



Citadel Update: Winter Weather Ahead!

The following information is intended to help families know what to expect in the event of snowfall. Included is District 43 and Citadel specific information. Please read and discuss with your Citadel Middle School child.

Schools do not routinely close 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 varied elevation and climatic conditions within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure, affected schools will be identified.

The decision to close schools 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 determined 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.

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/>

While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

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.aspx>

At Citadel

Kids and Snow

I used to live in this neighbourhood years ago and know that there are many hills in area parks that are ideal for sliding. Our school grounds have some hills, but none are suitable for safe sliding with rocks, concrete retaining walls, and traffic areas at the bottom. As well, with COVID protocols, there can be no mixing of learning cohorts so even if we had a safe sliding area, we can't gather students.

If or when snow comes, we will encourage class teachers to get kids outside to enjoy snow in safe and supervised ways. Please keep sliding equipment at home and use after hours. Like many snow activities kids enjoy, "what's good for five people may not be suitable for 440" and we must manage the safety for all.

As well, as we all work to re-root our school in a more caring and kind school culture, any activity that has the potential to cause harm and is not in keeping with these core values cannot be permitted. **At no time is snowballing permitted at school. Despite what your child may tell you or may have heard there is no snowball throwing area or zone.**

Cars and Snow

In earlier updates and newsletters, we indicated that snow and ice may cause us to close the main entry to cars. Given the volume of cars, the school driveway is challenging on clear days. Snow, ice, and summer tires may cause real problems. If you drive be prepared to find alternate drop off and pick up areas. If you can adjust your work arrival, consider dropping off later and picking up earlier to avoid the congestion and snow related traffic issues.