



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 6A7 • Phone (604) 939 9201 • Fax (604) 939 7828

September 19, 2014

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

In anticipation of full ratification of the agreement between the BCTF and the provincial government, schools are scheduled to open for students on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please visit your school website regarding the detailed schedule. We thank you for your patience as we work to get the system ready to welcome your children back to school.

#### **Opening day**

**Monday will be a welcome and registration day** following our normal opening day routines. This shortened first day allows us to register and greet students, establish enrolment and classes, and communicate our plans and expectations. **Our first full day of instruction is on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### **StrongStart**

**StrongStart Programs will open on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.** These programs provide an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to participate with their young children (aged birth to five) in school-based early learning activities- including stories, music and art. This early learning drop-in program helps prepare children for success in Kindergarten.

#### **Gradual Entry for Kindergarten**

Gradual entry and welcoming conversations for Kindergarten students will occur next week and includes a phasing in of small groups and shortened attendance times. This gentle introduction to Kindergarten builds a foundation for success in school. The gradual start allows children to adjust to a new school environment and allows time for the family to meet with teachers to develop relationships. Gradual entry provides the ability to establish school routines in smaller groupings resulting in a settled and productive environment.

#### **Provincial exams-instructional time**

There will be no additional days added to this year's school calendar as indicated by the Ministry of Education. The secondary school semesters will be adjusted to balance the number of days in each semester. Provincial exams for semester one will be held at the beginning of February (rather than in January) and semester two exams at the end of June.

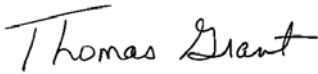
.../2

## **Reporting**

The usual report cards and student marks will be provided on a modified timeline specific to each school. In the meantime, some previously scheduled events including orientation activities may be rescheduled. Schools will be communicating changes in these dates by the end of September.

We know that there are many questions from parents. We will make every effort to keep you informed and will deal with these questions at the school and district level as we gather more information.

Sincerely,



Tom Grant, Superintendent of Schools  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (Coquitlam)**

cc: Board of Education  
Coquitlam District Parent Advisory Council  
Coquitlam Teachers' Association  
CUPE Local 561