

The Roy Stibbs Reporter



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<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/roystibbs/Pages/default.aspx>



MESSAGE FROM MRS. WALTON

Welcome Back, Roy Stibbs Families!

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful winter break and is ready to embrace the new year with energy and enthusiasm. As we begin 2026, we have so much to be grateful for—our school is truly an alive and zestful place, filled with diverse opportunities for our children to learn, grow, and thrive.

We've kicked off the year with our **Gymnastics unit**, which is a fantastic way for students to develop balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength. Gymnastics also helps build confidence and perseverance as children learn new skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Our **Grade 5 Basketball season** will begin shortly. Basketball is not only fun and exciting, but it also promotes teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking. It's a great way for students to stay active while learning the value of collaboration and sportsmanship.

On **January 15th**, we will honour **Black Excellence Day**, introducing and ushering in opportunities to celebrate and learn during **Black History Month in February**. This is an important time to recognize the many positive contributions made by Black Canadians and to deepen our understanding of diversity and inclusion.

A heartfelt thank you to our **PAC**, who continues to amaze us with enriching experiences for our students—such as the **Mobile Pop-Up Planetarium**, which supports our science curriculum, and another round of the **Noon Hour Knitters Club**, fostering meaningful connections between students and elders in our community.

Here's to a year filled with learning, growth, and joy for all!

Sincerely,

Britt Walton

Principal



January

Tuesday, January 13th

PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm in the Library (virtual attendance link will be provided)

Wednesday, January 14th

Hot Lunch Day for those who have pre-ordered

Thursday, January 15th

Black Excellence Day

Wednesday, January 21st &

Thursday, January 22nd

Mobile Pop-Up Planetarium @ Stibbs

Monday, January 26th

Pro-D Day – No School

Wednesday, January 28th

Hot Lunch Day for those who have pre-ordered

Friday, January 30th

Wild Hair Day

LET IT GET WILD! WILD HAIR DAY!

Calling all creative kids—**Wild Hair Day is coming on Friday January 30th!** Students are welcome to come to school with their hair styled in a **fun, funky, and fabulous** way. This is all about having fun and showing school spirit, so get creative and enjoy the day!



COATS

The weather is unpredictable—it can be cold and rainy, or even sunny but still chilly. Please make sure your child/children arrive with proper outerwear—**remember that a hoodie, sweater, sherpa, or zip-up is NOT a coat.**

To help keep everyone warm and dry, please ensure your child wears:

- A warm, waterproof coat
- Waterproof boots
- An umbrella or rain hat if possible

While we will not be calling home for a change of clothes, having a spare set of clothes (including socks) kept at school is always a good idea—just in case of puddles, spills, or unexpected weather.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe, warm, and ready to learn!



IMPORTANT DISTRICT DATES FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

PROGRAMS OF CHOICE 2026

Planning for the upcoming school year begins in early January and throughout the month of February, please be mindful of the following important district dates:

- **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – Late French Immersion Parent Information Evening from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the SD43 Education Learning Center.**

Thursday, January 8, 2026 – Programs of Choice application registration window opens online at 9:00 AM and closes at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, January 14th. Families interested in applying should visit the front page of www.sd43.bc.ca to access the application form. All Programs of Choice online video presentations are located on the District website.

Programs of Choice Include:

- **Kindergarten Programs (Kindergarten 2026):**
 - French Immersion
 - Mandarin Bilingual
 - Montessori
- **Late Programs (Grade 6 Entry):**
 - French Immersion
 - Montessori

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026

Regular **Kindergarten registration** (the English Program @ Roy Stibbs) will be held throughout the district from **Monday, February 2nd – Thursday, February 5th, 2026**. An online registration form can be found for each elementary school on the school's website and on the district's public site for parents to fill out.

CROSS CATCHMENT 2026

Cross catchment is the process used for children who wish to transfer to/attend another school that is not their neighborhood or catchment school or for out of district children wishing to attend a Coquitlam school.

The cross catchment process begins on Friday, February 6 at 9:00 am and ends on Wednesday, February 11 at 4:00 pm. A student's catchment is determined by a family's permanent home address in which a family resides. Please note, sibling status: children, who have a sibling at a school outside their catchment, will be accepted at the sibling's school (**provided the sibling will be in attendance when the incoming student begins their schooling at the out of catchment school**). Parents of children in Grades 1-12 must fill out the **sibling part** of the online cross catchment application process (**February 6 – 11**) confirming sibling status. More information can be found [here](#).

FAMILIES MUST ADHERE TO THE APPLICATION DEADLINES OUTLINED ABOVE. Should you have any questions, please contact our main office.

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY 2026

Attention ALL Grade 4 Parents!

The Student Learning Survey has been administered annually in BC public schools since 2001. It is the only source of province-wide information on in-school process and the learning environment. In addition to providing planning data for districts and schools, the survey has been used by the Representative for Children and Youth to report on the wellbeing of youth in BC, by the Ministry of Health to support healthy school initiatives and by other organizations.

The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete. This is an opportunity for feedback online. **Parents of students in Grade 4** are invited to participate voluntarily. If you are interested, please click [here](#) and under the Parent Section, select> *School District 43 Coquitlam* and select school> *Roy Stibbs Elementary* to provide your feedback. **Please note that the survey is available in approximately 16 languages; please select the language of your choosing.** This survey will be available for your **completion by the end of April 2026.**

Thank you for your time and valuable feedback. Everyone's voice matters, everyone's thoughts and ideas are valued and are an important part to school directions and initiatives to continue to create a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

MDI – Middle Years Development Instrument for Grade 4 Children

SD43 - Coquitlam has once again partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies. Children may skip questions or stop the

survey at any time. Participating or not participating in the survey will not affect your child's grades. It will not affect any services that your family receives from the school or school district.

Grade 4 students are invited to complete the MDI during class-time during the week of January 26th, 2026 and will be administered in classrooms.

For more information and to view the questionnaires:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/>

Parent FAQs:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/>

If you don't want your child to participate, you are reminded to please contact your child's teacher, fill out the withdrawal form at the end of the parent/guardian informed passive consent letter that was emailed to you on Sunday, January 8th, or contact the MDI project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca before Friday, January 16th, 2026.

MORNING DROP OFF REMINDERS

We want to remind families of our official start time for instructional learning, which is **8:50 a.m.** Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of students arriving as early as **8:00 a.m.** Please note that this is **too early for children to be left unsupervised**, as school staff are not on duty until closer to the start of the school day.

Although we have some school staff arriving, they are using that time to prepare for the instructional day as well as, attending organizational and department meetings which benefit our school's daily operations. Therefore, there is **no school supervision prior to instructional time**, and families are responsible for making appropriate childcare arrangements if early arrival is necessary.

Helpful options to consider in such cases are before school childcare programs and/or having an older sibling drop off or family friend to assist with drop off. This is especially important during the winter months when conditions are often cold, dark, and unpleasant.

For the safety and well-being of all students, we ask that families ensure children arrive at school **no earlier than 8:35 a.m. and are supervised during their wait** unless they have a scheduled school activity like choir rehearsal that begins before school. In the **rare event** that families have an exceptional circumstance, you are encouraged consult with the school's main office. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our students safe.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES APPROACHING February 11th & 12th

The purpose of Student-Led Conferences is to develop children's responsibility for and confidence in reporting their progress to you. It also encourages them to develop pride and accountability for their work, effective communication skills, and organizational strategies. Time management, problem solving, and decision making are also important objectives of this process. These skills and strategies are beneficial now and in the future.

To prepare for the conferences, students assemble samples of their work and other examples of what they have been doing in class. Wherever possible, students will be given an opportunity to rehearse for the conference with other students. As part of the rehearsal, students are encouraged to model as an enthusiastic parent and to assist their partner with organization, presentation, and time management components of the conference.

A Student-Led Conference is an opportunity for your child to discuss his/her accomplishments. We ask that you support the concept of your child being responsible for managing this task and reporting to you. Your attendance at this conference will show your support for your child's role in his/her education and children are always excited to share with parents. During student led conferences, teachers will not be discussing individual learning needs should you have such concerns, you are encouraged to connect with your child's teacher by email to arrange a suitable time.

Students will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11th and Thursday, February 12th, to start our schedules promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Be sure to watch for the sign-up sheets that will come home at the end of this month. Thank you.

WINTER WEATHER

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 is 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 to keep 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.

ATTENDANCE / LATE STUDENTS/ PICKING STUDENTS UP EARLY

- If your child will be absent/ late for any reason, please send an absence report (link is on our school website under “Quick Links” [https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/roystibbs/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/roystibbs/Pages/default.aspx#/=)), phone the office at 604-939-2486 or email Mrs. Tipper at roystibbs@sd43.bc.ca before 9:00 a.m. We have an answering machine to pick up the messages if you call before 8:00 a.m. or you can fill out the absence report on the school website.
- If your child is late – please come with them to the office to check in and pick up a Welcome Slip to take to their classroom teacher.
- If you are picking up your child earlier than the regular dismissal time, please come to the office when you arrive to sign your child out of the building, and we will call them down to meet you.
- We need to make sure they have been signed in or out for safety reasons.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We want to make you aware that this year we have a substantial number of students with severe allergies that require the use of EpiPens. To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, no food items will be permitted for birthday celebrations. Should families wish to honour their child’s birthday they can voluntarily choose an alternate item to food like a birthday pencils, small erasers etc. but this is not an expectation and there must be enough for the class. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

SNACKS AND LUNCHES

Please provide a nutritious snack and lunch that is easy for your child to consume. Please do NOT plan to drop off lunches later in the day – this is an unnecessary complexity when we have over 270 students. Of course, there may be a rare occasion when you must do this due to illness or mix up, but please teach your child to check for their own lunch/water bottle/snack etc. before leaving home! All eating will be done inside (before play time). There is no sharing of food or drink with others. **If your child requires any utensils in their lunch, please make sure to pack them in your child’s lunchbox.**



DROP OFF AND PICK UP INFORMATION AND PARKING LOT

Please obey ALL posted traffic signs and only STOP or PARK where you are allowed to (*in front of the school stairs is no stopping zone*). Many traffic violations were ticketed this year already. Please do not park, drive in, drop off, or pick up any students from the parking lot. The staff parking lot only has sufficient space for our staff. If you are parking on the side streets – please use the sidewalk or grass areas to walk and do not walk through the parking lot.

SCENT AWARE

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) buildings are scent-aware facilities. To protect those individuals with fragrance sensitivities and to prevent others from developing such sensitivities, SD43 provides this information and asks for your cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. The district is asking for cooperation towards a



scent-reduced environment. All staff, students and visitors are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives. We recognize the personal right of individuals to use scented products. We believe, however, that this must be balanced with the adverse health effects and extreme discomfort that can be suffered by fragrance-sensitive individuals. This is not an issue about an individual disliking the smell of perfume and not getting what he/she wants in the workplace. This is not a ban on scented products. This is a request to refrain from chemical-based scented products.

HEAD LICE

During these colder months we sometimes see a rise in the number of cases of head lice. Although checking your children's hair should be a regular part of grooming, to help stop the spread of these pests; please check your child carefully for the next couple of months. You will need a bright light to do this. If you find lice and/or nits (lice eggs) on your child's head, treat it as necessary before your child returns to school.

How do I check for lice?

Because lice are tiny, mobile, and hard to spot, it's easier to look for their eggs (nits) rather than the bugs themselves. Live nits can be difficult to spot because they are tan-colored and blend in with the hair. Dead nits are silvery-colored and easier to see. These silvery oval specks are "glued" tightly to individual strands of hair, very close to the scalp. They are very small, about one-third the size of sesame seed. They are mostly found behind their ears and at the back of the neck. Because "nits" can sometimes be mistaken for particles of dandruff, it is sometimes useful to use a magnifying glass when searching. If you do find nits, then lice are sure to be there as well. You can contact the School Public Health Nurse at 604-949-7200 for more information or you can access the Fraser Health Unit website at www.fraserhealth.ca Please remember...ANYONE can get head lice. Their presence is not a sign of poor hygiene, poor housekeeping, or low socioeconomic status. **If you find your child has head lice, please notify the school immediately. Thank you for your assistance. We are relying on all parents to participate in checking their children's hair on a regular basis to help prevent the spread of lice.**

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Personal belongings like sporting equipment, cellphones, Pokémon cards, stuffies and other trinket toys **should remain at home and not be taken to school.** The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Trading of such items or "loaning" of such items has the tendency to result in unnecessary and preventable conflict between students. We appreciate your support in ensuring such items do not come to school. Additionally, sporting equipment can inadvertently cause injury on an already busy playground. Should children ride scooters, skateboards or bicycles to school, they must be wearing a helmet on school property.

MABELS LABELS

Our school is fundraising with Mabel's Labels. If you're unfamiliar with them, they are personalized, durable and waterproof labels. They are dishwasher, laundry and microwave safe. Label shoes, clothing tags, water bottles, anything you want! Don't like stickers? They also offer name stamps, silicone bracelets and medical alert labels. To support this fundraiser, go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search **Roy Stibbs Elementary PAC**. Your order will be shipped free of charge directly to you!



WEST COAST RECESS/LUNCH

At Roy Stibbs we are committed to providing our students with many opportunities to play outside. Your children will be going outside on many days when it is raining; we call this **West Coast Recess/Lunch**. Please ensure that your child has a good raincoat, proper footwear, a hat, gloves, and umbrellas during the coming fall and winter months. If you need any assistance with accessing proper clothing, please contact us at the office.

