

September 2nd, 2022

Welcome Back Families!

I hope that you were all able to find some moments of joy over the Summer Break and are ready to return to the routines of school again. I am very happy to be back at 12th Avenue Elementary School, although in a new role, as there are many familiar and friendly faces here at the school and I look forward to meeting all staff, students and families.

As you may be aware, Ms. Eva Young has moved to a new school in the District and my name is Mrs. Lisa Pitt and I am the new principal at 12th Avenue. I was previously principal at Morley Elementary School. Ms. Young and I have had a successful transition of leadership and she has left me many notes, files and resources and is always a phone call away. Mrs. Vivian Crawford, the secretary, is also extremely knowledgeable and supportive.

The intent of this letter is to prepare families for the first few days of school. It is my understanding that the June newsletter contained important information about start-up, but I will reiterate some key points in this newsletter.

In terms of our communicable disease plan, the **Ministry of Education and Childcare** (please note the expansion of this Ministry this Summer) and the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) have created their Guidelines for K-12 Settings. Similar to last year, the focus is on preventing the spread of the disease.

Vaccinations:

The first line of defense in preventing severe illness from COVID-19 continues to be getting vaccinated. For more information on vaccinations please go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/> or <https://immunizebc.ca/covid-19>.

Health Awareness and What to Do if Sick:

In the school setting, we are creating conditions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and/or illness in our school. This begins with staff, families and students **not coming to school if feeling unwell**. As a parent of two children (25 & 16 yrs. old) I know the difficulty and scramble of trying to find childcare when your child awakens ill. Please trust this information from your child and see if symptoms progress at home (not at school) as often we are most contagious in these beginning stages of illness. Families need to have a back-up plan to ensure someone can care for the student if they are ill and/or if they become ill at school, pick them up immediately, and stay with the student for the necessary recovery days.

If a staff member or student does a rapid antigen test and is positive, the guidelines on how long one must self-isolate depends on age and vaccination status. Please use this BCCDC link <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms> to get the information.

If a student is unwell (and is not positive for COVID-19) and cannot participate in regular school activities and outdoor play, then they should remain home until well enough to participate in all activities.

Respiratory Etiquette:

Parents and staff can teach and reinforce good respiratory etiquette practices among students, including:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils.

Handwashing:

Rigorous handwashing with plain soap water (for a minimum of 20 seconds) is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (or if unavailable hand sanitizer). Every day there will be regular opportunities for staff and students to practice hand hygiene. Students will be expected to handwash before and after all activities and as they transition into other rooms (ie. music or library).

Food Sharing:

Students are not allowed to share food with other students.

Water Bottles:

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. They can refill their water bottles in the classroom if needed.

Masks:

The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is required by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a nonmedical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. The choice of staff and students to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures should and will be respected.

Ventilation and Air Exchange:

Classrooms/offices continue to have air purifiers in each space and, weather permitting, windows and doors can be kept open for air circulation.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

The custodial team at 12th Avenue will continue to clean classrooms daily (within a 24-hour period).

Gatherings and Events:

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, can occur in line with the BCCDC guidelines.

Visitor and Community Access to the School Building:

12th Avenue will continue to keep entrances to the school locked. Parents and visitors are asked to make an appointment to come into the school building to meet with staff. All visitors to the school must do a health check before coming to the school (if unwell cancel appointment) and sign-in at the office. Please communicate with your child's teacher by telephone or email to set up any appointments to discuss your child's needs/progress.

If you are picking up your child from school, it is important to call ahead and/or share this information with the classroom teacher and we will do our best to have your child ready to be dismissed at the front door of the school.

If you have any further questions, please contact myself through email or phone at lisa.pitt@burnabyschools.ca or 604 296 9035 ext. 655001. I look forward to meeting families.

Here is some important information about 12th Avenue School start-up.

First Day of School

(8:55 bell) 9:00 am – 10:00 am Tuesday, September 6th

Students from **Grades 1 -7** will report to their last year's classroom (outside door) from **9:00 am-10:00 am**.

New students will report to the Library (9:00am – 10:00am).

Kindergarten students do not attend this first week. Families will be called to attend a "Welcome to Our School" event on **Friday, September 9th**. Please expect this phone call on Tuesday, September 6th (in the afternoon).

Grade 1-7 Students Full Days begin:

Wednesday, September 7th, Thursday, September 8th and Friday, September 9th – Grades 1-7 students come to school from 8:55 am -3:00 pm.

All students will remain in their last year's classroom until we get the approval from the School District to move into our new school organization. Once we get the approval, then students will move into their new homeroom classrooms for the year.

Please be aware that class placement is a careful and thoughtful process and a number of factors are taken into account to ensure we are following class size and composition rules and ensuring balanced classrooms in terms of academic, social-emotional, leadership, language and gender needs/numbers.

This week is very important to get accurate numbers of our school population as **we are very full**. If you will be absent, or if you are moving, please contact Mrs. Vivian Crawford at 604 296 9035 and give her information about your student and length of absence. Messages can be left on our telephone system when the school office is closed and Mrs. Crawford or Ms. Woo listens to them first thing the next day. If we do not hear from you, or cannot contact you, your student may be removed from our organization.

New Kindergarten Students

Welcome to Our School Orientation: Friday, September 9th, 2022.

First Session is 9:30-10:30; Second Session is 11:00-12:00. Kindergarten staff will be inviting new Kindergarten families to the Welcome to Our School Orientation. **Please come prepared to be outside for the orientation.**

All Kindergarten students in the School District participate in a gradual entry process. This means that they will attend school in shorter increments, with smaller groups of students, gradually increasing length of time and student groups, until their first full-day of school which begins on **Monday, September 19th, 2022**. These gradual entry schedules will be given to families at the Welcome to Our School orientation and it is a very important process in ensuring students feel safe and welcomed to our school community.

School Supplies

A reminder to our families that we request \$25 per student to purchase school supplies. As a school, we can get supplies at discounted rates. Some classrooms, however, may ask families to purchase some additional supplies (like a binder) but please wait until your child is assigned to their homeroom for that information. We would greatly appreciate all families using [School Cash Online](#) for any money collection.

Here is the School Bell Schedule for the year:

- 8:55 - students line up outside classrooms
- 9:00 - instruction begins
- 11:32 - dismissal for lunch
- 11:47 - students in classroom should go outside
- 12:20 - students line up outside classroom
- 12:25 - instruction begins
- 1:45 - recess
- 2:00 - end of recess
- 3:00 - dismissal

We are very excited to greet all of our community in the coming few weeks. A school start up can be very busy with District communications and school events. If you have any questions, please call the office between 8:30-3:00 pm to talk directly with a staff member.

Sincerely,



L. Pitt
Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION *Please have this translated.*

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 معلومات مهمة. الرجاء ترجمتها. | Información importante. Por favor, que esto se traduzca.
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