



Birchland Elementary School

1331 Fraser Avenue, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1M5

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www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/birchland

birchland@sd43.bc.ca

Ms. Elspeth Anjos, *Principal*

September 3, 2021

Dear Birchland Kindergarten Families,

We are very excited to be welcoming your child to Birchland Elementary School, and we are pretty sure that many of your children are excited to be starting Kindergarten too. Our hope is the following will provide you with clear information about your child's start at school in September.

First Day of School

The first day of school for 2021-2022 is important but it is for registration confirmation purposes only. 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, September 7**, please let us know by completing an [online absence report](#), by emailing the school at Birchland@sd43.bc.ca, or by phoning the school at 604-941-3428, so that we can ensure your child's space at Birchland.

On **Tuesday, September 7th**, between **8:57-9:40 am** your family will meet **outside at the front doors of the school** to indicate a day and time for your "Welcome Conversation" with your child's teacher. The first day is a drop-in format any time between 8:57 and 9:40, we hope to avoid line-ups, but please use the ample space to spread out, once you sign up for a time you are free to leave. You will not know your child's teacher on the first day, that will be determined during the first week. The Welcoming Conversations will be individual parent and child interviews to get to know you and your child. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to tell us about the unique strengths and needs of your child, which helps us to determine how to support your child as they adjust to Kindergarten.

Your child has been placed temporarily in Group 1 or 2. During the first two weeks of school in September, 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. Kindergarten students begin by attending 75 minutes on Wednesday, September 8th. On Thursday, September 9th the Kindergartens will be attending for 90 minutes. The Kindergarten students will expand their time to either mornings or afternoons during the gradual entry period. Their first full day of classes will be on Monday, September 20. See the schedule below.

During the gradual entry period (starting Wed. Sept. 8), please wait outside the exterior Kindergarten rooms on the west side of the school building (signs will help direct you) for both drop off and pick up. During gradual entry 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 teachers request them, usually when full time classes begin. This year we are charging a fee of \$40 for each kindergarten student to cover the cost of all supplies. As of Monday, September 20 all Kindergarten students will need their indoor shoes, a healthy snack and lunch in a child-sized backpack. Regular school hours are 8:57 am – 2:45 pm.

Please arrange with care givers, if appropriate, for your child's drop off and pick up during the gradual entry period.

Parking @ Birchland

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 Street 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. Meridian Village parking stalls are private property and should not be used by parents.

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

Warmly,

Ms. Anjos

Elsbeth Anjos
Principal, Birchland Elementary

Kindergarten Gradual Entry Plan September 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept 6 School Closed	Sept 7 8:57 – 9:40 Window of time to drop by, ask questions, gather information and sign up for Welcoming Conversation time	Sept 8 first day for kindergarteners to attend 11:22 – 12:37 Group 1 1:30 – 2:45 Group 2	Sept 9 8:57 – 10:12 Group 2 11:22 – 12:37 Group 1 12:45 – 2:45 Kindergarten teachers at pro-d	Sept 10 8:57 – 2:45 Welcoming Conversations *Students do not attend other than their scheduled meeting
Sept 13 8:57 – 10:27 Group 1 11:12 – 12:42 Group 2	Sept 14 8:57 – 11:22 Group 2 1:11 – 2:45 Group 1	Sept 15 8:57 – 11:22 Group 1 1:11 – 2:45 Group 2	Sept 16 8:57 – 12:37 all students	Sept 17 8:57 – 1:11 all students
Sept 20 8:55 – 2:50 all students				