



# Birchland Elementary School

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[www.sd43.bc.ca/school/birchland](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/birchland)

[birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:birchland@sd43.bc.ca)

Ms. Elspeth Anjos, *Principal*

August 27, 2019

Dear Birchland Community,

Our Birchland school office has re-opened. If you are coming in, please call ahead to confirm we are open.

Opening day for the 2019 - 2020 school year is **Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Students will attend from 8:55-9:40 AM and should return to last year's classroom.** Attendance this day is very important for the school to confirm enrolment and staffing. If your child will be attending Birchland School next year but will be absent on Tuesday, September 3, please let us know by completing an [online absence report](#), by emailing the school at [Birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:Birchland@sd43.bc.ca) or by phoning the school at 604-941-3428, so that we can ensure your child's space at Birchland.

For our kindergarten students for next year, please come to the library on Tuesday, Sept. 3 from 8:55 – 9:40 a.m. to indicate a day and approximate time for your "Welcome Conversation" with your child's teacher. You will not know your child's teacher on the first day, that will be determined during the first week, and your confirmed time and date for the "Welcome Conversation" will be communicated with you once the classes have been finalized. You will be receiving an email shortly outlining your child's schedule for the first two weeks of school.

September 3 will be a busy day in the Birchland office as we expect to receive many new registrations. We appreciate your patience as we work hard to get our school and classes up and running as quickly as possible.

The School Meals Program has been providing lunches for elementary students since 2008. Birchland Elementary is pleased to be part of this program. All food preparation will be done at Central Elementary school under the direction of trained elementary school meal co-ordinators. The meals will be delivered each morning to our school. Please click here for the [menu on our website for the month of September](#). The meal program will be offering service beginning Monday, September 10. Orders, as well as payment, are due by Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am. Please pay via [School Cash OnLine](#). If you are unable to do so, please provide a cheque to the office. We are aware that for some of our families September can be a difficult month financially. We are able to support a reduced lunch program and ask that you contact the principal, if this is the case.

The first full day of school will be Wednesday September 4, for grades 1-5, from 8:55 AM – 2:50 PM. Students will need to bring a snack, lunch and a water bottle, and be dressed for active learning, both inside the school and out. Students will be in a variety of groups and will be actively learning about school routines, school goals, priorities and themselves as learners. Students can expect to interact with a number of different teachers in the first three days, Wednesday, Sept 4 – Friday, Sept 6.

Depending on when we get the go ahead from the School District, students should be moved into their new classrooms on Monday, September 9. New school supplies are not needed at school until students are settled in their new classrooms. Pre-ordered school supplies from Creative Children will be into students' classes once students are in their new divisions. Our school supplies lists are located on our [website](#).

**Parking @ Birchland** - As at many schools, parking is in short supply. We ask that you do not park in the staff parking lot since teachers may have early meetings elsewhere and will be needing quick access so they can greet your children in the morning. Instead for safety and convenience, we ask that you park on one of the residential streets and walk the rest of the way to the school. This will be an issue in the morning before 9 am and in the afternoon before 3pm. If you choose to drop your child off, we ask that you use the lot at the back of the school near the daycare off Stratford Street or the "Round-about" at the front of the school so you can turn left onto Fraser as you leave. There is a grave safety concern about vehicles attempting to turn around at the end of the street or in Meridian Village. Meridian Village parking stalls are private property and should not be used by parents.

We hope this information helps you to prepare for that busy first week of September.

Warmly,

Elspeth Anjos

Principal, Birchland Elementary