

## **Dear Parent/Guardian**

September 2016

The Burnaby School District is pleased to be able to continue to provide a School Meal Program. at your school during the coming school year. The district has recently signed a contract with a new vendor for the School Meal Program, as the current vendor completed their contract in June 2016. With the transition to a new provider the program will begin this fall with new menu options and, because of higher food costs, the cost of the program will increase to \$70 per month, per child.

The school district recognizes that many Burnaby families find it convenient to have their children participate in the School Meal Program rather than prepare lunches at home. While this participation is welcomed, it adds to the cost of delivering the program. Therefore, families wishing to use the School Meal Program as a convenience are expected to provide the monthly contribution in full. Please note that menu items must meet our Provincial Healthy Schools guidelines, and we do our best to provide variety in options and tastes, but cannot accommodate special diets and nutritional requirements that some children may have.

The \$70 program cost is the same every month (despite the varying school days per month) because the cost is averaged over the entire school year. Students participating in the School Meal Program can expect to receive a meal every day of the school week. Food is ordered based on the number of participants, so it is not possible to provide meals only on select days. Picking and choosing of certain meals during the week results in increased costs and food waste, reducing our ability to provide an affordable program.

It is the parents' responsibility to review the monthly menu to ensure that their child is aware of any menu item that is prohibited due to dietary restriction and to instruct the child to avoid this menu item. Despite our reasonable efforts, the school district cannot guarantee that there are no allergens in the menu items which may cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Children with life threatening food allergies should not participate in the School Meal Program.

Your support of the School Meal Program is important and valued. If you have any further questions regarding the program, please contact your school principal or the district's School Meal Program Coordinator at 604.760.9138.

Sincerely,

Roberto Bombelli Assistant Superintendent

