**Rochester Update**

Winter Weather Ahead!

Today may well be the “calm before the storm” but most forecasts include cold and possibly snowy weather in the days ahead. While most children anticipate snow with joy in January and February, those who drive, work, shop, commute, or function outside of the house may feel differently. Snow certainly adds challenges for those in school, especially our custodial team who works hard to keep walkways and our far too numerous exterior stairways clear from snow and ice. Rochester is located on a hill and when snow melts and freezes again, we have numerous areas where water flows, pools and freezes. We can go through half a dozen bags of salt per day on this site! My children live with hope for school closure days but know that this circumstance is rare and unlikely in SD 43. The following information is from our District:

*Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.*

*However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure may be required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.*

*The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs before 6:30 a.m. so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.*

*Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio. Pease do not phone the school; we need to keep all phone lines open in the morning.*

*Extreme weather can also affect transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: http://www.translink.ca/*

*We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca*

 *Learn more about SD43’s process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at:* [*http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation*](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation)

The decision to keep children at home on snowy days rests with parents. If you think your commute or route too school is hazardous, make choices that work best for your family. Should your child be absent please do an on-line absence that can be found on our website under quick links. Or you can also call the school at 604-939-4624 and let us know.

John Goheen