



DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter

Safe Respectful Compassionate Supportive

9540 Erickson Drive, Burnaby, BC V3T 1M9 (604) 296-9005
Principal: Mr. S. Gaster • Head Teacher: Ms. T. Miletich • Secretary: Ms. J. Brown

Principal's Message

Hello Cameron Community,

Last month has been full of activities such as: Young People's Concert, Halloween, and our recent Remembrance Day Assembly which included recognizing our Indigenous Veterans. We worked hard as a community to focus on our current school goal of demonstrating respectful behavior while gathering at these events and received excellent feedback from event organizers about our students' behavior. Part of being in a community is the ability to gather and share together. I am looking forward to seeing us gather again for our Winter Music Showcase in the coming weeks and our Pancake Breakfast tradition sponsored by our Parent Advisory Council.

We continue to engage our students to find ways to encourage unity, peace, and respect as a community. Although schools are not political platforms; antisemitism, islamophobia and homophobia have no place in our community. As much as we are all impacted to some degree by any violence that happens locally and around the world, we know that there are children and families within our community who are personally and deeply suffering and traumatized by recent conflicts around the world. We want you to know that we care about your families and have counselling support if needed.

Click to access: [Helping your child deal with crisis](#)

Cameron Elementary has grown in the last number of years and the student population is at an all-time high. With growth comes change to structures. I am excited to announce that we have been allocated a school vice-principal who will join the administrative team. Michael Nielsen is currently the Head Teacher at Armstrong Elementary and will start in January.

December is a busy month full of special events, community building activities and special classroom projects. Often the winter break is a time to reengage, revitalize and spend time with those we care about the most. My hope for you is that the winter break will be a time of connection and rejuvenation. For those that have specific religious and cultural celebrations we hope your celebrations are memorable.

Respectfully,
Sean Gaster



DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins: 8:55

Recess: 10:15

Lunch: 11:55

Classes resume: 12:40

Dismissal: 2:48

DEC 8
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST FOR
STUDENTS

DEC 19
WINTER MUSIC
SHOWCASE
ODD DIVS
(1, 11, 13, 15,
17, 19, 21)

DEC 20
WINTER MUSIC
SHOWCASE
EVEN DIVS
(2, 10, 12, 14,
16, 18, 20)

**DEC 22 -
JAN 7, 2024**
WINTER
BREAK





School Messages...

Message from Michael Nielsen – New Vice-Principal

I look forward to joining your community and finding out where you have been and where you are going next. I have already heard many good things. I believe the collective support and skill from parents, students and staff can make a wonderful place to teach, learn, play and connect. I love to teach art, physical education, and ADST. I have a background in science and math. I am interested in finding ways to use technology to enhance student learning and have students search for answers to their own inquiries or pursue passions. I believe in the importance of trying to help students make connections to each other and their sense of place. I know this will take time, but I hope to learn who you are and how I can combine my efforts with yours in the coming new year. I look forward to meeting you face to face soon but send this short message as a quick introduction of myself.

Emergency Preparedness

We have been reviewing our [emergency procedures](#) regularly and plan on focusing on practicing one procedure per month. So far this year we have had a Fire Drill and an Earthquake Drill. Please see attached page on the different procedures and the response required.

We are currently working with the PAC to ensure our earthquake bin is replenished and stocked. Big thank you to the PAC for all the financial resources and time they have put into keeping our students safe in an emergency.

Future plans: We are working to ensure we have locking inside doors in case of a lockdown and clear communication about entry and exit from the school during these procedures.

REMINDER THAT SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The last day of school is on Thursday, December 21

The winter break goes from Friday, December 22 to Sunday, January 7

School reopens and classes resume on Monday, January 8 2024



KEEP INFORMED!

View the monthly newsletter, calendar, and upcoming events on our school's website at:



School Reminders...

OFFICE HOURS

Regular hours for our school office are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Voicemail comes on automatically if we are unable to answer. If Ms. Brown is away from her desk, or on the other line, please leave a message and she will respond as quickly as possible.

Behavioral Expectations

Our staff have worked hard to align our school behavioral expectations document with our common language of Safe, Respectful, Compassionate, and Supportive. We encourage you to review the updated [Student handbook](#) as a parent and ask your child some questions.

Examples of what you will find:

- ◆ *school policy of cellphones*
- ◆ *playground expectations*
- ◆ *areas appropriate for play*
- ◆ *rules for soccer*

See link above to access. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Report Cards

In the coming weeks you will be receiving your child's report card. The goal of these reports is to ensure that parents and caregivers are well informed, involved in decisions and dialogue about their child's learning, and understand ways to support and further their child's learning. These reports will include a provincial proficiency scale, descriptive feedback that is strength based, and self-reflection from your child. I encourage you to engage with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns after receiving these reports. [Click here for more information from the Ministry of Education.](#)

If your child will be away or late, please advise the office.

Attendance emails can be sent to: Cameron.Info@burnabyschools.ca

You can also continue to use the Absence line. Dial 604-296-9005 (option 2).

Please include the following details:

- * Childs' Name
- * Teacher or Division
- * Dates/times they will be away
- * Whether or not the absence is illness related



Dressing for the weather

Just a reminder that students will be going outside at recess and lunch time this year, regardless of the weather. Please make sure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be going outside in inclement weather. We highly recommend a change of clothes be left at school for what we know will be those wet days ahead of us.





Important Dates...

Leadership Committee Winter Warmth Campaign

Donations Accepted at Cameron until:
Wednesday December 6th
New: toys, scarves, toques, gloves, and socks

Leadership Committee Presents: There's now way we're having a dance

Whole School Dance
December 14th at Lunch

PJs and Pancake Breakfast

Friday, December 8, 2023



Seating Start Times:

- #1 @ 8:55am Div: 4, 7, 11, 14, 15
- #2 @ 9:30am Div: 1, 9, 12, 13, 19
- #3 @ 10:05am Div: 2, 3, 10, 18, 20, 21
- #4 @ 10:40am Div: 5, 6, 8, 16, 17

School Meal Program Cycle 5

Cycle 5's School Meal Program runs
from January 8-31, 2024.



Please pay on or before
December 15, 2023 so that the
school meal co-ordinator can plan for the
correct number of students.

Winter Music Showcase

We are very excited for the upcoming Winter Music Showcases which will take place in the gym on the following dates.

Tickets: up to 4 per family by donation. Donations go towards the Music Program.

Tuesday, December 19

- * **Winter Music Showcase** – for ODD Divisions (1, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21) starting at 1:30pm

Wednesday, December 20

- * **Winter Music Showcase** – for Even Divisions (2, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20) starting at 1:30pm



English Conversation Circle Peer Support Group

Practice speaking English with other adult English Learners. Open to all levels of English.
This is FREE and no registration required.

Stoney Creek Community School
Thursdays 9:15 – 10:15 am

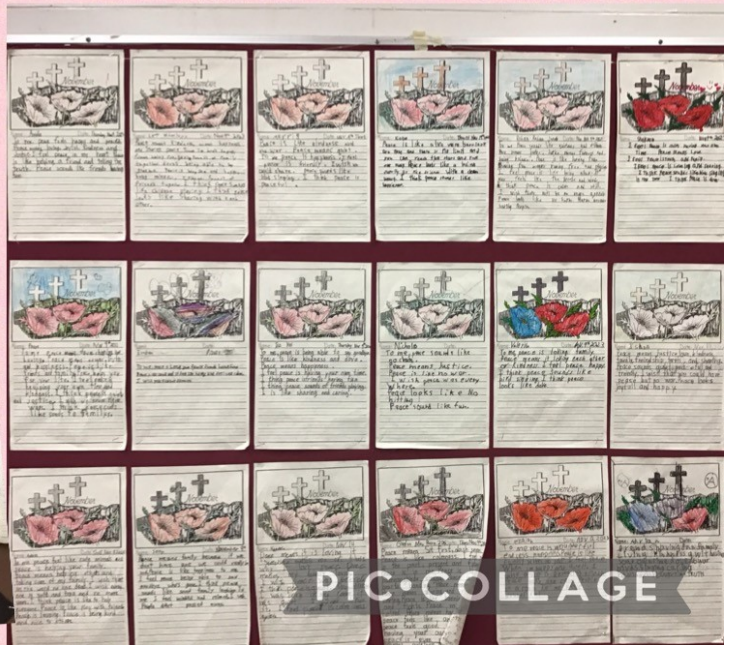
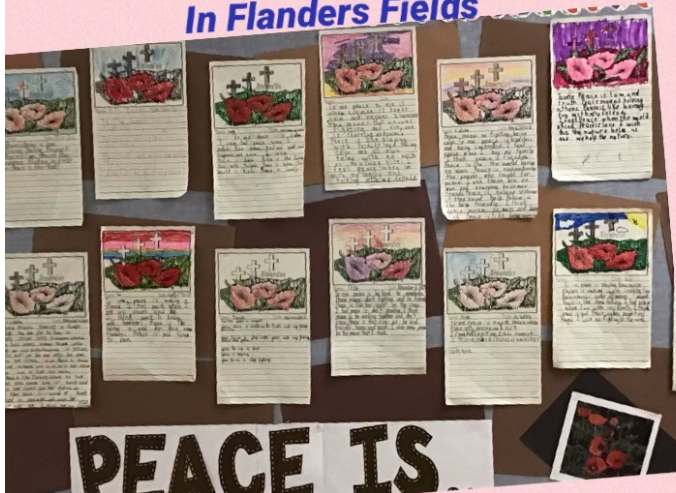
Please email Taryn Briscoe at taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca if you would like to join in.
Click [here](#) to see the poster with full details.



Division 11 & 14 Peace Collage



Div. 11 & Div. 14
Explored ideas of Peace
through writing, art work,
and the recitation of
In Flanders Fields





Cameron Volleyball Team

Volleyball is a unique, interesting, enjoyable, challenging, timeless sport filled with rapid movements, anxiety, and team cheering. Volleyball is a sport that many underestimate. The coaching staff (S. Rogers, D. Lowery and K. Bains) feel very privileged and honoured to have shared in the achievements of our grade 6/7 students who have made both the school and their families proud this year.

They challenged themselves, persevered, worked together co-operatively, improved communication with each other and demonstrated faster thinking and reaction time with their many practices and games. Way to go!

Yay Cameron!!!!





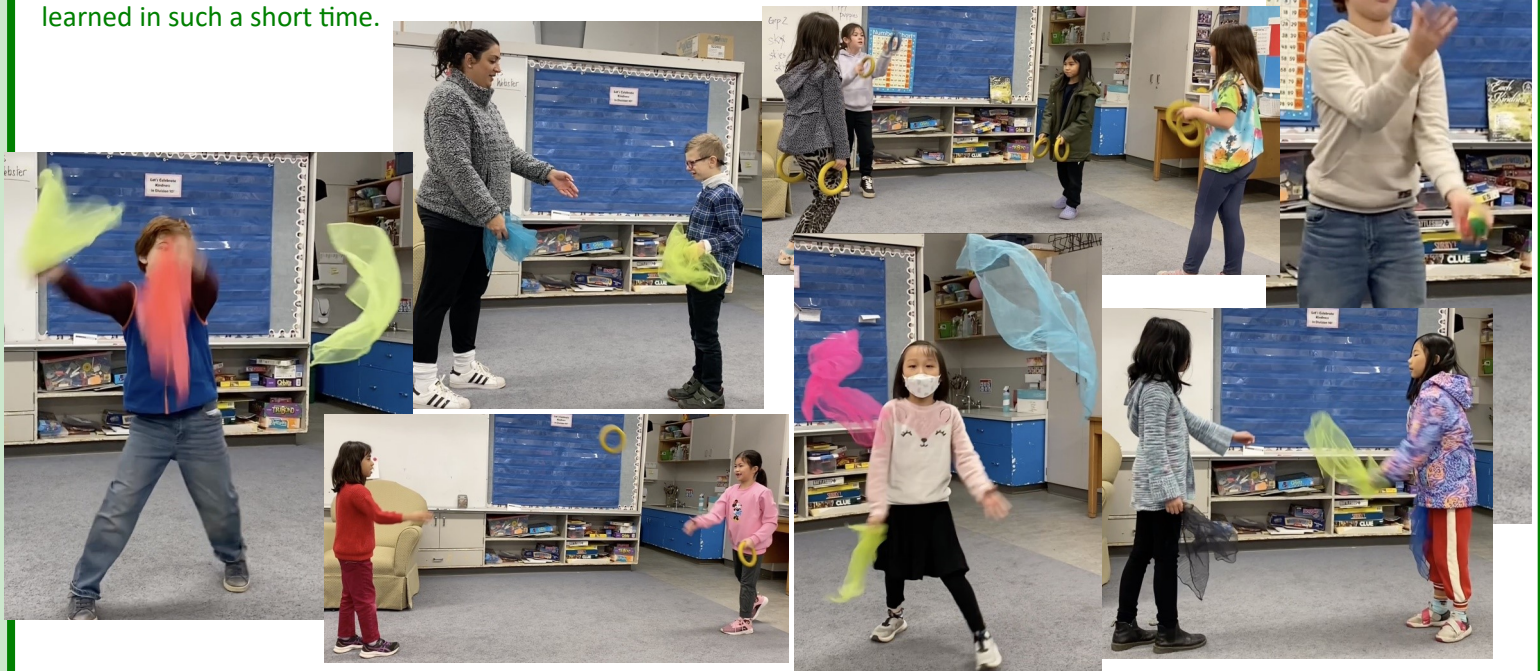
Division 2 Music Class

Division 2 is working with Orff and non-pitched percussion instruments this month. They are continuing to practice "Carol of the Bells". Over the next few weeks the students will be given opportunities to try out the different instruments in this ensemble.



Division 10 Learning to Juggle

Division 10 has been learning to juggle since the beginning of November. We borrowed the juggling kit from the District Library Resource Centre which includes scarves, rings and balls. Students have shown amazing growth mindset while learning the challenging act of juggling. They started with one ball, ring or scarf and learned to throw and catch with precision. Juggling is great for hand-eye coordination and learning to throw and catch. They should be really proud of how much they have learned in such a short time.





Autumn at Cameron





Messages from the PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Dear Cameron Community,

We wanted to send a BIG THANK YOU to all the parents who have offered and been assigned to volunteer at the **Merry and Bright Pancake Breakfast** taking place on Friday, December 8th. We look forward to making this a very special day for our Cameron students.




PURDY'S CAMPAIGN (Pick Up Date TBD)

The Purdy's Fundraiser has exceeded our initial targets. Thank you very much to all who contributed and supported this campaign! Stay tuned as we will be confirming a delivery date with Purdy's for early December.

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

The Cameron Community can help raise funds by participating in the campaigns that are on-going:

- ◆ **Loveable Labels** - click [here](#) to access the site and place orders
- ◆ **Cobs Bread** - mention Cameron Elementary when purchasing items and a portion of your purchase will go towards our Cameron Fundraiser with Cobs
- ◆ **Express Return-It Depot** - provide Cameron Elementary phone number (604-296-9005) to donate your refund amount to our Cameron Campaign. 



STAY TUNED (More details to come)

The PAC is planning the following upcoming fundraising events in the New Year:

- ◆ A PAC Donation Drive will begin in February
- ◆ Dominos Pizza Fundraiser Night mid-February

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY INFORMATION

The open use of drugs and individuals appearing intoxicated near the school has been investigated by the Burnaby Crime Prevention Team. A nighttime site visit was conducted by the team on September 29th. Then on October 11th they took a daytime tunnel user survey. The majority of people surveyed indicated an overall level of comfort using the tunnel during the day. This level of comfort was much less during nighttime hours. To address this issue the Crime Prevention Facilitator is going to reach out to the City of Burnaby to address issues of lighting and landscaping at both entrances to the tunnel. This area is now highlighted for both the RCMP Bike Patrol Unit and Crime Prevention Patrol to visit on a regular basis. 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).

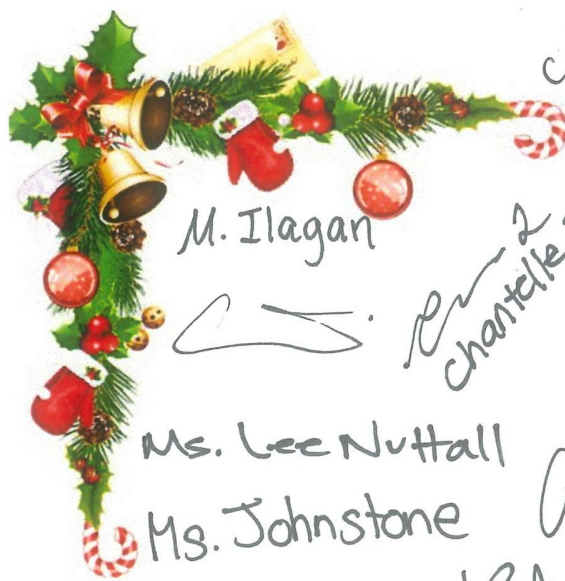
OUR NEXT PAC MEETING

(all parents/guardians are welcome to attend)

- ◆ **January 18, 2024** - 7:00 pm in the school library

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you'd like to contact us or look for upcoming events, fundraisers, and ways to help, click [here](#) to visit our website. You can also contact us by email at cameronvolunteer.pac@gmail.com

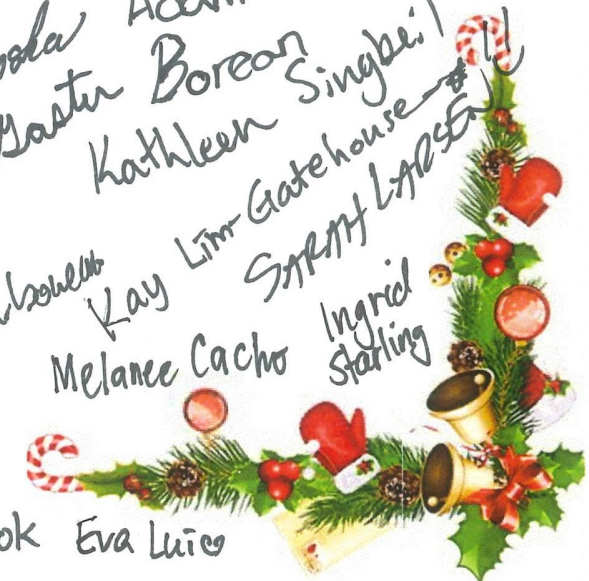


Alley Steiger
 M. Ilagan
 Chantelle Nam
 Lisa P.
 Ms. Lee Nuttall
 Ms. Johnstone
 Fara Lamau
 Winnie Yip
 Sarah Blakey
 Amy Zeng
 Sandy Rogers
 Stephanie Good
 Mrs McKie
 Kirin Bains
 Nancy Luo
 K. Chan
 Jade Robinson
 Paul D'Agost
 J.S. Song
 Steffanie Ramirez

Janice Braun
 Rasha Bousros
 R. Stoney
 Tara Miketich
 Michelle O'Connell
 Alex Hahn
 Adam
 Kathleen Borean
 Singbeil
 Kathleen Holgate
 Ms. Lowery
 Lily Wong
 Ronalyn Danbrook
 Eva Lino
 Sandra Woodside
 Sarah Jay Hopli
 Cindy Lee-Webster
 Michele Southern
 Dina Tortolano
 Robyn Cothran
 Christie Cameron
 May Wong
 Kay Lim
 Gatehouse
 SPENT LIVES
 Melanee Cacho
 Ingrid Starling
 m. BERANCU
 Kay Lim
 Gatehouse
 SPENT LIVES
 Melanee Cacho
 Ingrid Starling

HAPPY Holidays

from the Cameron Elementary Staff





Burnaby Christmas Bureau

The Christmas Bureau offers brand new gifts for children of Burnaby families with low income, as well as hampers for seniors and at-risk individuals. **To find out if you qualify, please read the information below. Register between November 1 and December 9, 2023**

LOCATION—Brentwood Town Centre 4567 Lougheed Hwy, Old Sears Store location,

Main mall level, next to Children’s Play Area When you come in to register, you will be provided with a PICK-UP DATE and TIME in December to come back to the Toy Room to select your children's gifts. **** NOTE: You will not be able to pick up any toys on your registration day.**

TIMES

Monday – Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm; **Saturday:** 10:00am-3:00pm (*Note: we are CLOSED on Sundays*)

You will also be required to bring:

Identification for each child (e.g. BC Services Card/Care Card, birth certificate, child tax benefit statement, passport, Permanent Resident card)

Recent proof of **current address** (e.g. bills from Fortis, Hydro, internet or phone provider, or current residential tenancy agreement). Must be within two months of application.

Identification for each child - e.g. BC Services Card (this has replaced the CareCard), birth certificate, passport, child tax benefit statement, or Permanent Resident card.

*We will have **health & safety protocols** in place during Christmas Bureau registration and toy pick-up. We will follow guidelines set out by BC Ministry of Health.*

**We would appreciate if only 1 family member per household enter our Christmas Bureau location to both register and pick-up gifts. Please arrange for child care early.*

Qualifying families will receive new toys for their children and food giftcards.

To qualify, applicants are families who:

Live in Burnaby and have children from newborn to 16 years old.

Are working families with low income, or families receiving Income Assistance

Proof of Income will be required:

Working Families **must** have a **Proof of Income Statement (C-Print)** for **EACH** adult - To obtain one, please call: 1.800.959.8281, press * to speak to an operator, or for an automated service, call 1.800.267.6999. You can also access your Proof of Income Statement online at: **CRA My Account>My Account for Individuals>Sign In>Tax Returns>Proof of Income Statement** (this is the C-Print doc)

If you are on Income Assistance (Welfare), you need to request a **Release of Information** from your Ministry Office. This will replace the Proof of Income Statement

If you have any questions, please call **Marney @ (604) 292-3900.**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please have this translated.

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معلومات مهمة. الرجاء ترجمتها. | Información importante. Por favor, que esto se traduzca.
معلومات مهم , لطفا این ترجمه را انجام دهید | لطفا از شخصی بخواید تا این متن را برای شما ترجمه کند.
중요한 정보입니다. 이것을 번역하시기 바랍니다. | ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਉ।



Keeping your child healthy during winter

As the chilly winter season is upon us, there's a few extra things you can do to help keep your children healthy and well. Navigate this season with these essential tips.

Bundle up for the cold

Dressing appropriately for the cold weather is vital in keeping your child comfortable and protected. Wearing multiple layers is a great way to trap body heat and provide insulation against the cold.

Keep a warm hat, gloves, scarves and insulated boots handy. Remind your child to wear these items before heading outside to play or going to school.

Protect against winter illnesses

Winter brings an increased risk of colds and flus. Make sure your child is getting enough sleep (nine to 11 hours for elementary-aged children), eating a variety of foods and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Ensure your child receives their annual flu vaccine and talk to a health care provider about any additional vaccines that may be recommended. Teach your child good respiratory etiquette such as regular hand washing, covering their coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick.

Keep their bodies moving

While colder weather may limit outdoor activities, it's crucial to keep your child active during winter as regular physical activity boosts their immune system and keeps them energized. Encourage indoor play and activities such as dancing, yoga or interactive video games that promote movement. Look for winter programs at local community centres or indoor sports facilities.

Find more tips for a healthy winter: <https://ow.ly/77AK50Pehvi>

