



Morley Elementary School

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Principal: L. Pitt, Head Teacher: G. Hunter, Secretary: B. Walters
Safe Welcome Responsible Learners

BULLETIN #5

December 7, 2021

Important Dates

Wednesday, December 8

Monday, December 13

Tuesday, December 14

Wednesday, December 15

Thursday, December 16

Friday, December 17

December 20 – January 3

Tuesday, January 4

PAC MEETING, 6:30 pm (Register for Zoom Meeting on website)

Toque and/or Scarf Day!

Winter Wonderland Door contest

Winter Wonderland Event

Holiday Bingo Day

Celebration of Learning Band performance – virtual assembly

Pajama Day! (sorry . . . no stuffed animals or blankets from home)

School closed

Welcome back!

Pre-Winter Break Festivities!!

Monday, December 13th:

Toque and/or Scarf Day! Wear a special head/neck covering for the day to celebrate the upcoming Winter Season!

Tuesday, December 14

Winter Wonderland Door Contest! Classes will decorate their inside door. Have your child describe how their classroom door is decorated.

Wednesday, December 15

Winter Wonderland Event hosted by divisions 1 & 2 for our primary students.

Thursday, December 16

Holiday Bingo!

Friday, December 17

Pajama Day! Let's get ready for those sleep-in days coming up. Students can wear their pajama's or "loungewear" to school. Do you have slippers, too? Unfortunately, we will have to keep our stuffies at home today.

Special holiday pre-recorded band performance for all classes to watch after lunch. Let's celebrate our grade 7 students who have been learning new instruments since September. There will also be a video link shared with Band students' parents.



Spirit Wear and Grad Hoodies

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are still in communication with the supplier of our Spirit Wear and Grade 7 hoodies. We know that the Grade 7 hoodies will not be available until January, but we are hopeful that our Spirit Wear will come before the Winter Break. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause families. As soon as it arrives, we will send out an email to our community to expect the clothing in students' backpacks.

Also, thank you to all of our families and staff who supported the PACs Safety Reflectors fundraiser. I am excited to see what profit this fundraiser earned for our PAC at the next PAC Meeting!

PAC Meeting

Mark **Wednesday, December 8th** on your calendar!

Please go to our Morley website under the PAC tab, PAC meetings, to get a copy of the agenda and to pre-register for the Zoom PAC Meeting! The virtual meeting will be taking place this Wednesday from 6:30- 8:00 pm.



Late Students

We are having a number of students coming to school late each day. Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to learn within 5 minutes of their bell:

- **Intermediate bell rings at 8:40 am**
- **Primary bell rings at 8:50 am**
- **Kindergarten students begin their day at 8:45 am**

While we understand that with these darker and colder mornings, it is hard to emerge from our warm beds, being late impacts not only your child's learning, but the disruption impacts the learning of the classroom peers. Students are distracted from the learning to welcome the late-comers, and teachers may have already communicated important information about the day at the start of class. This may cause the student stress as they may not be able to keep track of events or know the routines.

Being late also causes a lot of extra work for the office staff. While a late here or there is understandable, some students have a pattern of being late every day. Once late, the absence is already in the system, so Ms. Walters, Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Pitt or Ms. Horton are the only adults who can do the Health Check and sign in at the front door and then change the absence from the computer system. *For example, on Monday, December 6th, we had about 50 lates.* That is a possible 50 doorbell rings and office staff having to go to the door! On average we have about 20 lates each day. Being on time is a very important life skill and we are asking you, as parents, to help your child arrive to school on time.

A reminder to all parents: If your child is late, they MUST check in at the front door. If their classroom door is closed, it means that your child is late. Have them ring the front doorbell once and wait for office staff to come by to do the daily health check with them. Once that is done, they will be sent off to class. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS APPLIES TO ALL STUDENTS – Kindergarten to Grade 7. Please note that they may have to wait to be let in as we are also dealing with our regular office work load and may be on the phone when your child rings the doorbell.

Picking up students mid-day?

Please plan ahead if you will be picking up your child mid-way through the day. With outdoor education now being a big part of our daily curriculum, classes aren't always in the school. Neighbourhood and forest walks are a big component of education these days. If you will be picking your child up outside of regular school hours it is best if you inform the teacher beforehand. Let the teacher know the time you will be picking your child up and where you will be meeting them. If you are picking up for an emergency appointment, please call the school ahead of time so that we can ensure your child is in the school, packed up and ready to leave for the day.

Planning a Vacation?

According to current Canadian guidelines, unvaccinated children under 12 must complete pre-entry, arrival and Day-8 COVID tests when returning to Canada after an international holiday. Unvaccinated children also need to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Canada. This includes even day trips across the border.

If your family is going out of the country, please inform the school of your vacation dates and your child's return to school date (including the 14-day self-isolation period). You can stay updated on current travel guidelines by visiting <https://travel.gc.ca>



Vaccinations Now Available for 5-11 year-old Children

We encourage all families to have a conversation with your family doctor about getting your child vaccinated against Covid-19. We are seeing and hearing many families beginning this process. For information about vaccinations/immunization, Burnaby residents can click on the Fraser Health Authority link below:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine#.Ya5zQNDMLIU>

Sick Children

If your child is sick with a fever, cough, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash, please keep them at home. We are also asking you to reinforce our teachings and help your child remember the importance of washing their hands frequently, especially before eating and after using the washroom.



Colds and flu are primarily spread when children touch an infected surface (desk top, door handle, table) and bring their hands to their face (eyes, mouth, nose). Some infections are also spread through the air when children or staff are in close proximity to a child who is coughing and/or sneezing.

We understand that sometimes illnesses come on suddenly and parents may need to arrange child care quickly. All families should have a plan for when a child is sick. Please ensure you make this plan and do not send sick children to school because you do not have child care or are unsure.

Thank you for helping keep our school, students and staff as safe as possible.

Before and After School Supervision

Please note that we are unable to provide supervision for students dropped off before 8:30 am or left after dismissal time. Students should not be dropped off at school before 8:30 am unless they are part of a team or they have made specific arrangements with a teacher. All students need to wait outside the school until the school bells ring. If you cannot pick up your child at dismissal time, please plan for your child to be picked up by a friend or relative. We are unable to safely supervise students after dismissal.

Dress for the Weather

A reminder to all students and parents: Students go outside for recess and lunch no matter what the weather. Please ensure that your child arrives at school prepared to spend some time outdoors. This includes a warm/waterproof jacket, boots or waterproof footwear, mittens and hats for when the weather is cold. Umbrellas are also great for those rainy days. Children need fresh air and exercise to stay healthy and thrive.



Burnaby Parking Regulations

A reminder to parents that parking in Burnaby laneways is illegal. You will be ticketed if a by-law officer comes by when you are parked in the lane. Parking is NOT permitted in front of any school in Burnaby on school days ~ this includes the bus area in front of the school and the parking driveways on both sides of the school.

Please help us ensure the safety of all children by obeying all traffic regulations. Thank you.

Face Coverings

Thank you to all of the families who are so diligently ensuring that their child is prepared by sending them to school with face masks and a spare or two in their backpacks. It is greatly appreciated. A reminder that masks are required for all students Kindergarten to Grade 7, all staff, and we ask parents to wear them on site as well.



Season's Greetings



Wishing you and your family a
safe, healthy winter break.

~ from the staff of Morley School

