



October 2023

<https://cameron.burnabyschools.ca>

Cameron Elementary School: safe, respectful, supportive and compassionate

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

The start of the year has flown by and our school start up, although busy, was successful. We appreciated the patience as we organized your children into classes. We have seen unprecedented growth in our community and the school is nearly full with only a few remaining spaces left for potential in catchment families. We have had to defer close to twenty families to other schools close by. This growth has resulted in new hiring and many new faces around the school hallways and classrooms. We are a large school with close to 530 students now attending. We have welcomed many new families from all over the world. Diversity is a strength within a community. I encourage you to introduce yourself to a community member you don't know. As a new principal I have felt extremely welcomed by the community. I appreciate all the parents that went out of their way to connect with me and say hello. I have an open office policy so please, if you are in the building, come to the office and connect.

On our first professional day our teachers focused on unpacking our schoolwide language of safe, respectful, supportive, and compassionate learners. We are now moving forward with the students to define what safe looks like at school. We will be looking at various aspects of school life, including safe behavior in the hallway, appropriate use of technology, playground and assembly expectations. We also focused on creating common vision around what this should look like in the school between community members. We look forward to sharing some of this work with the school community in the future. Please check out our main hallway with our student portraits and writing around students' superpowers.

Our schoolwide barbeque was a tremendous success. Not only was the weather perfect, but the community attendance and the overwhelming support to complete the various tasks and jobs to prepare for this barbeque made it successful. With the smell of hotdogs in the air, teachers and families were able to socialize and connect in a casual and relaxed environment. Our parent teacher interviews were well attended. A big thanks to all the teachers who stayed well beyond their regular workday to meet with parents and connect at the BBQ afterwards.

Our first parent advisory council meeting was very well attended with over 30 parents and community members present. The level of engagement and conversation was high. I look forward to moving more initiative forward with the support of our council. I encourage you to attend the next PAC meeting on Thursday, October 26th. An agenda and information will be sent out through email early next week.

Respectfully,

Sean Gaster—Cameron Principal

Mr. S. Gaster, Principal

Ms. T. Miletich, Head Teacher

Mrs. J. Brown, Secretary



Paper Forms to be Completed

Verification Forms

Student Verification Forms, printed on pink paper, have been sent home. Please be sure to make any changes and return the form to your child's teacher by Thursday October 19th. It is important for the school to have current contact information for parents so that we will be able to reach you in the event of an emergency. If we are unable to reach a parent/guardian, we will call the next contact on the list.

Emergency Release Forms

These forms, printed on blue paper, were sent home with the Verification Forms. "Authorized Designates" (Contacts) on the Emergency Release Form must be walking distance to the School as in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster, roads may be impassable.

BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Program Forms

These forms, printed on green paper, were sent home with the Verification Forms. This form is only sent back if you **do not** want your child to participate OR if your child has any **food** allergies we should be aware of.

Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh BC fruits and vegetables to our students during class time.

Our students will receive these healthy treats 12 times over the school year at **no charge!**



School Schedule

School starts each day with a warning bell at 8:55am. Students should arrive as close to our starting time as possible to this time as we are unable to provide supervision before or after school. Please be sure to make arrangements for your child for before and after school supervision.

Morning	8:55am	Classes in session
	10:15am	Recess Break Begins
	10:30am	Classes Resume
	11:55am	Lunch Break Begins
Afternoon	12:40pm	Classes Resume
	2:48pm	Classes Dismissed



Absences and Lates

Please contact the school before 8:45am whenever your child is absent from school or will be arriving late, preferably by email to Cameron.Info@burnabyschools.ca, otherwise by phone 604-296-9005 Option 2.



Please provide the following information: Child's First and Last Name, Teacher's name or Division, Dates of absence or, if late, estimated time of arrival.

If we do not hear from you and your child is absent, we will attempt to contact you. Please keep us informed of changes in phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts.

Any student who arrives late must first come to the school office to sign in and then proceed to their classroom. We expect students to arrive on time. Arriving on time helps children begin their day smoothly. Not only is promptness an excellent lifelong habit but it is also less distracting for other students.

Life Threatening Allergies



Cameron Elementary School is a "Nut Aware" school. There are a number of children with life-threatening nut/peanut allergies at our school. We strongly request that your child NOT bring any nut/peanut products to school. If it is essential your child bring a nut product, please let the teacher know so they can take extra precautions. Nut-safe snack ideas include: yogurt, fruit, cheese and crackers, nut-free granola bars, pasta, veggies and dip, boiled eggs and cottage cheese. Thank you for keeping our school a safe place for everyone.



- October 20—School Closed Professional Development Day
- October 23-31—Foodbank Fundraiser- [Click to Donate Online](#)
- October 30—Get Real Movement Workshops—Parents @ 6-7:30
- October 31—Halloween Dance at lunch
- November 1—Individual Picture Retakes
- November 10—Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 13—School Closed Remembrance Day

Safety Information:

In September there were some concerns from school staff and parents in regard to individuals open drug use around the perimeter of the school. More specifically open drug use on the city boulevards and outside adjacent office buildings on the mall property including areas around the tunnel under the Lougheed Highway.

The Crime Prevention Facilitator for the City of Burnaby did a site visit around the school and by the tunnel under Lougheed Highway at the end of September. The Crime Prevention Patrol came back another night to assess the area for safety and lighting. The RCMP Bike Unit and the Crime Reduction Team have been asked to patrol the area. Once all the information is collected a report will be submitted to help address any safety concerns. The security guards at Lougheed Town Centre have also been asked to patrol the outside perimeter of the mall more frequently. For situations where you might feel unsafe or concerned about people near the school you can call the Burnaby RCMP non-emergency line (604-294-7922).

We also have asked our Police Liaison Officer to be present around the school property. Our liaison has also been on the school ground connecting with students. They have had lots of great questions for him. We plan on arranging some classroom visits in the coming months.

Hot Lunch Program

We have received a lot of cash the first two months of the year for payment of School Meals. We really discourage the use of cash and highly encourage payment through School Cash Online at <https://burnaby.schoolcashionline.com/> Partial payments to full payment are available to pay online.

If you are experiencing trouble signing up for School Cash, please email me or call me and I'll be happy to help you. You can reach me at Janice.Brown@burnabyschools.ca or call me at 604-296-9005. Thank you in advance for your cooperation."



**Please note that starting in November envelopes for the Hot Lunch Program will no longer be going home with the menu. A list of participants will be generated from School Cash Online. If you are unable to pay any amount to participate in the Program, please email our principal at Sean.Gaster@burnabyschools.ca and we will ensure your child is included in the Program.

Foodbank Fundraiser

Cameron's Student Leadership is organizing a fundraiser for the Foodbank. We will be collecting non-perishable food items (canned goods, dried goods-cereal, pasta, rice) from Monday October 23 until October 31. We will also be having a Toonie Tuesday Collection for the Foodbank on October 24 and 31.



If you are able to help, please send your child in with a toonie or a non-perishable food item. Donate online here: <https://vfd.foodbank.bc.ca/participant/81/70>

Dressing for the Weather



On the West Coast, we live in a temperate rain forest. This means we tend to get a lot of rain throughout the year. It's important for children to have movement breaks during the day so, unless it is unsafe to do so, we will send students outside at recess (15 minutes) and lunch (30 minutes) rain or shine. Please send your child with an appropriate coat and hat on rainy days. *We recommend that a change of clothes be kept at school in case your child gets wet or muddy and needs to change clothes.* Thank you for your cooperation.

Learning about Diversity at Cameron

**** Parent Workshop—Sign Up Now ****

Cameron School is a diverse community of learners. As a staff in June 2023, we agreed upon 4 important words to help our students better understand at school this year: safe, respectful, supportive and compassionate. In the first week of school, students were introduced to these words in a series of lessons and activities.

In the months of October and November Grades 4-7 teachers would like to build on this student understanding by celebrating and talking about the many types of diversity at Cameron. Students in Grade 4/5 and Grades 5/6 and 6/7 will rotate through a series of diversity lessons

Some of the lesson topics will be:

- Diverse learning styles (visual, kinesthetic, auditory...)
- Cultural diversity
- Family diversity and gender diversity
- Learning diversity (learning disabilities, Autism spectrum, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity)

The purpose of all the lessons is to help students show respect and compassion and find ways to make everyone feel safe and supported at Cameron.

Learning about one another is a great way to build respect. The Community Barbeque was a great opportunity to get to know some of the families at Cameron. Another way to learn about one another is through educational workshops.

Get Real Movement 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusivity workshops

Student Workshops

- Grade 4/5 - afternoon of October 30
- Grade 6/7 - afternoon of October 30

Parent Inclusivity Workshop (Click title to see website)

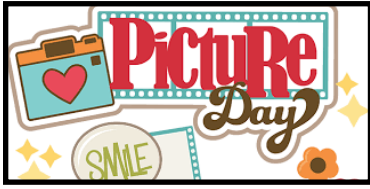
- Monday October 30 from 6-7:30pm.
- At the parent workshop, attendees will come away with:
 - Increased knowledge of 2SLGBTQ+ identities, terminology
 - Practical steps and creative ideas on how to support a child that comes out to you
 - A chance to work through realistic and customized scenarios
 - The chance for parents/caregivers to honestly ask questions and get advice anonymously from 2 of our most experienced Get REAL speakers
- Sign up for the parent workshop:

[Get Real Inclusivity Parent Workshop at Cameron Elementary \(office.com\)](https://www.cameron.k12.nc.us/office.com)

Get Real Inclusivity Parent
Workshop at Cameron Elementary



Individual Picture Day and Picture Re-Takes



Individual photos of each student were taken on Tuesday, October 10th. There is no payment required unless you wish to order a photo. Proofs are available at: shop.photoexpressions.ca, enter the access code from the card your child brought home. **Orders are due by October 26, 2023**

Individual Photo Re-Takes will be taken on Wednesday November 1st.

Student Safety

Street Crossing: Please use the raised crosswalk on Bartlett Court. Jaywalking is dangerous and we need your help and example to get all our children to and from school safely! Please remind your children about using safe practices when walking to school (always walking on the sidewalk, crossing at street corners, and using the crosswalks.)



Parking: Please follow the parking regulations as they provide a clear line of vision from the crosswalk. Please do not stop in front of the staff parking lot or the fire lane. **Please note the school parking lot is for staff members only. It is not to be used for drop off or pickup of students at any time.**



Cameron Elementary School Website <https://cameron.burnabyschools.ca>

Our school website offers a variety of ways to keep updated on events and information about our school community and is updated regularly. Here are a few features that we hope are helpful:

- The “Calendar” drop-down menu on our homepage, has access to a monthly events calendar, as well as a list of important dates and the district’s 3-year calendar. A list of upcoming events is also available on the right side of the homepage.
- The “School Info” drop-down menu includes several resources about school policies and procedures.
- The “Staff” tab has a list of all our staff members, useful if you should need to contact your child’s teacher, you can find a direct link to email him or her.
- The “Parents “ tab has links to the Hot Lunch Program Menu Calendar, Cameron PAC, Newsletters, School Fees Online, School Supply Lists, and Child Care Resource and YMCA Kids Club

BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANTS

Are you interesting in organizing a project that will bring your community together, build community strength and resilience, or tackle social isolation? Burnaby Neighbourhood Small Grants are open. Apply for up to \$500 and bring your neighbourhood connection project idea to life! Applications will be accepted until November 9th for the winter projects. Click [here](#) for the website ([here](#) for Eligibility and FAQs). Examples of Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grant projects include care package deliveries or teaching people a new skill, but there are also many unique projects that don’t fall into these categories.

Mental Health Resources

Adults/Parents: CrisisCentreChat.ca

Parent Helpline (778)782-3548

Youth: YouthinBC.com

Kids HelpPhone 1-800-668-6868

Check out Burnaby School District's: [Mental Health Literacy Blog](#)

Terry Fox Run

Congratulations go out to all Cameron parents, students and staff for a very successful Terry Fox Run Day. Big Thanks to all the Parent/Guardian Volunteers that helped make this event possible! Well done, everyone!



Let's help to keep Terry's dream of fighting cancer alive by donating to the Terry Fox Foundation. **Donations are open until October 19, 2023.**

Click here to donate: [Cameron Elementary - Burnaby, BC | Terry Fox School Run](#)



Cameron Welcome Back BBQ



Thanks to everyone who made our Back to School barbecue so enjoyable. It was wonderful to see parents, staff and students mingle and share food. We had a great time connecting with our school community and meeting our neighbours! A big thank you to the PAC for all their help with this event.



Mr. S. Gaster, Principal

Ms. T. Miletich, Head Teacher

Mrs. J. Brown, Secretary

Halloween Safety Reminders



- Costumes should be light-coloured and flame resistant with reflective strips so that children are more easily seen at night. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)
- Costumes should be short enough to avoid tripping.
- Remind children to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover the eyes.
- Remind children to walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks - not in the street.
- Explain to children that calls should be made along one side of the street first and then the other, and that it's best to cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Provide yourself or the children with a flashlight to see better and to be better seen.
- Have children plan their route and share it with you and the family.
- Trick or Treaters should travel in groups of four or five. Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Make sure children know they should accept treats at the door and must not get into cars or enter the homes or apartments of strangers.
- Remind children not to eat their treats and goodies until they are examined by an adult at home. And candy should not be eaten if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- Make sure you and your children know where the Block Parent houses are located in the neighborhood.
- Set agreed-to boundaries with your children. Explain the importance of staying within them and arriving home on time.

Stranger Danger for Kids

The concept of a 'stranger' can be difficult for some children to understand, so police suggest the following safety habits to keep your kids safe:

- teach children not to go anywhere with anyone without first getting permission from a parent/ guardian
- teach children to always have a buddy with them
- practice scenarios with your child. Ask them what they would do if someone approaches them, asks them for help, says their parent sent them
- discuss what to do if your child becomes lost or separated from a parent while out in public
- encourage your child to tell a parent or trusted adult if someone approaches them, or if a situation makes them uncomfortable
- teach your child to trust their instincts and the importance of paying attention to their surroundings
- discuss what to do if someone tries to take them somewhere - shouting, kicking, screaming; use the slogan "If asked to go and your parents don't know, SHOUT NO!"
- teach your older child how to stay safe when home alone

Safety education is important, as it helps build a child's confidence and critical thinking skills, and prepares them for situations they may encounter.

BURNABY RCMP OPEN HOUSE




RAIN OR SHINE WE WILL BE THERE

OCTOBER 14TH, 2023

PRIZES 10AM-3PM FUN

@6355 DEER LAKE AVENUE, BURNABY, BC

POPCORN FOR ALL AGES!

CAKE






Learn more and stay connected on our website

