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November 15, 2018

Dear École Moody Middle School of the Arts Parents and Guardians;

It is an exciting time in School District 43 (Coquitlam) as teachers continue to implement the re-designed curriculum. This work is an important step in achieving the strategic goals and objectives set out by the Board of Education in the *Directions 2020 Strategic Vision*. As part of this vision, and similar to many other school districts around the province, School District 43 (Coquitlam) continues to examine how we assess student learning and communicate that information to parents.

Last year, a new report card template was brought in and received much scrutiny from teachers, students and parents. Through revisions and work with the Ministry of Education, we will be moving forward with reporting through the MYEducation Student Information System. Our reports will once again look a little different and will focus on several familiar elements including letter grades and both teacher and student feedback on both core and curricular competencies. The redesigned BC curriculum, (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>) continues to have an increased emphasis on core and curricular competencies across subject areas. Information about assessment and reporting is available through the BC Ministry of Education at (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/classroom-assessment-and-reporting>).

Some of the key highlights of the revised reporting process include:

- Emphasis on parent, student, teacher conferencing (See info below)
- Focus on assessment of curricular competencies in all subject areas
- Inclusion of student voice, student self-assessment of the core competencies and strategic goal setting
- Teacher feedback on student strengths and stretches as a learner, and on social emotional development
- Continued focus on supporting student learning and growth throughout our learning community

## TERM 1 REPORTING CONFERENCES: November 27 - 29

You are asked to attend your child's Parent/Student/Teacher Reporting Conference on **Tuesday November 27th, Wednesday November 28th, OR Thursday November 29th.**

Three-way conferences have proven to foster a positive and open home-school relationship. As we shift from reporting to communicating student learning, your conference will be an opportunity for your son or daughter to be part of the assessment process and involved in setting their own learning goals. During the conference, your child will have the opportunity to share a portfolio of their work, representing their strengths, improvements they have made and areas that require further attention.

Conferences that are conducted by students help to build self-esteem and confidence while allowing children to take ownership and responsibility for their own learning. By supporting students in the process of creating a meaningful conference, we can teach and model communication and organizational skills that are invaluable at any age, especially during the middle years. This will be a time of self-reflection for the students, while at the same time, foster meaningful communication between your child, his or her teacher and yourselves as parents or guardians.

### **Parents'/Guardians' Role at the Conference**

This is an important area of your child's development and understandably, some students are still at the beginning stages of evaluating themselves. This is a skill requiring practice and refining. At the conference please encourage and ask your child questions about his/her progress and give specific feedback where and when appropriate. We want you to discuss areas of strength and areas of difficulty. When discussing a difficult area, it is best to find out what the problem is and what you, your child, and the teacher can do to work on it. It is important that parents are part of the plan to support their child's continued progress.

The conferences include 15-20 minutes of portfolio review and 10-15 minutes of conferencing with student and teacher. Adherence to your scheduled time will allow teachers the appropriate amount of time to meet with each student and family.

Teachers will be sending home an online registration for the conferences. Please book a conference time with your child's core teacher by **Monday November 26<sup>th</sup>**, with the times that are most convenient for you. Preferred time slots are limited so book early.

**\*\* Early dismissals at 1:30 PM are scheduled on Wednesday November 28th and Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup>.\*\***

Conferences will be scheduled throughout the day on Wednesday, as well as some afternoon and evening times on Tuesday and Thursday. Teachers will be scheduling their own appointments. As these are regular instructional days, students are expected to attend school on each of these days. Learning activities will be ongoing while teachers are conferencing.

Thank you for your engagement in this important work that is intended to enhance student learning. We look forward to seeing you here at the school on **November 27th, 28th or 29<sup>th</sup>** and appreciate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Mark Clay  
Principal

Kathryn Jung  
Vice Principal