



# ***Morley Elementary School***

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**Principal: L. Pitt ~ Head Teacher: G. Hunter ~ Secretary: B. Walters**

***Safe Welcome Responsible Learners***

**BULLETIN #1**

**September 14, 2020**

## **Dates to Remember ...**

**Wednesday, September 16**

Deadline for September School Meals envelopes, **9:00 am**

**PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm (Zoom Link). All Welcome!**

**Monday, September 21**

School Meals program starts today

**Wed., Sept. 23 & Thurs., Sept. 24**

Parents as Partners Virtual Meetings

**Monday, September 28**

**Professional Development Day – school closed**

**Wednesday, September 23**

Terry Fox Run Recognition

**Wednesday, September 30**

**Wear an orange shirt today!** Orange Shirt Day:

Acknowledgement of the History of Residential Schools in Canada

**Friday, October 2**

Student Photos

**Monday, October 12**

**Thanksgiving Day – school closed**

(See our website at [morley.burnabyschools.bc.ca](http://morley.burnabyschools.bc.ca) for the full year's schedule)

## **IMPORTANT:**

This will be the only paper copy parent bulletin that you will be receiving this year. All future bulletins will be sent via school email. All newsletters are also posted on the school website under the "Parents" tab. Please ensure that we have your correct email address and please note that "Hotmail" accounts don't always receive our mail. You are advised to open up another email account (eg. gmail) if you have a Hotmail account. Please keep us up to date with any changes to personal information you make throughout the year. Thank you.



## **Welcome Back!**

I want to begin by thanking everyone for their support during this Covid-19 Phase 2 Restart Plan. Our student orientations and our Kindergarten Welcome to Our School events went very well and it was such a thrill to see our students and families once again. We sure missed you all!

Today was the first day that our split grade classrooms had their whole class together. In accordance with the Health and Safety

guidelines, our entire student body is divided into "Learning Groups" and each group has staggered start, recess, lunch, and leaving times.

I am including this schedule below for your reference. All families received a notice from the classroom teacher on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> or Friday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> indicating their start and end time.

Teacher	Learning Group	Start Time	Recess	Lunch (eating)	Lunch (playing)	End time	End time Weds
Ms. Jai & Ms. Triemstra	1	8:40	10:15	12:05	12:30	2:55	1:55
Mr. Kenney & Ms. Gilstead	2	8:50	10:30	12:35	12:00	3:05	2:05
Ms. Vallance & Ms. Thibodeau	3	8:40	10:15	12:05	12:30	2:55	1:55
Ms. Binng & Ms. Lam	4	8:50	10:30	12:35	12:00	3:05	2:05
Ms. Bonar & Ms. Kler	5	8:40	10:15	12:05	12:30	2:55	1:55
Ms. Chahal & Ms. VanBalkom	6	8:50	10:30	12:35	12:00	3:05	2:05
Ms. Hutchinson & **Ms. Cipparrone/Ms. Harrison	7	8:40	10:15	12:05	12:30	2:55	1:55
**Ms. Harstone & **Ms. Baker	8	8:50	10:30	12:35	12:00	3:05	2:05
*Please note that Kindergarten classrooms begin these times after the Kindergarten gradual entry schedule ends. At recess and lunch the school grounds will be divided into 2 Zones for play. Students will learn to stay in this Zone.							

### **What Parents Need to Know to Support:**

- **Students should not arrive earlier than their scheduled time.** We do this to limit contact between Learning Groups. Unsupervised students like to talk and be with their friends and we do not have supervision before and after school. If students arrive earlier, then they must go and wait at the lower gravel field. A guardian should be with primary students.
- **Students line up at their outside classroom door.** During the student orientations all students were taught the expectations for what this should look like. Please help reinforce this with your own children.
- **We cannot accommodate late students at the office.** If a student arrives late, they will have to wait outside their classroom door until the teacher can let them in and do the Health Check. If a teacher has begun instruction, this may mean that a student will need to wait a while outside. If a student notices that their class is not in the room and has transitioned to a different space already, they will need to come to the front entrance and ring the doorbell for Ms. Walters to respond. This too may take some time. **We encourage all families to be on time.**
- We understand that there may be conflicts in start/end times for some families with multiple children who attend the school. We suggest that families make a meeting place on the lower gravel field where they can socially distance. Teachers understand that some older siblings may need to drop off younger siblings and *they will not be marked late if they/you let the teacher know in advance.* **Attendance is submitted to the office at 9:00 am.**
- **No parents or members of the public have access to the inside of the school.** If you need to speak with a member of our staff, please call the office and leave a message to be returned. Also, all staff e-mail addresses are on our school website.
- **No student should come to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness.** In the packages sent home last week there was a form that needs to be signed by families acknowledging that you are responsible for doing a health check before sending your child to school. **This health check will be done by our staff everyday too.** No student/staff member will be allowed in the building if they have any symptoms.
- **Teach children how to care for a mask.** While Grade 6/7 students and staff must wear masks when in common areas like hallways, or, for staff, if they are working with students outside of their "Learning Group", some parents may want their child to wear a mask. It is very important that students know how to wear one safely. In our experience, masks cause

## Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

### How to Wear a Face Mask

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer before putting on the face mask.
2. Check the new mask to make sure it's not damaged.
3. Ensure colour side of the mask faces outwards.
4. Locate the metallic strip. Place it over and mold it to the nose bridge.
5. Place the ear loops around each ear or tie the top and bottom straps.
6. Cover mouth and nose fully, ensuring there are no gaps. Pull the bottom of the mask to fully open and fit under your chin.
7. Press the metallic strip again to fit the shape of the nose. Perform hand hygiene.
8. Do not touch the mask while using it. If you do, perform hand hygiene.

### Removing the Mask

1. Remove the mask by the top or bottom straps.
2. Do not touch the front of your mask. Turn it forward, gently remove the mask by holding both ear loops or ties.
3. Discard the mask in a waste container.
4. Perform hand hygiene.

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

Non-medical inquiries: 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4379)  
 For medical inquiries: 1-888-268-4379 or call 604-675-5300

children to touch their face more frequently, or they are not stored safely. **If using cloth masks, wash them frequently.** Please see graphics below.

- **Students will be washing their hands frequently during the day.** Handwashing will occur before and after all transitions in the building (entering, recess, lunch breaks, going to Music, Library, PE, etc.) While we teach students how to wash their hands properly, this should be reinforced at home as well. Soap and water is more effective than sanitizer when done properly.

### **Additional Health Measures that Parents Should Know:**

- Custodians will be doing frequent disinfecting of all high touch points (doorknobs, light switches, sinks and toilet handles, etc.) throughout the day. Morley will have an additional labourer to support this process in the classrooms.
- Deep cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces will occur nightly in all classrooms with our 2 evening custodians.
- Students will be assigned a desk/sitting space in their classroom and students will not share individual school supplies.
- In classrooms, students can play together with classroom toys and manipulatives as their "Learning Group" is a controlled environment and handwashing is in place. Teachers will either rotate toys/manipulatives (a basket/bin for each day of the week) or they will be washed daily.
- At lunch, when there are larger numbers of students in the hallways, Morley has a one-way direction that all staff and students will learn and follow.
- Rooms in our school have "capacities" like washrooms, staffroom, photocopier room, etc. Students have been and will continue to be taught these procedures.
- Students need to bring water bottles and all lunches should be packed in reusable containers. Water fountains are closed in the school and students will be required to take all lunch/snack garbage home with them.
- Students will be going outside for recess and lunch even in rain or snow. Please ensure students wear waterproof gear (boots, raincoat, umbrella or, for cold, hat, gloves and insulated jacket). **This is especially important for our Intermediate students who often come in hoodies or light clothing and do not prepare for a change in weather.**
- If a student or staff member becomes ill at school, we have an assigned isolation room. They will be given a mask, isolated, the rooms they were in will be emptied, and custodial

staff will disinfect the space(s). Parents will be asked to get their child immediately and staff will be sent home. Currently the process is that the student/staff member must stay home for 10 days until symptom free or get a note from a doctor that symptoms are not related to Covid-19 or have a negative Covid-test.

- If a student or staff member does have Covid-19, the District has a response plan and takes direction from the Fraser Health Authority. Upmost attention will be given to maintain the privacy of the individual(s), but if Fraser Health deems that others need to isolate, they will do contact tracing and inform those staff members and or families if they need to isolate.

### **Learning Groups for 2020-2021 School Year**

The staff at Morley have put a tremendous amount of time and thought into the placement of every child in this school and we take this responsibility very seriously. We began this process in June of 2020.

Many different people are involved in the process, and many different criteria are looked at when creating a classroom. It is important that we have the big picture of the whole class in mind as well as the individual needs of each child. When creating a classroom, the staff at Morley Elementary School must consider: total number of students, boy/girl ratios, number of students with learning and language needs, social emotional needs, friendships, leadership, and ensuring there is a balance of academic needs. We also must follow class size and composition language and this year we also needed to balance the number of students who chose the In Class option. Some families chose immune-compromised or Transition and we need to maintain space for these families.

While our school population has remained stable, parents who opted for Home Schooling or Online Distributed Learning are not included in our school organization numbers. This has resulted in Morley losing a division. We are now 16 divisions instead of 17 divisions. Families who chose these two options can change their mind, but we may not have space for them to return to in the 2020-2021 school year. If that happens, the District will look for space in neighboring schools. All families in our catchment will be guaranteed a spot in our school in September 2021 as long as they inform us of their decision to return, and they remain in our catchment, or they had prior approval to transfer to our school.

Last week, and for the next few weeks, we must submit our school organization and population numbers to the school district. **After September, all families who chose different options will only be allowed to choose to come back to Morley in mid-November or mid-March.** This aligns with reporting periods, allows us to re-organize student orientation sessions, and helps create stable learning environments for the students and staff who are here. We will continue to accept registrations to our school if space allows.

It is very important that parents understand how much work goes into creating a class and support this process. A new class is a new learning opportunity. It is a time to meet different people, work with different teachers and students, make new friends, and **the parent's role in supporting this process can have an important impact on how well your child adjusts to the new environment.** It is very important that parents have a positive attitude and encouraging words about the change, and that we allow time for relationships to form and students to experience the new classroom for themselves. Soon parents will have the opportunity to meet with the classroom teachers at our **"Parents as Partners"** virtual meetings. This is an opportunity for families to let teachers know about their child and begin a partnership with the teacher in ensuring a positive school year!

### **COMBINED GRADE CLASSROOMS:**

We have many combined grade classrooms at Morley due to our class size and composition here at the school. Here is some important information for parents about combined classrooms.

**Burnaby School District** is committed to creating balanced classes that focus on a student's individual learning strengths and the needs of the whole child. Often, particularly at the elementary level, schools will form combined-grade classes.

In a combined-grade class, students from different grades are grouped together in a classroom with one teacher (eg. Grade 2 and Grade 3). Combined-grade classes are common in Canada. In fact, a Canadian study on classroom organization found that one out of every five Canadian students is enrolled in a combined-grade classroom. This means, it is very likely that your child will be in a combined-grade class during their elementary years.

### **Do children “learn” differently in combined-grade classrooms?**

Children learn and mature at different rates. Intellectual, social, physical and personal development is not grade level dependent. In every classroom, combined-grade or single-grade, there is a wide range of children with varying skills and abilities. Teachers are aware of these individual differences and structure learning activities within the curriculum, according to the needs of each learner.

Students in combined-grade classes are not held back to the level of younger students nor are they expected to handle work beyond their ability. Whether a child is an advanced learner, or requires additional learning support, each is guided to succeed within the grade appropriate learning outcomes. There are also social benefits to combined-grade classes. Research shows that combined-grade classes:

- allow students to learn from one another
- encourage students to work together
- provide models for younger students
- help older students see what they have already learned
- promote social responsibility
- help students to become independent
- foster a positive attitude towards school

### **How do teachers “teach” in combined-grade classes?**

The combined-grade structure does not make a difference in how a teacher teaches students. Teachers of combined-grade classrooms are familiar and knowledgeable about the curricula for the grades and subjects they are teaching.

Learning has shifted away from memorizing facts to a more holistic approach that focuses on engaging the learner through a lens of inquiry-based learning, critical and creative thinking. This approach lends itself well to combined-grade classes where the emphasis is on teaching students how to evaluate ideas, make judgements, transfer and apply knowledge, understand processes and access information.

### **How can I support my child's learning?**

Children in all class formations thrive when parents are involved in the learning process. Here are some ways to become involved and help your child learn:

- Take an interest in your child's school work and activities
- Monitor their homework
- Communicate with the teacher

### **New Staff at Morley**

We would like to introduce some new teachers here at Morley. Ms. Triemstra is continuing to cover Ms. Jackson's maternity leave for the 2020-2021 school year and is the Division 2 grade 6/7 teacher. We welcome two "new" to Morley teachers, Mr. Kenney who is teaching Division 3 (Grade 5/6) and Ms. Kler teaching Division 10 (Grade 1/2). Both of these teachers are covering maternity leaves. Ms. Cipparrone has returned from maternity leave and has decided to teach part-time. She will be teaching Kindergarten with Ms. Harrison who worked at Morley last year in Ms. King's classroom. We are so fortunate to have them all join our team this year.

### **Professional Development Dates and Holidays for the 2020-2021 School Year**

The following dates have been set for the next school year:

Wednesday, September 23	Terry Fox Run Recognition
Wed. Sept. 23 & Thurs. Sept. 24	Parents as Partners <b><u>Virtual</u></b> Meetings
Monday, September 28	<b>Morley Professional Development Day</b>
Wednesday, September 30	Orange Shirt Day
Monday, October 12	<b>Thanksgiving Day – School closed</b>
Friday, October 23	<b>Common Professional Development Day</b>
Wednesday, November 11	<b>Remembrance Day – School closed</b>
Friday, November 27	<b>Common Professional Development Day</b>
December 21 – January 1	<b>School closed for winter break</b>
Monday, February 15	<b>Family Day – School closed</b>
Thursday, February 24	Pink Shirt Day
Friday, February 26	<b>Common Professional Development Day</b>
Monday, March 15 – 26	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Friday, April 2</b>	<b>Easter Friday - school closed</b>
Monday, April 5	<b>Easter Monday – School closed</b>
Monday, Monday, April 26	<b>Common Professional Development Day</b>
Monday, May 24	<b>Victoria Day – School closed</b>
Friday, June 4	<b>Morley Professional Development Day</b>
Thursday, June 29	10:00 dismissal

***\*Most dates are tentative. Please check our parent bulletins or Morley website for updated event information.***

*While Covid-19 will make us re-evaluate how we carry out different events due to Health and Safety protocols, our school is adopting the following philosophy:*

*Rather than saying, "Well we can't do that anymore!"*

*INSTEAD*

*Can we ask, "How can we do that differently?"*

### **Parents as Partners Meetings**

We will be having these VIRTUAL meetings on Wednesday, September 23 or Thursday, September 24, 2020. **There will be an early 2:00 pm dismissal on Thursday, September 24 so that teachers can fit in all of their scheduled meetings.** Please watch carefully for e-mails and or classroom information coming in the following weeks.

### **School Meals Program**

The School Meals Program will again be offered for the 2020/2021 school year. Please note that the price for the lunch program is \$70.00 per month. Menus and envelopes were handed out on the first day of school. **All orders will be due back to the school by Wednesday, September 16,**

**9:00 am if you are wishing your child to participate.** As usual, no late orders will be accepted. Please also watch the dates carefully. For example, this first lunch program cycle goes until October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **PAC (Parent Advisory Council)**

Every parent of a Morley student is already a member of the PAC. Once a month, the PAC meets in the evening, usually 6:00-7:30 pm, to discuss topics of interest to the parent community, to hear from the Principal and Head Teacher about the school, to plan events and to decide on how to spend funding. These are a few of the roles of a PAC.

The PAC is an independent body from the school with its own elected members, meetings, and policies. We always need new members and parents who are willing to attend meetings and support initiatives. At the end of this year, our PAC Chair will be retiring as her sons are now in Grade 7. We need new members to come out and see if they would be interested in fulfilling some roles and duties. **Our first PAC meeting this year is on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. A Zoom link be sent out to our parent community if you would like to attend.** We hope you will join us!

### **Student Safety**

We are asking parents and guardians to please **NOT USE THE BACK OR SIDE STAFF PARKING AREAS, "NO STOPPING" ZONE in front of the school** to drop off or pick up your children. We teach all of our students that **parking lots are out-of-bounds** and **at no time before, during or after school should children be in these areas.** We have had a number of close calls with students and cars in these areas. Please take the time to arrive at school before the bell rings, find a legal spot to park on Leibly or Malvern, and then, if you need to, walk your child to his/her outside classroom door.

This school year is sure to present us with new situations and opportunities for learning and growth. This pandemic is new to all of us, and we are living through a historical period.

While we hope to plan proactively, we need to be flexible and possibly change at any moment.

We all need to remember to not only be:

Safe, Welcome and Responsible

But also:

Be Calm, Be Safe and Be Kind

Do not go into this school year  
with 2019 goals. This is 2020.  
Have 2020 goals.

Safety.  
Connection.  
Mental wellness.  
Physical health.  
Maintain relationships.

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EMILY W KING, PH.D.