

85 Merivale Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 0G2  
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## École Qayqayt Elementary School Newsletter September/October Edition 2017



### Principal's Message:

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to an exciting year at Qayqayt. We are looking forward to having all of you and your children take this journey with us.

The students have settled into their new classrooms with their new teachers and are already underway learning and adjusting to routines and general school events. The staff have been very busy preparing for another successful and enjoyable year. There have been changes since the end of the last school year and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and their families to Qayqayt. We were sad to see the following staff members leave us since the end of June: Mrs. Tucsook, Ms. VanDijk, Ms. Zivarts, Mrs. Richter, Mrs. Malone and Ms. Morison, who retired. We wish them all the best and hope they come back to say hello. Mr. Manville, has become the principal of Queen Elizabeth Elementary. We were sad to see him go, but are happy and excited for him in his new role. We hope he comes back to visit us! Mrs. Maglio, will be working at the school district level with all of our schools as a Curriculum Facilitator for the next two years, so she has taken a leave from our school. We hope to see her around our school and in different classrooms throughout the next two years. We would like to welcome, Mr. DelPino, Mrs. Haffner, Mrs. Wiens, Ms. Cathy, Mrs. BinPal, Ms. Kaila, Ms. Cesil, Ms. Sucu, Mrs. Gill, Ms. C and Ms. Alay. Please make them all feel welcome! We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Moorcroft. She comes to us from McBride and we are happy to have her as part of our family. She will do her best to get to know everyone and is very excited to be at Qayqayt.

We are continuing to try and go paperless. After this newsletter, newsletters and notices from the school will be e-mailed to families (who have submitted their e-mail address to the office) and posted on our website on a regular basis. So please check your e-mail regularly for notices and newsletters and also check our website or PAC website with information as we get it!

It is an honour to be the principal of École Qayqayt Elementary School and a member of this community. This is a community with heart and open arms and I am proud to call this place home.

At Qayqayt we have an excellent and competent staff whose focus is to help nurture the heart first and foremost. When we tend to the emotional, social and physical needs of our students, their minds are ready to learn academically. The staff cares for, nurtures, loves, guides, nurses, disciplines, plays, feels, listens, discusses and teaches the students.

We hope to see you at our BBQ/Meet The Teacher Night on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. Every day is a new day and every day we continue to learn from each other. Thank you for placing your children in our care.

Karen Catherwood  
Principal

“Children won't care how much you know, unless they know how much you care.”

**Office, Administration, Custodial:**

- Secretary: Mrs. Rose-Madill
- Secretary: Mrs. Macera
- Principal: Ms. Catherwood
- Vice Principal: Mrs. Moorcroft
- Custodians: Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Lesueur

**Teachers:**

- Mr. Shaw
- Mrs. Bothwell
- Mrs. Penner
- Mr. Speckman
- Mr. Del Pino
- Mrs. Aiumu
- Mrs. Haffner/Mrs. Wiens
- Ms. Cathy
- Mrs. BinPal
- Mrs. McGowan
- Mrs. Baugh/ Mrs. Moorcroft
- Mrs. Yasui-Chan
- Mrs. Yee/ Mrs. Grewal
- Ms. Rai
- Ms. Sarunic/Ms. Kaila
- Mrs. Bajic
- Mrs. Camillo
- Ms. Cesil
- EFI Mme. Senyk
- EFI Mme. Viktoriya
- EFI Mme. Danielle
- EFI Mme. Sewrutton
- EFI Mme. Pistor
- EFI Mme. Roy

**Non-enrolling staff teachers:**

- Resource Teacher: Ms. Devi
- Resource Teacher: Ms. Sucu
- Resource Teacher-EFI/ELL- Mrs. Gill
- Resource Teacher/ELL- Mrs. Bannister
- Resource Teacher/ELL- Mr. Bronson (one day/week)
- Music: Mrs. Leigh
- Librarian- Mrs. Lee
- Counsellor: Ms. Lau
- Childcare Worker: Caitlan Petruk
- First Nations Cultural Worker: Ms. Rhonda Parks
- Hot Lunch Program- Chrissy Wong
- Community School Coordinator- Mr. Rick Bloudell

**EAs:**

- Ms. Sikorra
- Mrs. Turcotte
- Mrs. Niktaha
- Ms. Poole
- Mrs. Gregorian
- Ms. Engleson
- Mrs. Woo
- Mrs. Lalande
- Ms. Goddard
- Ms. Heer
- Mme. Francoise
- Ms. Pollack
- Ms. Alay
- Ms. Coleman/ Ms. Byrne
- Ms. Kaila- Noon Hour supervisor
- Ms. Hall- Noon Hour supervisor
- Mr. Shannon- Crossing Guard/Noon Hour Supervisor

**School Routines**

The first bell in the morning is at 8:50 am. At that time students gather in their designated spots. All students are to **WALK** into the school **RESPECTFULLY, SLOWLY AND QUIETLY**. If it is really busy take the time to wait patiently. Please arrange meeting places with your children which are outside the school. **For safety reasons, we respectfully request that you wait for your children outside** as there is not enough room in the office foyer (entrance) and the hallways to accommodate parents! Many thanks.... Merci!

In the morning when you are dropping your child/children off at the classroom it is a very busy time and it may often seem a good time to touch base with the classroom teacher regarding concerns or issues. We are respectfully asking, that if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss with your child's classroom teacher, that you make an appointment instead of discussing it at the door as the children enter the classroom, so that the classroom teacher can give you their full attention.

## Lunch and Bell Schedule 2017/18

**Bells** 

8:50 AM	Arrival Bell
8:55 AM	Instruction
10:40 AM	Recess
10:55 AM	Instruction
12:15 AM	Lunch-play begins
12:40 PM	Lunch- eating portion begins
1:00 PM	Instruction
2:48 PM	Dismissal

### **Supervision Before and After School**

There is limited general supervision at the front of the school from **8:30 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. and no supervision on the grounds after 2:48 p.m.** Students are expected to arrive at school between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m.

### **After School Pick Up:**

We would appreciate it, if all parents/caregivers could ensure their child is picked up **promptly** at 2:48 p.m. every day. It becomes difficult when children are left waiting on the playground or at the office area. Setting up a regular routine at the end of the school day will help alleviate worry and upset for the child. We realize there will be those rare occasions when an unexpected emergency arises. In these situations please contact the school office immediately so arrangements can be made. **Please do not park in the staff parking lot in the morning when you are dropping off your child or at the end of the day when you are picking up your child! It is for staff only!**

### **Lates and Absences:**

Student absences and/or late arrivals should be phoned in daily to 604-517-6050. Please keep the office informed of your address and telephone number changes so that you can be reached promptly in the event of an emergency. We are committed to working cooperatively with students and parents to ensure the students punctually attend each and every day. There is a significant correlation between good attendance and academic success. If we do not hear from you, we call home and emergency contacts if necessary. This is a timely process.

### **SLOW DOWN: SCHOOL ZONE:**

Adults are asked to use the front area of the school on **Agnes Street for dropping off and picking up only** when driving children to and from school. Also, the area at **the main entrance of the school off of Merivale Street is not for drop off and pick up.** This area is for deliveries and handicap drop-off and pick-up directly in front of the school. **Merivale is a one way street** from Cunningham north. **You can come off of Royal onto Merivale** and head south down the street. There is parking on the west side and east side of Merivale. It is extremely important that students do not exit the car from the busy side of the street when getting out of the vehicle. Please follow safety rules and cross streets at intersections. It is important that we reinforce traffic safety for our children. **Jaywalking and U-turns are dangerous** and can result in accidents or fines.

**Please do not leave your car or children unattended in these areas.** If you have to come into the school, please park in the two hour parking zones around the school. **Please avoid the staff parking lot at the top of Merivale Street.** Our parking is for **Staff Only** and we ask that you **do not use these areas for drop-off, pick-up or parking.** It is important that we are extra vigilant around school zones.

Reminder: When using **Royal Avenue, please use 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Royal to cross this very busy street.** Our crossing guard, Harold Shannon, is stationed at this Pedestrian Controlled Cross Walk and is the safest place to cross at. **Please use this crosswalk instead of Jaywalking across the street to get to the school.**

**Reminder:** There is an apartment building on the corner of Agnes and Merivale....250 Agnes that has a driveway. There are a number of our families that in dropping off or picking up their child they block the driveway or go in the driveway and park and walk across the street to the school. **Please do not block the driveway or park in the apartment parking lot.** They are our neighbours and we need to respect the bylaws and their property. **The city and police have been made aware of this situation and will be enforcing this.**

## Visiting the School :

According to the School District's Safe School Access Policy ALL VISITORS on the school site MUST wear identification so that they are identifiable to students, staff, and parents, as permissible visitors on school business. **If you are volunteering or visiting in a classroom, attending a Field Trip, or waiting outside at lunch time watching your child play before they come into the school after lunch, you must first sign-in at the office.** You will be given a VISITOR tag to wear. Please return to the office to sign out when you are finished. In any emergency situation, we must be able to account for the whereabouts of all students, staff and visitors, on-site or off-site.

## Classroom Organizations



We do our very best to ensure children are well placed in classrooms. Many factors contribute to the decisions by professional and caring staff. Once classes are set, moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities throughout. Movement impacts more than one child. Help your child understand that we cannot always place a student with all their preferred friends. Reinforce that there is time throughout the day and school year to play and connect with friends at various age levels. Thank you for your support.

At times it is necessary to organize the school with classes that combine two grades. Split classrooms are common in schools. It is important to note that **students in split classrooms experience similar curriculum learning outcomes as those placed in one grade group.** In all classrooms, teachers plan to meet the needs of students and grade level requirements. Like their colleagues, split classroom teachers work to accommodate individual student needs. Our goal is to encourage all students to view themselves as one learning community, crossing the boundaries from one grade to another. Working with others of varying ages in and out of the classroom helps children learn early in life, that people of all ages and skill levels can work with and learn from each other.

## Medical Information:

If your child has allergies or medical issues we need to be aware of, please let the office know right away. We need to make sure we have the appropriate information on file in case of emergency. Please note that students should not be in possession of any medication when at school. Medication is to be stored at the office. The staff may not administer medication to students unless the required form is completed and signed by the the parent and physician.



## Nut Allergies:

Please be advised that we have many students and a staff member who have an allergy to nuts. Please check the ingredients of all foods your children bring to school. Peanut butter is a common source of allergic reactions. Due to the seriousness of this particular allergy we are asking you not to send your child to school with any nuts or any foods that will have nuts as an ingredient.

It is difficult at the best of times to get children to eat healthy snacks, however, we hope you will appreciate the seriousness of this condition and that you will assist us at the school in our efforts to create as safe an environment as possible. With your cooperation we can minimize the risk of an allergic reaction.

## Dressing for Wet/Cold Weather

With wet and colder weather slowly creeping upon us, we would like to remind families that whenever possible students will go outside for recess and lunch. Please send your children with weather appropriate clothing and footwear for rain and colder weather— raincoats, warm coats and boots.

## Policy: Animals:



Our School District passed a policy to ensure the safety of our students. Animals are not allowed on school property without the prior approval of the Superintendent or his designate. Of course, guide dogs and police dogs are allowed under the control of their owners. Also, with prior approval, animals brought for specific purposes, such as classroom demonstrations or units of study in the class, may be brought to school. Some teachers may choose to keep small animals in a cage or aquarium for instructional purposes, and will have received prior approval. We know that you share with us the desire to keep

children safe on school grounds and in the buildings. We appreciate, therefore, if you do not bring dogs or other animals onto school grounds during the school day or when you drop off or pick up children, as incidents have occurred in these situations. Also, some children are allergic or fearful of these animals. Please assist us in keeping all animals off the school grounds.

## Electronics:

Just a reminder, we are asking that all electronic devices (ie. cell phones, digital cameras, iPods, etc.) remain at home for a variety of reasons. If students bring these items to school, they must remain in their backpacks for the entire school day, including recess and lunch. If used during school hours, devices will be taken away and stored in a safe place until the end of the day. If you need to contact your child during school hours please phone the office and we will make sure they receive your message or we will call them to the office so that you can talk to them. We cannot be responsible for items brought to school that are damaged, lost or misplaced.

**Lunch Program:** Our Lunch Program has started for two weeks in September and a notice went home to all students in the school for the October Lunch Program to let you know the cost and return date of envelope and money. Just a reminder that **we can only take 75 students for the lunch program** so it is important to remember to return your lunch money in an envelope with a parent signature as soon as possible after the notice is sent home.

## Breakfast Club:



Our Breakfast Club started on Monday and is a great way to start your morning. Our CCW, Caitlan Petruk, will organize and serve our food. This is provided to students who have not eaten breakfast on a school day or are still hungry before school starts. The program is for students only from 8:30-8:45 a.m. A donation of .50 cents at the door would be appreciated. The students will enter the main entrance to the school starting at 8:30 a.m.

## **All Newcomer Immigrant and Refugee Families:**

What is the role of the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)?

Settlement Workers are stationed in schools to provide information and services for newcomer families and youth. SWIS Workers are employed by MOSAIC. We serve students of new Westminster School District (SD 40) and their families with Permanent Resident status. We assist newcomer students and their families to adapt to life in Canada through 1-on-1 consultations, workshops for children, parents, grandparents, field trips, volunteering opportunities for adults and youth, and leadership training for youth.

SERVICE Languages: English, Chinese, Farsi, Dari, Korean, Tagalog, Turkish and more.

Contact: Alin Arakelian (SWIS Worker) [arakelian@mosaicbc.ca](mailto:arakelian@mosaicbc.ca) 778-773-2328



### **Health:**

As students return to school it is important that they learn about precautions that can help safeguard everyone's health. We ask for support from parents in teaching students these concepts:

- Stay home when you're sick or have influenza symptoms.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw the tissue away immediately.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food and avoid smoking, which may increase the risk of serious consequences if you do contract the flu.

## **A Message from the School Nurse**

### **Grab, Go and Grow: Healthy School Snacks**

With all the chores of the day, who has time to organize nutritious snacks? Today's parents are time-stressed and in many cases forced to be multi-taskers, but savvy parents also know that putting together healthy snacks is not rocket science. In fact, healthy snacks can be quick and easy!

### **Tips for being a super healthy snack shopper**

- Buy an assortment of fruits and vegetables, cut them up and stow them away
- Choose unsweetened applesauce or fruit cups packed in unsweetened fruit juice
- Look for whole grain crackers or bagels to combine with nut butter or cheese
- Select low fat cheese sticks or yogurt to accompany fruit
- Choose pre-washed baby carrots or snap peas, add a yogurt dip
- Accompany whole wheat pita with ready to serve hummus
- Choose granola bars with dried fruits and nuts
- Buy cereals low in sugar to snack on
- Pick up some dried fruit, mini pretzels, nuts, seeds to add to unsweetened cereal to make your own trail mix
- Stock up on yogurt and granola to add to fruit for a yummy parfait

## Important Dates



- **September 22nd**- Professional Development Day (no school)
- **September 28th**- Terry Fox Run/ **Loonie/Toonie for Terry donation**- Assembly approx. 9:30 a.m.- run around school to follow-
- **September 28th**- BBQ @ 5:30p.m (RSVP is to be sent in by Sept 21st) Meet the Teacher@ 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **September 29th**- Orange T-Shirt Day- Reconciliation/Remembering students of Residential Schools
- **October 2nd- November 9th**- FSA's for Grade 4's only! Information will be sent home
- **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Our school will be **hosting the Board of Education meeting** in our school library starting at 7:30 p.m.- Please attend. We will have a short presentation for the board before their Education meeting
- **Individual Photos were to take place Oct 4<sup>th</sup>...this date has been cancelled and we will let you know the new date as soon as possible!**
- **October 6th**- Curriculum Implementation Day (no school)
- **October 9th**- Thanksgiving (no school)
- **October 12th**- PAC meeting at Qayqayt in Library @ 7:00 p.m.
- **October 18<sup>th</sup>**- Parent's Night Workshop @ Qayqayt- 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Gym)
- **October 20th**- Provincial Professional Development Day (no school)
- **October 27th**- Pumpkin Run/Black and Orange Day
- **October 30th**- PAC Hot Lunch (order forms on line or in the office)
- **November 1st**- PAC meeting at Qayqayt in Library @ 7:00 p.m.
- **November 9th** - Bonjour Bonne Nuit (K EFI)
- Remembrance Day Assembly- TBD

