrate at the Remembrance Day Assembly. It reassures me that our young people understand and appreciate the sacrifices that have been made, and continue to be made, to ensure the peaceful society in which we live. It also gives me great hope knowing that our young people are going forward in the world understanding their responsibility in ensuring a peaceful society.

December brings with it a number of holidays and some time off of school for our students during Winter Break. We invite parents to join us for a number of events which celebrate the festivities of the season including our Band Concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>, our Christmas Concert and Sing-Along on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and our PAC hosted Santa Breakfast on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please continue to read about the New Curriculum and Report Cards, news about our parking lot, and information about school closures due to weather in the rest of this newsletter.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Lee  
Principal



## Upcoming Dates to Note

December 7 <sup>th</sup> -	Fun Lunch
December 12 <sup>th</sup> -	Band Concert (10:50 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)
December 14 <sup>th</sup> -	Report Cards Home
December 15 <sup>th</sup> -	Christmas Concert and Sing-Along (10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
December 16 <sup>th</sup> -	Santa Breakfast (a.m.)
December 19 <sup>th</sup> - January 2 <sup>nd</sup> -	Winter Break
January 3 <sup>rd</sup> -	School Reopens after Spring Break
January 4 <sup>th</sup> -	Fun Lunch

## **The New B.C. Provincial Curriculum and Report Cards**

Teachers are currently preparing Term One report cards which will be distributed on December 14<sup>th</sup> to all students. This year, teachers will be reporting in relation to the new BC Curriculum and the Interim Reporting Order. While many aspects of the report cards will seem very familiar to students and parents, there have been some significant changes to the curriculum and in how student progress is reported.

The New Provincial Curriculum supports personalized, student-driven, innovative, flexible, inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning by placing an increased focus on concepts and content that address “real-world” issues and problems. The new curriculum is focused and organized on Big Ideas, Core Competencies, Curricular Competencies, and Learning Content.

The Big Ideas can be thought of as generalizations and principles that students will come to understand as they learn in school. The Core Competencies are intellectual, personal, and social skills that all students need to develop for success in life beyond school; the new curriculum has identified these as communication, thinking, and personal and social competency. The Curricular Competencies are the skills, strategies and processes that the students will demonstrate as they learn. And the Learning Content are the topics that students will come to know as they learn.

Key features of the new curriculum are its concept-based, competency-driven nature, and its use of flexible learning opportunities. This learning fosters deeper, more transferable learning and gives teachers the ability to address their students learning in creative, integrated ways that can take place in a variety of times, places, or with a number of structures or resources. More information about the new curriculum can be found at the BC Ministry of Education New Curriculum Webpage at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum-info>.

On the report cards, parents will notice that teachers will be reporting on the Curricular Competencies and the Learning Content for the subject areas taught for each term. Please note that while teachers will be providing Term One Overviews and Report Cards which comment on these areas, some teachers may continue to make changes to the way they report as they continue to implement the new curriculum throughout this year. This reflects the teachers’ continuing journey with all aspects of the new curriculum this year. To this end our November 25<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day was focused around the new curriculum.

Parents of intermediate students will also notice that new curricular areas of Career Education and Applied Design Skills and Technology (ADST) have also been added. Grade 6 and 7 students will be receiving report information on these two subject areas throughout the year, In this first year of implementation, however, the B.C. Ministry of Education has allowed schools to start reporting on this in the Term Two. Grade 4 and 5 students will be receiving report information on these two subjects only in Term Three.

## Could That Be Snow in the Forecast?

### SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO WEATHER

As winter weather approaches, we want to remind parents/guardians, students, and staff about Burnaby School District weather related school closure announcements.

All schools will remain **OPEN**, unless there is heavy snowfall, damage or other circumstances (e.g. power outage) that make it impossible to operate safely. The district will do its best to communicate school or district-wide closures and bus changes or cancellations by 6:30 am. This information will be posted on the front page of the district website and tweeted out (follow us on Twitter @burnabyschools). However, please keep in mind that there may be situations where this is not always possible, for example, power outages or technical problems.

The most reliable way to learn of school closures is to listen for updates on the following radio stations: CBC AM 690 radio, CBC Radio One FM 88.1, CKWX AM 1130 radio, CKNW AM 980 radio, Fairchild AM 1470 or FM 96.1. The following TV stations may also have updates: Global TV, CBC TV, City TV, CTV BC, and Omni TV. Please do not phone the radio or TV stations, simply tune in and listen for announcements which will be made on a regular basis.

Please note that no announcement will be made that schools are open.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's safe travel to school. Please walk elementary children to the door of their school if you are uncertain whether the school is open or not. If for any reason you feel that your child cannot travel safely to school then you should notify the school that your child will be absent.

Student safety is a shared responsibility. With your cooperation and support related to winter weather procedures, we can achieve safe conditions for all.

### SNOWFALL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If weather conditions deteriorate throughout the day and create a concern for the safety of students returning home, the school principal can decide to dismiss school early, after consulting with the Superintendent and local authorities. The principal and staff will communicate this decision to parents in the best way possible through the school's normal communications channels.

This information and related Policy Statements can also be found on the Burnaby School District website: <http://www.sd41.bc.ca/winter-weather-procedures/>





## **Parking Lot Improvements (PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE)**

As you may have noticed, Suncrest's Elementary School's main parking lot can be very busy and congested during the periods between 8:40 to 9:10 a.m. and 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. This busyness has been increased by the continuing roadwork on Rumble Street.

If possible, families in the neighbourhood should walk to school.

While the parking lots at Burnaby schools are provided for staff parking, we understand that there may be circumstances that parents must transport students to school using their vehicles.

If you must use your vehicle to transport your student to school, we ask that drivers observe proper driving and parking protocol within the parking lot. Driver behaviour such as double parking, parking in the middle of the roadway, driving too quickly, having students run out to their cars in the middle of the roadway, and parking in Fire Lane are all prohibited and contribute to the complexity and/or congestion of the parking lot.

As well, there are limited spots for families to utilize in our parking lot. As our busy periods arrive each day, these spots are filled. If you arrive and no spots are available, please utilize alternative parking areas along Joffre Avenue (and along Rumble Street if construction allows).

As with any parking lot, we ask parents to cross the parking lot with their children close to them. Parents should hold the hands of their children as they cross the parking lot.

Currently, Suncrest Elementary School's parking lot configuration is being reviewed by the facilities and maintenance staff of the Burnaby School District in order to enhance the safety and flow within the lot. Changes such as reconfiguring the traffic barriers and adjusting the staff parking signage have taken place to allow better flow in the parking lot and to better represent the parking situation in the parking lot. As plans for additional changes are presented to us, we will let the school community know so that they may be fully aware of the new parking regulations and traffic patterns within the parking lot.

As always, we ask that drivers and pedestrians are observant, patient and calm while using our parking lot to ensure our community's safety.