



## Welcome Back!

Welcome to all new and returning students for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking forward to another great year!

### Opening Week and Class Placement for the Coming Year

For the opening week, our students were in the same class they attended last school year.

On Monday, September 11th, we will move into permanent classes for the year. We have placed students in classes following the district and provincial guidelines. Suncrest classroom teachers, learning support teachers, education assistants, support staff and the principal put a great deal of thought into organizing classes that will provide nurturing, productive learning environments. Several criteria are considered such as: parent input, academic needs and strengths, maturity, attitude, behaviour, friendships, personalities, adult support time needed, and leadership qualities. We also try to make sure each child can have students they can be friends with in their new class. We are unable to place students solely based on their friendships from the previous year because of the need to balance classes. With these guidelines in mind, children are grouped into classes. We strive for balanced classes at every grade level. We welcome placement information from parents but will cheerfully ignore requests for specific teachers as this does not necessarily take in the needs of all our students and classes. As is common throughout the district and BC, we will have many "combined grades" classes with more than one grade in order to meet ministry requirements for class size as well as to balance classes.

*Students will return to their 2022/2023 classrooms and will be dismissed from their 2022/2023 classrooms on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.*

*Primary students will receive a "placement slip" to indicate their 2023/2024 classroom teacher and room number. On Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> students are to meet outside their 2023/2024 classroom door.*

### Welcoming Conversations

Students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to enable parents and teachers to meet to go over class expectations and give an opportunity for parents to help teachers better understand their students. Further information and registration information will be sent out closer to the date.

### Open House

You are invited to come by your child's 2023/2024 classroom for a visit to meet your child's teacher on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm. Ms. DeTerra's open house will begin at 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

### Online Payment of School Fees

We are pleased to offer parents a safe and secure way to pay all school fees online as well as providing a record of your purchases and receipts. You can pay for planners, field trips, etc. directly to your child's account. With 300+ students we often receive money without forms or illegible names so this helps us make sure your fees and requests are accurate. Please go to our school website at <https://suncrest.burnabyschools.ca/school-cash-info/> for directions on how to sign up for the school cash program.

### Terry Fox Run

Our annual run will take place on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have a short assembly in the gym at 1:30 pm before the run to warm up and go over the route.

### Professional Development Days for 2023/2024

- Friday, September 22, Friday, October 20, Friday, November 24,
- Friday, February 16, Monday April 29, and Friday, May 31

### Dates to Remember

- Sept. 14 – Open House
- Sept. 18 – 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> - Hip Hop
- Sept. 22 – Pro-D Day
- Sept. 26 – Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 28– Meet the Seniors
- Sept. 29 – Celebration of Learning & Orange Shirt Day
- Oct. 1 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct. 6 – Individual Photo Day
- Oct. 9 – Thanksgiving
- Oct. 11 & 12 – Welcoming Conversations – 2:00 Dismissal
- Fri. Oct. 20 Provincial Pro-D Day
- Oct. 27 – Photo Retakes & Pumpkin Patch
- Oct. 31 – Halloween Parade

## **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**

All parents of students attending Suncrest are automatically members of the Suncrest PAC (Parent Advisory Committee). We hold meetings each month to discuss issues of concern for our students' learning and how to support programs at the school through fundraising. The Principal and Head Teacher bring issues for parents to discuss and there is an opportunity to bring up school wide concerns with them as well. Our meetings are informal and have lots of laughter combined with the satisfaction of contributing to the learning of our students. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 via Zoom. Click the [ZOOM LINK](#)

## **School Routines and Expectations**

8:50 a.m. – bell to line up at outside classroom doors

8:55 a.m. – classroom doors open and instruction begins 3:00 pm – students are dismissed

## **Recess & Lunch Bell Change**

Recess 10:25 am – 10:40 am

Lunch 12:00 pm – 12:57 pm (welcoming bell at 12:53)

## **Student Absences**

For your child's safety and security, parents are asked to call the school and leave a message to let us know if a student will be absent or late (604-296-9033).

## **Arriving Late to School**

It is important that your child arrives to school on time. Students miss important instruction at the beginning of the day and interrupt the learning of others if they arrive late. The teacher will mark your child absent after 8:55. If your child does arrive later than 9:15 am, they need to report to the office to 'sign in'. This informs the secretary that your child is safe at school.

## **Leaving School Early**

A student leaving school early, either with a parent or with parent permission needs to report to the office to 'sign out'. If a student is ill, the secretary will phone home to ask you to pick up your child or to get permission to send your child home alone.

## **Morning Drop-Off**

We are unable to provide supervision before school so students should not arrive at school before 8:45 unless they have a meeting with a teacher (sports/homework help/etc.). They should line up outside their classroom door when the bell rings at 8:50. This builds community by providing a time and space for a connection between families and the teacher. It also gives students a sense of ownership for their place. When students arrive early, they can talk with their friends before school, so their level of comfort is higher, and their brains are ready to learn. It also allows the teachers to meet and greet children and their caregivers at one door and helps us monitor who is in the building. When students rush in at the last moment or come late, their brains and emotions are not settled, and they will not learn as well as they could if they were a few minutes early.

## **Inside Shoes**

In order to keep our classrooms, hallways and gym clean from the dirt outside we would like all students, kindergarten to grade 7 to have a pair of "inside shoes" to change in once they arrive in the morning. Students will change back into their outside shoes for recess and lunch. These "inside shoes" will be kept in the classroom for the school year.

## **Assessment & Reporting**

As the new school year gets underway, I'm writing to share some information about the Ministry of Education and Child Care's new K-12 Student Reporting Policy. All schools across the province are implementing this updated way of communicating your child's learning. This includes some changes to report cards, but not everything is different – details are outlined below.

The Burnaby School District was one of 13 districts and two independent schools involved in piloting the reporting policy, beginning in the 2016-17 school year. As such, elementary schools in our district have been implementing this evidence-based reporting model for a few years now and you may not notice as many changes as other families across the province.

### *What is staying the same?*

- Written descriptive feedback to accompany reports for all grades
- Proficiency scale for Kindergarten to Grade 7

### *What is changing?*

- In all grades, students will do a self-assessment of the Core Competencies that are part of the BC curriculum, as well as student goal setting in the three written reports

### *What is now required by the Ministry's new policy that families may already have noticed?*

- Written descriptive feedback for all grades that includes where a student is strong or shown growth, where they need support, and how can families help at home
- Five communications of student learning to families: three report cards and two communications of flexible format – such as, for example, parent-teacher conferences, portfolios, student led conferences

*How will students' self-assessments and goal setting be done at our school?*

The format and process for supporting student self-reflection on Core Competencies and goal setting are outlined and determined by each school. This flexibility ensures that teachers and students can engage in ways that are most meaningful to them. Closer to your child's first report card, you will receive more specific information about how to access their self-assessment and goal setting information.

*Where to find more information or ask questions?*

Further information about the Ministry of Education and Child Care's changes to reporting and assessment can be found on the Burnaby School District website [here](#)

Have a wonderful weekend with your families!

Diana Sakic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Diana Sakic', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Principal – Suncrest Elementary