



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

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NOTICE TO PARENTS ABOUT FUTURE SNOWFALLS

The New Year came in with a very snowy start which has indeed caused some challenges. As you know, schools opened immediately following the Christmas break and remained open for the week. That's not to say that this was without its frustrations. Our crews worked hard over the break to prepare schools for re-opening, but continued cold temperatures and a surprise late snowfall the Sunday night before school opening created complications.

Being a district that doesn't typically get excessive snowfall, we have learned much from this experience. As a result, we will revisit our inclement weather procedure with a focus on exploring more accurate methods of early morning assessment of school grounds and the surrounding school zones. We will also investigate the possibility of specific school closures, among other measures.

While areas beyond the school sites are not the district's jurisdiction, we appreciate that road and sidewalk conditions leading to schools needs to play a larger role in determining whether to keep schools open or to close them. We also learned that some parents are reluctant to keep their children home when schools are open during bad weather. Please know that ultimately it is up to the parent's discretion as to whether their children should attend school during inclement weather or not. Children are not penalized if a parent opts to keep them at home under these circumstances. Coquitlam educators will ensure that students absent from school because of inclement weather will be supported in their learning.

We also hope to improve our communication with the five local governments in our district to explore how we can work more effectively together in our snow clearing efforts.

Thank you for your efforts, and we ask for your continued cooperation until things return to normal. We're hopeful that the more seasonal weather stays with us for a while.

Sincerely,

Thomas Grant
Superintendent

ec Board of Education
Bryan Cass, CPVPA President
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Dave Ginter, CUPE President
Heidi Gable, DPAC President