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September 6, 2017

On behalf of the staff and community of Edmonds, welcome back!

There will be a **Welcome Back BBQ this Saturday, September 16 from 10:00-2:00.** This event will be at Edmonds Community School and there will be games and food. Please register at the Community Office. This will be a great time to welcome new families and students to Edmonds.

Everyone is welcome!

Thanks to all the donations from our community partners, we are able to offer a wide range of supports and activities. These include groups for seniors, parents, after-school programs and lots of special events. We certainly enjoy having people visit the school and the students are always happy to have their families included in special events. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Please connect with the Community Office if you have any questions about programs, supports, activities or events. Enrollment for after-school programs will start September 18 in the Community Office.

The Breakfast and Lunch programs have already started and all the students have enjoyed the delicious food. Please remember to send your lunch envelope—please don't forget to send money in the envelope and it needs to be signed.

This year we will be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. As part of Canada 150 we will be learning about the diversity of this community and the many cultures and traditions that have come here to the Coast Salish Nations of Musqueam, Tseil-Waututh and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn and live. We are fortunate to have Jackie Timothy as an Artist-In-Residence. Jackie will be creating a Welcome Pole for Edmonds Community School based on the stories people share about coming to Edmonds. Every family from our community has a story to tell about Canada and we can learn from all of them. From the First People's to early settlers and new Canadians, the students want to hear them all! To engage students in learning about this place, teachers have planned a **whole school field trip to Fort Langley on Friday, September 22.** Please see notice for details.

Sean Gaster
Principal



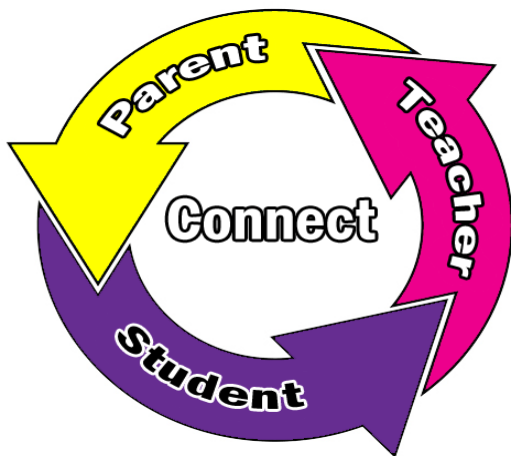
WELCOME BACK BARBECUE

Saturday, September 16

10:00 am—2:00 pm

at Edmonds School

Please register in the Community



Important Dates

September 16	Welcome Back BBQ 10-2
September 22	School-wide field trip to Fort Langley
September 26	Terry Fox Run Celebration of Learning
September 28	Teacher-parent interviews
September 29	Pro-D Day
September 30	Orange Shirt Day

PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

Pacific Immigrant Resource Society—Monday & Friday am

Immigrant Services Society—Wednesday am

Burnaby Family Life—Tuesday am

Please visit the Community Office for more information.

Childcare and snacks included.

Combined-Grade Classes Learning Together

Each child is guided to succeed within their grade appropriate learning outcomes

Burnaby School District is committed to creating balanced classes that focus on a student's individual learning strengths and the needs of the whole child. Additional factors that influence the formation of classes include shifting enrolment, class size/composition, and school staffing. Often, particularly at the elementary level, schools will form combined-grade classes.

In a combined-grade class, students from different grades are grouped together in a classroom with one teacher (eg. Grade 2 and Grade 3). Combined-grade classes are common in Canada. In fact, a Canadian study on classroom organization found that one out of every five Canadian students is enrolled in a combined-grade classroom. This means, it is very likely that your child will be in a combined-grade class during their elementary years.

Do children “learn” differently in combined-grade classrooms?

Children learn and mature at different rates. Intellectual, social, physical and personal development is not grade level dependent. In every classroom, combined-grade or single-grade, there is a wide range of children with varying skills and abilities. Teachers are aware of these individual differences and structure learning activities within the curriculum, according to the needs of each learner.

Students in combined-grade classes are not held back to the level of younger students nor are they expected to handle work beyond their ability. Whether a child is an advanced learner, or requires additional learning support, each is guided to succeed within the grade appropriate learning outcomes.

There are also social benefits to combined-grade classes. Research shows that combined-grade classes:

- allow students to learn from one another
- encourage students to work together
- provide models for younger students
- help older students see what they have already learned
- promote social responsibility
- help students to become independent
- foster a positive attitude towards school

There are many social benefits to combined-grade classes

How do teachers “teach” in combined-grade classes?

The combined-grade structure does not make a difference in how a teacher teaches students. Teachers of combined-grade classrooms are familiar and knowledgeable about the curricula for the grades and subjects they are teaching.

Learning has shifted away from memorizing facts to a more holistic approach that focuses on engaging the learner through a lens of inquiry-based learning, critical and creative thinking. This approach lends itself well to combined-grade classes where the emphasis is on teaching students how to evaluate ideas, make judgements, transfer and apply knowledge, understand processes and access information.

How can I support my child's learning?

Children in all class formations thrive when parents are involved in the learning process. Here are some ways to become involved and help your child learn:

- Take an interest in your child's school work and activities
- Monitor their homework
- Communicate with the teacher
- Offer to volunteer in the school

Parent involvement supports student success

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 LABOUR DAY	5 School re-opens Welcome to K 9:00-10:00	6	7	8 Assembly 1:00-1:30 Early dismissal	9
10	11	12	13 StrongStart re-opens	14	15	16 Welcome Back BBQ 10:00-2:00
17	18	19	20	21	22 School-wide field trip to Fort Langley	23
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>After-school program registration. Programs start in October.</p> </div>						
24	25	26 Terry Fox Run Celebration of Learning Council Meeting 3:00-4:00	27	28 Teacher-parent interviews	29 Pro-D with Buckingham	30 Orange Shirt Day