



# Birchland Elementary School

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Ms. Elspeth Anjos, *Acting Principal*

Dear Families,

August 30, 2017

I want to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year at Birchland Elementary. I am so joyful for the opportunity to join your community. The excitement is building as we prepare the building for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 5. We are eager to welcome your children whether they are continuing or just beginning their journey at Birchland.

The Birchland school office is open until Thursday, August 31. If you have any neighbours that have joined the community please encourage them to register their children at the school during this week before the Labour Day Weekend.

Our Opening Day is Tuesday September 5 and all students will attend from 8:55 – 9:40am. Returning students will attend in their last year classrooms, Kindergarten students will meet in the library and students new to the school will meet in the multipurpose (#143) room. We welcome families to join us in the gym for coffee and tea while the students are in their classes. The first day is very important for registration confirmation purposes. We need to know the exact numbers of our students in order for the school district to confirm our class organization plans. If your child will be attending Birchland this year but will be absent on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 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.

From Wednesday Sept. 6 to Friday Sept. 8 students in grades 1-5 will attend from 8:55 am – 2:50 pm. Students will return to their last year classrooms for activities designed to welcome students back, review expectations, reflect on priorities and themselves as learners. Students should bring a snack, lunch, a water bottle and be dressed for active learning.

Kindergarten students will be placed in groups for the first two weeks and will gradually increase the amount of time they attend each day. They will begin attending full time on Monday, September 18. There will also be a welcoming conversation scheduled with each family at some point during the first two weeks. During this gradual entry period, please meet in the Library for both drop off and pick up. Your child will need indoor shoes (no laces please and clearly labelled with your child's name on them). School supplies are not needed until teachers request them, usually when full time classes begin.

Depending on when we get the go ahead from the School District, students in grades 1-5 will be moved into their new classrooms at some point on Friday, Sept. 8 or Monday, Sept. 11. Students will not need their new school supplies until they are placed in their class for this year. Pre-ordered school supplies from Staples will be into the student's classes once students are in their new divisions. Our [school supplies lists](#) are located on our website.

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 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 St. 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.

Our staff have amazing plans in place to engage your children in learning this year and we are eager to begin putting these plans into action. We welcome parents to participate in the journey through volunteering in various ways, becoming involved in the PAC, conversations with your child at home about their learning and being interested in their development.

Kind regards,

Ms. Elspeth Anjos  
Acting Principal, Birchland Elementary