



# Birchland Elementary School

1331 Fraser Avenue, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1M5

Phone: 604-941-3428 Fax: 604-937-8004

[www.sd43.bc.ca/school/birchland](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/birchland)

[birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:birchland@sd43.bc.ca)

Ms. Elspeth Anjos, *Acting Principal*

August 30, 2017

## Kindergarten Gradual Entry Information

The first day of school Tuesday, September 5, 2017 is important for registration confirmation. We need to know our exact number of kindergarten students in order for the school district to confirm our class organization plans.

If you and your child are unable to attend on Tuesday, Sept. 5 between 8:55 and 9:40 a.m., 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.

Kindergarten families will be meeting in the library to check in for the attendance, receive the gradual entry schedule, indicate your preference for time of day (early morning, mid morning or afternoon) for your "Welcome Conversation". Most of these conversations will be held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a few on other dates. These conversations are individual parent and child interviews to get to know you and your child. This is an excellent opportunity for you to tell us about the unique strengths and needs of your child.

During the first two weeks of school, Kindergarten students start in small groups and gradually increase the amount of time they are here to allow them to become more comfortable with school routines. Your child has been placed in a group which determines their schedule for the first two weeks. We have attempted to place children from the same daycare into the same grouping so they will be on the same schedule (not necessarily in the same class). We hope to have all our classes organized by the end of the first week so that your child will begin working in the classroom and with the teacher that they will be with for this first exciting year of learning at Birchland. The first full day of classes for the Kindergarten students will be on Monday, September 18.

During the gradual entry period, please meet in the library for both drop off and pick up initially. Teachers will let you know when you can drop off and pick up at the doors outside the classrooms. For these first two weeks your child needs to bring indoor shoes (no laces please and clearly labelled with your child's name on them). School supplies are not needed until the teachers request them, usually when full time classes begin. Our school supplies list is located on our website. As of Monday, September 18 all Kindergarten students will need their indoor shoes, a healthy snack and lunch in a child-sized backpack. Regular school hours are 8:55 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and then learning with them during their years at Birchland.

Warmly,

Ms. Elspeth Anjos

Acting Principal, Birchland Elementary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept 4 School Closed	Sept 5 8:55-9:40 In library to schedule Welcome Conversations	Sept 6 8:55-10:30 group 1  10:30-12 group 2	Sept 7 8:55-10:30 group 2  10:30-12 group 1  12:45-2:50 Kindergarten teachers at Pro-D	Sept 8 8:55-10:30 group 1  10:30-12 group 2
Sept 11 8:55-12 group 2  12:45-2:50 group 1	Sept 12 8:55-2:50 Welcoming Conversations	Sept 13 8:55-12 group 1  12:45-2:50 group 2	Sept 14 8:55-12 all  12:45-2:50 Welcoming Conversations (some)	Sept 15 8:55-12:45 all  12:45-2:50 Welcome Conversations (some)