

*Cameron Elementary School: safe, respectful, supportive and compassionate*

## December 2025 Newsletter

<https://cameron.burnabyschools.ca>

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**



Hello Cameron Families,

This first term has certainly flown by! This last week has been festive, with many unique learning opportunities both within and outside the school. Over the past several months, our students have engaged in robust learning activities and events, many of which are highlighted throughout this newsletter.

Planning for the replacement school is well underway. Groundbreaking is scheduled to happen as early as March on the gravel field. Later in this newsletter, you'll find some renderings of the new building. We also plan to host an information session in February for those interested in learning more – details will be shared closer to the date.

Your child has recently brought home their report card, and we want to provide a brief update about student reporting at Cameron and across the province. Teachers use the Provincial Proficiency Scale along with descriptive feedback. This approach highlights your child's strengths, shows where they are in their learning, and outlines next steps for growth. It reflects the redesigned B.C. curriculum, which emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and real-world application. Once you have had a chance to review your child's report, please feel free to reach out to their classroom teacher with any questions or clarification.

Earlier this year, we held our parent-teacher conferences, which count as one of the informal learning updates families receive each school year. Combined with written Learning Updates (report cards), these communications help provide a fuller picture of your child's learning journey. For more information, you can view the Burnaby School District's reporting document here: [Reporting & Assessment](#). Our next learning update in March will be digital. We will provide details in early 2026 on how to access these updates.

As we head into Winter Break, we want to highlight the importance of rest and recovery for our students. Elementary-aged children grow rapidly – socially, emotionally, and academically – and the school year can be busy and demanding. Time away from routines allows their brains and bodies to recharge, helping reduce stress and support overall well-being. Quiet time, play, family connection, and plenty of sleep all help students return in January feeling refreshed, regulated, and ready to learn.

Finally, we extend our warmest wishes to all members of our school community. Whether your family celebrates Christmas, observes other cultural or religious traditions, or simply enjoys this time to rest and reconnect, we hope the coming weeks bring peace, joy, and togetherness. Thank you for keeping Cameron a safe, compassionate, respectful, and supportive learning community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for a wonderful 2026.

Sean Gaster, Principal

Mr. S. Gaster, Principal    Mr. M. Nielsen, Vice-Principal    Ms. D. Rampasad, Head Teacher    Mrs. J. Brown, Secretary



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### REPORT CARDS - Going ONLINE in March 2026 (Digital)

We are pleased to announce that **Cameron Elementary will be creating parent/caregiver accounts for the MyEducation BC (MyEdBC) Family Portal.** These accounts will give families secure online access to important educational information, including:

- Learning updates (report cards)
- Attendance records
- Demographic details

If you already have a MyEdBC parent/caregiver account for an older child in a Burnaby high school, you will be able to use the same login to access your Cameron child's information

We will send more detailed information and instructions in **early February.**

## Diversity Walk



We were excited to kick off our first celebration of diversity at Cameron this school year with a Culture assembly and walk in the community. Our Cultural Walk was more than a colourful event – it was a living lesson in respect, empathy, and belonging. By seeing and sharing one another’s languages, flags, and traditions, students learn that differences are valued and that everyone has a place in our school community. Walking together also strengthens connections between families, staff, and students, turning diversity into something students can celebrate and learn from every day.



Our second Celebration of diversity this year focused on neurodiversity. At Cameron, we believe every student has unique strengths and stretches. We all interact and engage with the world in different ways, and each learner contributes valuable skills to our school community. Together the Cameron community strives to create a safe, respectful, compassionate, and inclusive environment where everyone belongs.

### **What is Neurodiversity:**

Neurodiversity means that everyone’s brain works in its own special way. Some people learn by reading or listening, others by doing or moving. Some people like quiet places, while others do their best work with background noise. Just like we all look different on the outside, our brains are different on the inside too — and that’s what makes our school community interesting and strong! When we understand and include people who think or learn differently, we help everyone feel welcome, supported, and proud of who they are.

### **Why Celebrate Neurodiversity:**

Neurodiversity is the understanding that people experience and interact with the world in many different ways—there is no single “right” way to think, learn, or behave. When we value these differences, students feel included, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. Cameron staff work hard to create classrooms that are adaptable, flexible, and responsive to individual needs and learning preferences.

## Terry Fox Run



Thank you for your continued support and generosity as we work together to make this year's Terry Fox Run a success! Our parent volunteers were very helpful along our route, and it was a lovely day for our assembly and Terry Fox Run this year. We did raise a little less than our previous years, but it was still enough to follow our run with the staff incentive. As an incentive to collect funds to support cancer re-search, various staff volunteered to be duct taped to a wall!



**Thanks to our fundraising Mr. C, Mr. D'Agnolo, Ms. Larsen and Mr. Borean were placed on the wall! We could not quite get to our goal of \$3000, but there is always next year!**



## Truth and Reconciliation



Orange Shirt Day was an annual day of recognition on September 30th, when people are encouraged to wear an orange shirt in recognition of the long-lasting harmful effects of residential schools in Canada. The orange shirt, established by [The Story of Phyllis Webstad](#), symbolizes the resilience and regeneration of Indigenous culture in Canada. The day has been declared a federal statutory holiday titled *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. We had our Truth and Reconciliation assembly on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.





## Pancake Breakfast

Cameron once again enjoyed a wonderful pancake breakfast with the support of many parents, fire fighters' and staff volunteers. It was a fantastic community experience to begin the month of December!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved!



## PRIMARY WINTER SHOWCASE

Our performers had another chance to shine as all our primaries and our choir shared their voices in our Primary Winter Showcase. What an amazing way to raise our spirits as we approach the holiday. A big thank you to all our staff who supported this event and especially our two music teachers, Ms. Hall and Ms. Larsen. *Well done singers!*



## PRIMARY WINTER SHOWCASE



### Choir Performance at Loughheed Town Center

The Choir continued sharing songs of the season at Loughheed Mall. They represented Cameron so well with their beautiful voices. The audience certainly showed their appreciation!



## Cameron Elementary - Construction Design Photos



### **New School Information Session**

The Burnaby School District warmly invites you to an information session on February 19th at 7:00 PM in the Cameron school library to hear about the new school build. This session will be part of our regular PAC meeting and is a great opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and connect with the school district representatives overseeing the project.

We are excited to have the architectural firm present and hope to offer a virtual reality experience to explore the new school for some lucky community members.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Drumming Workshop - January 2026



Cameron Elementary is excited to start the new year off with Drumming Workshops for all our students led by a professional drummer, Jordan Hanson. We will have workshops the first week back in January and also finish the week with a performance by Jordan for the whole school.

Jordan Hanson studied music in West Africa, Cuba, and Brazil. Currently Jordan teaches at the School of Music at the University of Victoria, but he has taught programs from coast to coast and been the subject of over 50 national and international radio and television features.

Our PAC is able to help partially cover this experience, but there is still a need for a fee of \$4.50 to cover the remaining portion. Fees can be paid on school cash online.

Thank you,

The Staff of Cameron Elementary

## Pro D Day @ Creekside Youth Centre - February 2026

Creekside Youth Centre will be organizing a Pro D day outing for Grade 5-7 students on

February 27th, 2026. For more details please click on this [link](#) to register.

If you have questions regarding the outing, please contact Sarah B @ 604-294-7607 as her contact is listed at the bottom of the registration page.



## Messages from the PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Dear Cameron Community,

This September our PAC was joined by several energized members and we also said a heartfelt farewell to our 2025 Treasurer Rob Guwick (and Carla Guwick) who together curated our accounts back into the black ink and help setup our structures for a smooth transition to future treasurers.

A huge **THANK YOU** to 50/50 purchasers! We surpassed our goal of \$500 for a scholarship to be awarded in June 2026 for a Cameron alumni Grade 12 student who will be pursuing post-secondary education. The small surplus raised funds will be carried forward to 2027 for the next annual scholarship.

We look forward to welcoming **MORE MEMBERS** as our year concludes and at the beginning of the next school year!

Chair - Rami Touffaha

Vice Chair - Jesse Corrigan

Secretary - **VACANT**

Treasurer - Ramin Marghi

Social Coordinator - **VACANT**

DPAC Liaison - **VACANT**

Emergency Preparedness - Nargis Andish

Special Projects Coordinator - **VACANT**

Communication Coordinator - **VACANT**

Fundraising Coordinator - Leanne Bentley

Members-At-Large - Leila Marghi, Melissa Wilson, Stefanie Touffaha



**Many of these roles can be supported REMOTELY, with periodic in-person events. Reach out with questions to [Cameronchair.pac@gmail.com](mailto:Cameronchair.pac@gmail.com). We will strive to answer in a timely manner.**

### Future Meeting Dates:

January 22

February 19

April 16

May 21 (AGM)

June 18 (Year End)

### Our Next PAC Meeting:

(All parents/guardians are welcome to attend!)

**Thursday, January 22 , 2026 @ 7:00 pm** in the school library

-----*Keep in touch*-----

If you'd like to contact us, please send us an email at

[cameronvolunteer.pac@gmail.com](mailto:cameronvolunteer.pac@gmail.com)

## Messages from the PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

### REMINDER: 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 school!

#### Express Return-It Depot

Return it has changed their program for donations to schools. If one would like to contribute to the school, amounts from a personal Return-It account be selected online for donation to **"Cameron School"**.

#### Nellie's Cleaning Supplies

[https://nelliesfundraising.ca/collections/all-products/?sca\\_ref=7905956.nsYdYhW7go&fbclid=IwY2xjawlkQKJleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHWGqNfHM0mOskIn25PTKh0\\_2TpgB6-DqBujSFCtURXUhq1UBliH8IF-A\\_aem\\_96gL7D6Hz-I45WfXUwwOsw](https://nelliesfundraising.ca/collections/all-products/?sca_ref=7905956.nsYdYhW7go&fbclid=IwY2xjawlkQKJleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHWGqNfHM0mOskIn25PTKh0_2TpgB6-DqBujSFCtURXUhq1UBliH8IF-A_aem_96gL7D6Hz-I45WfXUwwOsw)

#### Colibri—Eco Friendly Products

<https://colibrifundraising.com/>

#### Pedal Heads

use code 25CAMERON and get \$25 off



7825 Edmonds Street, Burnaby  
Open 10 am - 5 pm daily

[www.basesburnaby.ca](http://www.basesburnaby.ca)

We are a Burnaby based non-profit society. To date we have donated nearly \$900,000 to Burnaby public schools. We fund out-of-school and after-school programs for kids, youth and families, who could not otherwise afford such programming.

Come see what we have in store - drop off any donations and stay to shop!

## 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.*

<b>Morning</b>	8:55am	Classes begin.
	10:15am	Recess break begins.
	10:30am	Recess break ends.
	11:55am	Lunch break begins.
<b>Afternoon</b>	12:05pm	Students may go outside
	12:40pm	Classes begin for the afternoon.
	2:48pm	Students dismissed to go home.



## 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](mailto: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.



- **WINTER BREAK** - December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026 (NO CLASSES)
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** (after winter break) - January 5, 2026
- **PRO D Day** - January 19, 2026

### Hot Lunch Program

Please sign up through School Cash Online at <https://burnaby.schoolcashionline.com/>

Full payments and partial to fully subsidized options are available.

If you are experiencing trouble signing up for School Cash, please email or call our secretary and she will be happy to help you. You can reach our secretary at [Janice.Brown@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Janice.Brown@burnabyschools.ca) or at 604-296-9005. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Dressing for the Weather



Just a reminder that students will be going outside at recess and lunch time, with the exception of extreme 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 students.**

### When to keep your child at home

The cold and flu season is in full swing, and we thought it a good reminder of when it is appropriate to send your child to school and when is it not.

Things to consider if your child feels **unwell**:

- **The wellbeing of your child.** Without proper rest, a child may have a hard time fighting an illness or be at risk of other illnesses.
- **The ability of your child to actively take part and learn at school.**
- **The school staff cannot care for a sick child and give them the support that they may need.**
- **The protection of other children and the school staff**



Please **keep your child at home** if they:

- **Have a fever**
- **Are too sick to take part in all normal school activities.**
- **Have a suspected or known communicable disease (i.e. strep throat, chicken pox, measles).**
- **Is vomiting or has diarrhea. It is recommended that students be symptom free at least 24 hours before returning to school.**

Keep your child home until they are able to participate fully in normal school activities or as told by a health care provider.

(Adapted from: <https://www.vch.ca/en/when-should-i-keep-my-sick-child-home-school> )



**BURNABY  
FAMILY LIFE**  
A PLACE TO GO... A PLACE TO GROW!



# Calm & Confident Parenting

The world keeps changing and as conscious parents we need to tune in and build confidence in our parenting skills so that we can provide our children with the love, support and care they need for their healthy development.

Join us for 8 weekly sessions to share strategies and ideas that will help create calm and joyful moments for you and your family. Learn how to build life-long skills and habits for your preschool and elementary school aged children. Discussion topics will include the following themes and more:

## Managing challenging behaviours

What are our children's temper tantrums and anxious behaviours telling us and how can we help them regulate their emotions

## Social media - it's a whole new world

How do you navigate screen time battles and find creative, fun and healthy habits for the whole family

## Understanding Sexual orientation & gender identity

Increase your understanding of human expression in a safe space.

## Compassionate parenting

Building self-awareness through self-reflection and compassion will help you create calm and joyful moments for yourself and for your children.

## Why nutrition is important

How to to make healthy eating fun for the whole family.



**8 weekly sessions: Thursdays,  
starting January 15, 2026  
Time: 12:45-2:45pm**



**Stoney Creek Community School,  
2740 Beaverbrook Crescent, Burnaby BC V3J 7B6**

**Free childcare (18m to 10 years), snacks and bus tickets are provided, if required.  
If you need childcare, please mention number and ages of children when registering.**

- Please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/3P4RFcSR7B>
- For questions, please email: [taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca) or call 604-296-9031 ex 651013

**LIMITED SEATS**

**To REGISTER – please click on [this link](#) to fill out the form.  
(Cameron Parents can leave a bit earlier if they need to pick up their children from school)**



## Girls Group!

Grades 5-7

Girls Group offers a safe, fun, and inclusive space for pre-teens to openly explore important topics, share experiences, and build healthy life skills. Each session features a creative activity that encourages participants to express their thoughts and feelings through art. Girls will learn new skills, grow their confidence, and build meaningful friendships.

**6 sessions, January 29th—March 5th**

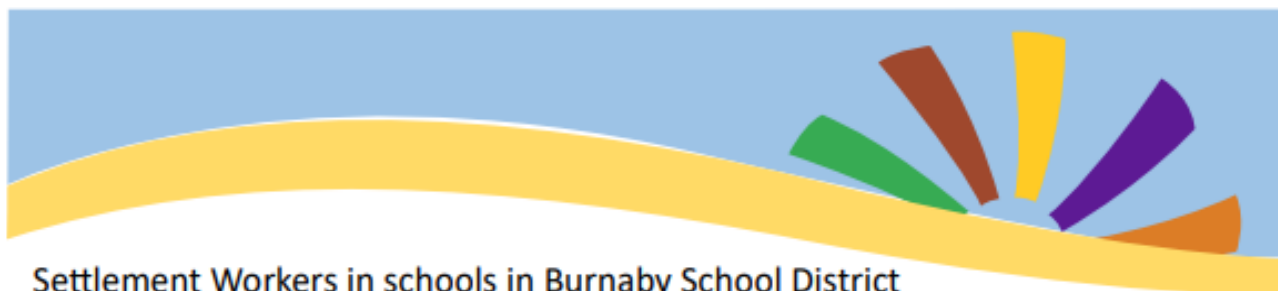
**Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:45pm**

**Barcode #76728, \$46.35**

**Register at [www.burnaby.ca/webreg](http://www.burnaby.ca/webreg)**

**Creekside Youth Centre**  
2720 Beaverbrook Crescent  
604-294-7607





Settlement Workers in schools in Burnaby School District

# English Conversation Circle

Peer Support Group

Practice speaking English with other **adult** English Learners

Open to all levels of English, parents and other adult community members are **WELCOME!**

Sept. 25 - Dec. 4

Jan. 8 - Mar. 12

Apr. 9 - Jun. 4

\* Every Thursday

from 9:15 a.m — 10:15 a.m.

**In-Person Sessions at Community Room**

**FREE and NO Registration Required just drop-in ;)**

**Where:** Stoney Creek Community Elementary  
2740 Beaverbrook Crescent, Burnaby

Contact us if you have any questions left:

Taryn Briscoe (Community School Coordinator)

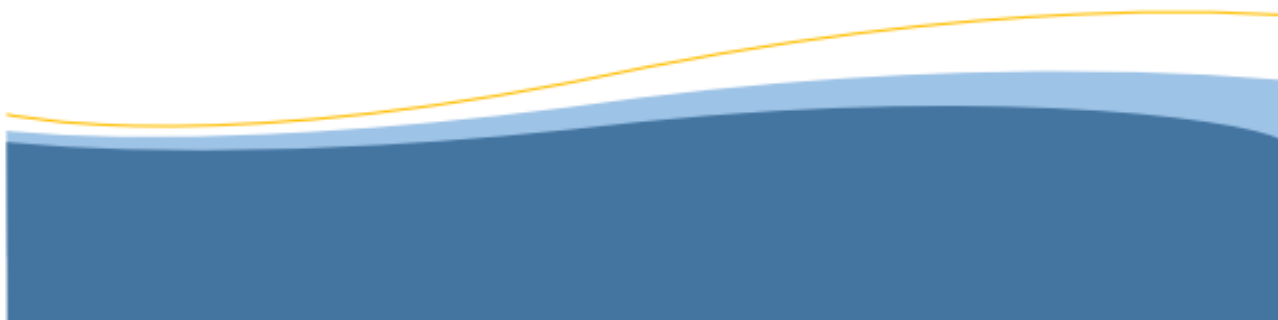
✉ [taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca)

☎ 604-837-6850

Anastasiia Protasevych (Settlement Worker)

✉ [anastasiia.protasevych@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:anastasiia.protasevych@burnabyschools.ca)

☎ 778-791-1936



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et Citoyenneté Canada



# BASKETBALL WINTER SESSION 2026



Winter Session our classes on skills and FUNdamentals will continue at the same locations and times.

The team skills classes will not run again until the 2026 Spring session.

We look forward to kicking off 2026 with many new faces and our old friends.

Register early and save your spots.



**REGISTER @ [WWW.BALLOHOLIC.COM](http://WWW.BALLOHOLIC.COM)**

**MONDAY  
KITCHENER**

Classes begin  
Jan 12 - March 2

**TUESDAY  
PARKCREST**

Classes begin  
Jan 13 - Feb 24

**THURSDAY  
BUCKINGHAM**

Classes begin  
Jan 15 - Feb 26

**FRIDAY  
TWELFTH  
AVENUE**

Classes begin  
Jan 16 - Feb 27

Get ready to score some hoops and have a blast with the Balloholics. See you on the court!

📞 604.800.3539 ✉ [info@balloholic.com](mailto:info@balloholic.com) 🌐 [www.balloholic.com](http://www.balloholic.com) 📷 [balloholicbasketball](https://www.instagram.com/balloholicbasketball)

BURNABY MINOR LACROSSE CLUB

**REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER**

# BOX LACROSSE 2026



SCAN FOR MORE INFO  
@BURNABYLACROSSE  
[WWW.BURNABYLACROSSE.COM](http://WWW.BURNABYLACROSSE.COM)



**BURNABY LAKE FIELD HOCKEY CLUB**  
**JUNIOR SPRING**  
**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

**U7 - \$140 EARLY BIRD**  
**U10 AND UP - \$165 EARLY BIRD**  
**NEW PLAYERS RECEIVE EARLY BIRD**  
**Early Bird Rate ends February 1**





# FUN LACROSSE

## 2026 BMLC



### 4 SESSIONS DATES & TIMES SLOTS

**6:00PM - 6:45PM**

**7:00PM - 7:45PM**

<b>#1</b>	<b>#2</b>
FEB 22	FEB 26
MAR 1	MAR 5
MAR 8	MAR 12

<b>#3</b>	<b>#4</b>
FEB 22	FEB 26
MAR 1	MAR 5
MAR 8	MAR 12

**CO-ED LACROSSE (2016-2021)**

**JACK CROSBY SPORT COMPLEX**

[WWW.BURNABYLACROSSE.COM](http://WWW.BURNABYLACROSSE.COM)