

September 13, 2021

Blackburn Elementary School

www.bbe.sd57.bc.ca

Principal: Kristy Greenfield



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Blackburn! The school has been quiet over the summer and it is always great to get back to the buzz of students and staff. I am so pleased to be joining the Blackburn community and look forward to meeting all of the students, families, and community members!

Along with other changes, we have new staff members joining us this year. Ms. J. Bagley is our Resource Teacher, Mr. M. Kennedy is our music teacher, and Ms. J. Lindberg will be joining the ELL team, as well as being the Friday teacher in Division 11, and the Tuesday/Thursday teacher in Division 9 until Christmas.

Blackburn will be hosting an open house for families sometime in the near future, as soon as the Community Use of Schools agreement can be updated with the new Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. With the new staff members joining the school this year, the open house is a great opportunity to meet all staff, including your child's teacher. Stay tuned for more information.

Cross country running will also be starting up soon so remind your son or daughter to pay attention to announcements so they can join.

The start of school means a change in routine for many students. Early mornings can be a difficult change, but September is a crucial month for good habits to be created. Please work with your child to ensure they arrive on time. In addition, there may be tasks that need to be completed at home as the month progresses and it is important that you communicate with your child and teacher to ensure "at home" tasks are getting done. Establishing good work habits now will create a foundation for the rest of year.

Finally, I would like to end by welcoming our Kindergarteners and new students to the school. It's wonderful to have so many new faces, and the staff is looking forward to supporting them as their education journey at Blackburn begins.

Sincerely,

Mrs. K. Greenfield
Principal

Important Dates

Sept 24 –Pro D Day (no school)
Indigenous Day of Learning for all Staff

****Sept 23 – Terry Fox Run**

Sept 26-29 Orange Shirt Week

Sept 28 - School Photo Day

Sept. 27-29 – ADST Trades Trailer for grade 7's

Sept 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day – (no school)

Oct. 5 – World Teachers Day

Oct 11 – Thanksgiving (no school)

Oct 22 – Pro D Day (no school)

Oct. 26 – Photo Retakes

Oct. 29 – Pumpkin Alley

****Nov. TBD – Early Dismissal**

****Nov. 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly – Details to follow**

Nov 11 – Remembrance Day (no school)

Nov 26 – Pro D Day (no school)

Dec 3 - Primary Report Writing Day

**** Dec. – TBD - Christmas Concert**

Dec. 16 – desk clean out/lost & found walk through

Dec 20 – Jan 4 – Winter Break (no school)

Jan. 3. – New Year's Day (no school)

Jan 31 – Pro D Day (no school)

Blackburn is a PEANUT AWARE school



Please be sure that you do NOT send any Peanut products, or Tree nut products (almonds, cashews, pecans, etc.), as we have students and staff with airborne, anaphalactic allergies, which are life threatening. Seeds, such as sesame, sunflower, and pumpkin, are permitted, at this time. We need to work together to keep our school community safe!

If you are looking for *healthy, nut free* snacks and lunch ideas please see the following resources, provided by a Blackburn Parent:

Lunches to Go (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
<https://vch.eduhealth.ca/PDFs/BB/BB.203.L86.pdf>

Peanut & Nut Aware Lunches & Snacks (Northern Health Authority)
https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern_health/files/health-information/health-topics/healthy-eating-schools/documents/peanut-and-nut-aware-lunches-and-snacks.pdf

Snack Master (Northern Health Authority) *note that this handout contains peanut butter as a suggested protein choice. https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern_health/files/health-information/health-topics/nutrition-children-youth/documents/snackmaster.pdf **please do not send peanut butter products.

Blackburn Regular Bell Schedule (Communicable Disease Prevention Plan) 2021.2022

	Div. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11	Div. 2, 4, 6, 8,10
Supervision	7:55 - 8:10	8:00 - 8:15
Classes Begin	8:15	8:20
Recess	10:00 - 10:15	10:05 - 10:20
Lunch	Inside: 11:45 - 12:05	Outside: 11:45 - 12:05
Lunch	Outside: 12:10 - 12:30	Inside: 12:10 - 12:30
Classes Resume	12:30	12:30
Dismissal	2:07 (to outside)	2:12
Supervision	2:07-2:22	2:12-2:27

Doorways/Hallways during bell transitions – in order to reduce congestion in our doorways and hallways when entering and exiting at the bells, students will travel according to the map provided to staff, at their assigned times. ** In the beginning we will use cones to mark line-ups and start times, by division.

Divided hallways throughout the day - one-way traffic, students are expected to travel on the right-hand side of the hallway

Once doorways/hallways are clear: the next group can enter/exit i.e. if Group A clears the hallway/doorway in three minutes then Group B can enter/exit without waiting until the “scheduled time”. Similarly, if the doorway/hallway **is not** clear staff will not bring in the next group. The idea here is not to prevent classes from interacting but to prevent crowding in the hallways/doorways. If we have smooth transitions in short amounts of time, then we will have less impact on instructional time.

Supervision

Children are not to be dropped off before outside supervision begins – school doors are kept locked and there are no adults easily available if there is an emergency. Please make alternate childcare arrangements prior to morning supervision beginning. Similarly, it is expected that students leave the school grounds promptly after dismissal; supervisors are there to encourage students to head home. Students who are **dismissed to outside at 2:07** will be supervised until the regular dismissal bell at **2:12**. Students who are **directly supervised by a parent or guardian, or by Big Brothers Big Sisters**, may stay and play. Unsupervised students may return to play after 2:27.

Please remind your children that they are NOT to be on school grounds during **operational** hours on days they are not in attendance, this includes appointments, illness or suspension. The grounds are only open to staff and students who are scheduled to be at school.

Operational Hours: 7:55 AM up to 2:27 PM

Safe Start

If your child is going to be **late or absent**, please call the school and leave a message, complete with your child's full name, grade, and teacher.

SD57 Policies

Please review the following School District 57 Policies. The links have been provided below. The links to the policies are also on our webpage under the heading **Useful Links**

- o Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct
- o Policy 6179 Acceptable Use of Networks
- o Policy 3541.35 Winter Weather
- o Policy 3542.3 Healthy Food Choices in Schools

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Documents/5131%20District%20Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Documents/6179.pdf>

<http://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/3541.35%20Winter%20Weather.pdf>

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/3542.3%20Healthy%20Food%20Choices%20in%20Schools.pdf>

If you prefer a printed copy of the policies, or have any questions, please contact the school

Medical Alert

Please inform the school of any emergent medical issues regarding your child **ASAP**

2021/2022 Class Placements

Student Class placements have been made in consultation with classroom teachers and Mrs. Greenfield. When placing students, we consider the whole child: academic abilities, work habits, social skills and developmental levels, as well as teaching style and student friendships. We appreciate your support as we try to create the most balanced and effective classrooms. Because our enrollment is high, there is very little room for movement between the classes. While parent

requests are considered, Mrs. Greenfield will not be considering any changes to placements until Friday, September 17th, and any moves will be dependent on current class sizes.

Library Corner

If your child(ren) discovered they have library books at home please make sure to return them to the school. If you would like to know if your child has books signed out please call us and speak with Ms. Sontag.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

PAC

The Blackburn staff would like to send a thank you to all the parents and community members for supporting PAC fundraising initiatives and in making the Blackburn education experience a GREAT one! These initiatives and events benefit all of our students and only happen due to the hard work of our parent volunteers. In addition, Blackburn staff would like to extend a special thank you to the parents who are on the PAC Executive for bringing their energy and ideas to ensure that Blackburn is the place to be!

Community News

A big thank you to all of the community members involved in the addition of the Digital Speed Readers and new Playground Zone signs! They put in a lot of time and effort to help ensure the safety of all community members, and most especially the tiny humans who use the playground after hours.

- PG Community Foundation
- Northern Health
- Rotary Club of PG
- Blackburn PAC Fundraising
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- ICBC
- PG Brain Injured Group Society
- Donations from local businesses

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

As we move away from the "COVID Safety Plan" we are moving towards a "Communicable Disease Prevention Plan" which includes COVID-19. The Communicable Disease Prevention Plan for SD#57 was sent out to all parents via email, prior to school start-up. In the plan there are a number of recommendations that can be implemented at the school level. The following items are in place at Blackburn:

- Frequent hand washing/sanitizing (before entering and leaving new spaces, before and after eating and washroom use, before and after using frequently touched items, before and after touching difficult to clean items i.e. puppets, carpets, cloth items, etc.)
- One-way directional hallways using lines on the floors
- Staggered entrance and exit times to reduce congestion in hallways and door ways
- Alternating lunch hours to reduce congestion in hallways and door ways
- Masks at all times for all staff (some exceptions apply)
- Masks at all times for students grades 4-12 (some exceptions apply)
- Masks recommended for students in Kindergarten to grade 3
- All visitors are required to wear a mask at all times (some exceptions apply)

- Water bottle filling stations are open; however, water bubblers (fountains) remain off – **please send a water bottle labelled with your child's name as soon as possible**
- Windows and doors to classrooms open as often as possible
- Visitors are asked to make **appointments** when possible and limit visits to the space necessary for the visit
- Visitors are required to perform a COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering any schools
- Visitors are required to sign in and out of schools and indicate that they have no COVID-19 symptoms (forms kept for 45 days for contact tracing purposes), as well as checking in with Office staff
- Main doors are unlocked from 7:55 until 3:00 – all other doors remain locked to visitors
 - Specific doors are unlocked during recess and lunch for student access to washrooms

The Communicable Disease Prevention Plan recommendations will be monitored and/updated by the school district and are subject to change based on orders from the PHO and Northern Health Regional District. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Greenfield.