

October 30, 2020

Dear Families, Students and Staff,

We would like to begin by acknowledging the support and diligence of all of you, as we continue to work together to manage the risks of COVID-19 in our school communities. As we moved into the second month of classes, our district sent its first letter notifying families about a COVID-19 exposure at one of our schools. Since that time, more schools have received notices. Despite the best efforts of all, and with multiple precautions and protocols in place, schools are not immune to what is happening in the community around us. We are writing to reiterate the important things we can all do to protect each other as cases rise throughout BC and across our own health region.

It continues to be paramount that we care for one another. Simple actions make a big difference in this regard: use the [daily health check](#) to determine whether you should come to school or work that day, stay home when you are sick, maximize physical distance from others, wash your hands frequently, and wear a mask when required. Earlier this week Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry made masks an 'expectation' in all public places. We are asking for your support once again in encouraging those who can wear a mask to do so – especially in high traffic areas such as hallways, which was already part of Dr. Henry's direction about [schools and masks](#). We know that wearing a mask is one more way we can protect ourselves and those around us. While the precautions we've outlined are well known, as we get comfortable in our routines a reminder can be helpful. We'd be sincerely appreciative of parents' support in reinforcing the importance of these actions with their children.

As a district, we have multiple processes and protocols in place: all strictly adhering to the standards and guidance provided by the Provincial Health Officer, Ministries of Health and Education, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Fraser Health Authority and WorkSafe BC. Keeping our learning environments healthy and safe is a shared responsibility, and we remain grateful to everyone in our school communities for being vigilant and doing their part.

While health and safety continue to be at the forefront of all we do, we are also proud of the many ways our schools are preserving annual traditions and creating new ones. From Terry Fox runs, to parent-teacher interviews, to photo and professional development days, careful and creative planning has shown how much is possible, despite a global pandemic. Partnerships continue to strengthen all we do. We are grateful to those agencies and organizations that have helped support our students and families with necessities, such as food security or equitable access to outdoor clothing. And, as always, we couldn't do any of what we do without the partnership of parents. For example, as we head into Halloween, many of our PACs were instrumental in keeping the season's celebrations alive with efforts such as creating a pumpkin patch at school.

Reflecting on the 2020-21 school year so far, we continue to be amazed by the resolve and creativity of our school communities. On behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education and the Burnaby School District, we extend our deepest thanks to all. There is no doubt that together we are and will continue to get through this.

Please take good care of yourselves, your loved ones and each other.

Sincerely,



Gary Wong, Board Chair



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

 <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION <b>BURNABY</b> SCHOOL DISTRICT 41</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION</b> PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</p> <p>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire.</p> <p>重要資料 請找人為你翻譯</p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p>알려드립니다 이것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG</b> Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p>सबुती सावधानी धन्य है कि यह संदेश को पढ़ें।</p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE</b> Busque alguien que lo traduzca.</p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند</b> لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON Isalita sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p>يرجى ترجمة هذا معلومات هامة</p> <p>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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