



BLAKEBURN ELEMENTARY  
1040 Riverside Drive  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 8A7  
(604) 944-9037, Fax (604) 937-6876

## *From the Principal's Desk...*



Hi Blakeburn Families,

It has been a great start to the school year and I hope your child has enjoyed opening week. We are proud of the opening week program that was organized with our school goal of connection in mind. On Monday, students will return to their classroom or temporary placement. We will be moving to our permanent classrooms at some point during the day.

Class placement is never an easy process and countless hours are spent developing, reviewing and finalizing class lists. The process is a collaborative one and student service staff, last year's teacher, and I are involved in trying to find best placements for all students with their individual needs in mind. We do this while also trying to balance classes by gender, grade, individual student strengths and needs, degrees of independence, and academic levels. Classes also need to comply with class size and composition requirements and the expectation is that we form classes that are balanced and equitable so teachers can best support all learners.

As you can imagine it is not an easy task and, despite best efforts, a few are always disappointed because it is not what they envisioned or hoped for. It is good to keep in mind that there is no possible way we can meet everyone's wishes and still achieve the goals above.

For most kids, a new class is exciting but they shift easily into a change of teacher and class. For others they may need your reassurance as their feelings towards their new placement is highly influenced by the positive attitude and strategies of the adults in their life, both at home and school. Every year is a new opportunity to develop social skills, learn new skills from other students, make new friends, and have the rich opportunity to learn from one of our amazing teachers. Looking back, some of my favorite teachers were those I knew nothing about going in, and I have come to realize that all my teachers had something unique to offer and something important for me to learn. Every year teachers take that mixed group of students I described above and they turn them into a team and a family for the year. This year will be no different.

For your child, listen to their worries if they have them, and help them problem solve. For example, if their best friend is in another class come up with a plan for recess and lunch. Focus on the positives and communicate any worries your child may have with their new teacher who can help support the transition. Change is an inevitable part of life but each challenge met and overcome develops that much needed resiliency, adaptability and confidence. We are looking forward to a great year ahead. 😊 Pam Becker

## The Question of Split Classes?

Every year I get questions around split classes. I could try to answer them all here but one of my colleagues in another district has done an excellent job answering many of those FAQ's. I encourage you to take a moment to read the following blog. It is a wealth of valuable info and really reflects my views on split classes as well.

<http://chriswejr.com/2012/09/09/will-my-child-be-ok-in-a-split-class/#.WbCwbHKk43M.twitter>

## School Supplies and Monday Pick-up Info

### **Students are asked to bring their school supplies on Monday.**

Please also designate a meeting spot with your child for after school on Monday as they will be dismissed from their new class. If you are unsure where to meet your child, or they do not have a regular pick up routine, teachers will be telling them to meet a parent in the main lobby. **Grade 1 students will be dismissed on the blacktop by the primary playground (the small playground closest to the new addition).**



### Drop off and Pick Up

I want to say a HUGE thank you to our parent community for making the drop off and pick up process relatively smooth this week. I really appreciated the conscious effort to follow the outlined process. Should you have missed last week's newsletter, please take a moment to read the drop off and pick up guidelines below.

Here are a few things to note, particularly if you are a first-time Blakeburn parent:

- The roundabout at the front of the school is for quick drop offs and pickups only. If you need to walk your child into the school, pick them up from class, come into the school for any reason, or require a long goodbye, please park on the road instead.
- Do not park in the bus drop off and pick up zone. This zone is easily distinguished by the orange lines. The staff parking lot is also out of bounds and wheel chair accessible spots are intended, during drop off and pick up, for our students requiring that support.
- Please ensure you do not stop on the cross-walk.
- The drop off and pick-up zone is a long stretch of concrete. Please ensure you go to the farthest spot in the drop off and pick up zone. Parents behind you won't be able to see what is ahead of you and parking closest to the door quickly backs up the cue.
- For older students, if you want to avoid the rush, don't hesitate to tell them to wait at the front of the school for 5-10 extra minutes. The cue is at its busiest for the first 10 minutes and clears up quickly.



## Speaking of traffic...

Speaking of traffic, you may have noticed the heavy RCMP presence today. Blakeburn students participated in an important ICBC/RCMP initiative that raises awareness to the dangers of distracted driving. Students, RCMP, and city staff all came out to kick off this initiative. Pictures of some of these great student made flyers are at the end of this email.

## District Noon Hour Supervisors Needed

School District 43 (Coquitlam) is looking for permanent and casual noon hours.

Up to 5 hours a week, (1 hour a day during the school's lunch time)

Monday to Friday while school is in session (off spring break, winter break and summer break)

Rate of pay: \$20.65 an hour plus 16% in lieu of benefits.

Please send your resume to: [humanresourcesupport@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:humanresourcesupport@sd43.bc.ca)

## Online Payments/Student Planners

Parents will receive an online message for payment of school agendas, fieldtrips, and any other school related fees through KEV. For more information about our online payment system see [Online Payments](#) Mrs. Bayly in the office is also happy to assist if you need help setting up an account or making any necessary payments.



Grades 1-5 students will be bringing home a planner. A school planner is part of the school supply list and we provide one in advance as a courtesy, so you have an effortless way to communicate and receive necessary information between home and school. As we purchase and pay for planners in advance, we count on parents to pay for their agenda as soon as possible to assist us in recovering the cost.



## Peanut/Nut Allergy

Some of the students in our school have a severe allergy to peanuts/nuts. Because of this health concern we ask you to avoid sending snacks containing peanuts or nuts. Please remind your child not to share recess snacks with other students so that you know what your child is eating at school. Washing hands after eating (including breakfast), especially if peanut/nut products are eaten, is a healthy routine for all of us to establish and practice. Your cooperation with this situation will help to ensure the safety of all students.

## **Bounce at the Bell**

If you are interested in a possible after school option for your child, please take a moment to look at the Beyond the Bell Flyer from the City of Port Coquitlam that is at the end of this newsletter.

## **Link to the Calendar**

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/blakeburn/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>



Port Coquitlam Recreation in  
Partnership with SD43



## Blakeburn Elementary

The goal of this program is to offer an easily accessible, age-appropriate recreation program where school-aged children are provided with the opportunity to create friendships, have equal participation time while being supervised by a caring recreation leader.

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY#	DAY	DATES	TIME	PRICE
Basketball & Fun	32332	Th	Sep 27-Nov 1, 2018	2:45-4:20pm	\$54
Science Nuts	32369	Tu	Nov 6-Dec 4 2018	2:45-3:45pm	\$40



Register | [www.experienceit.ca](http://www.experienceit.ca)

604.927.PLAY





# Yum!

## Hot Lunch at School

theLunchLady.ca

**YOUR LUNCH LADY DAY(S) ARE:**

M	T	W	T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Starting: September 19

## Lettuce take care of lunch!

Delicious lunches served to your child at school.



### Loved by Kids & Parents

Nutritionally balanced lunches with options kids love.

### Oodles of Choice

From pasta to perogies, salads to smoothies and so much more...

### It's Easy

Order, cancel or change. All Year.

**Sign up today & see your school's menu!**

Orders due 2 days before lunch day.

Your local Lunch Lady is [tricity@theLunchLady.ca](mailto:tricity@theLunchLady.ca)



theLunchLady.ca  
 Healthy Lunches. Made Simple.



Think of me. Take a break from your phone.



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