

Newsletter # 1

Sept. 27, 2024

# Stride Community School Newsletter



Principal - Mr. K. Chow  
Head Teacher – Mr. D. Cockram  
Administrative Secretary - Mrs. Giovanetti

7014 Stride Avenue  
Burnaby, B.C. V3N 1T4  
604-296-9032

## It's a Matter of "Principal"

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that the first month school has come and gone. It seemed like August a few days ago, so the natural question or thought by many, including teachers has been, "So what did students accomplish in the first month?" A parent asked me a week ago, "Why do I bother sending my child to school during the first month, because the school really doesn't do anything important? You spend the first two weeks setting classes, and having kids work in groups rotating around seeing a few teachers and working on some sort of project. In addition, you have students not really assigned any homework, you have a Pro D day, and soon to be afternoon Terry Fox run. So, there you have it, my child doesn't really learn anything the first month of school, right?" Well, if you think that learning to cooperate with others, learning to think outside the box, learning to listen to those around you, learning the importance of "We" rather than "I", learning to set goals and create steps to meet those goals, understand that support is more than just teachers, but includes parents, peers, and our community, learning to think about self-reflection, and learning to help others are not important, then I guess you are right. However, I believe school is a place where students learn more than the ABCs or 123s. Think about this: we need to understand that kids go to school for a living. That's their job. They do it six hours a day, five days a week. Not only do they go to school for a living, they're more closely identified with what they do for a living than we are with what we do for a living, it's their entire identity (Rick Lavoie). So, the next time you ask a child, "How is school?" listen for the answer, and ask yourself was it all about the ABCs and 123s?

Warm Regards,

Kelly Chow  
Principal  
Stride Community School



**Website** - Our school website is filled with information. Visit: [stride.burnabyschools.ca](https://stride.burnabyschools.ca)

### Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)

To follow us at Stride go to <https://twitter.com/StrideSD41>

What is X? X is a free social networking service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets. X, and 'tweeting', is about broadcasting daily short burst messages to the world, with the hope that your messages



## Did you know?

How can we as parents, help our children in school and keep that unbridled enthusiasm from the beginning of the year to the end of the year?

Here's my top ten list on how you can help your child do very well in school.

1. Get involved in your child's life at school. Watch and encourage their extra-curricular activities, go to all the school events and be interested in what they are learning.
2. Develop a good relationship with your children's teacher(s). Visit their classrooms, call, email or speak in person when you have a question at the school. Good communication between home and school helps children do well.
3. Create an environment/space at home that encourages learning. Make sure that this space has all the appropriate materials for learning, from pencils to paper.
4. Help your children tackle any school assignments. Be there when they have a question and show some interest in what they are learning. You do not have to know the curriculum or be the teacher to show interest in your child's learning.
5. Make sure your children have established routines around eating, and sleeping. Many students do not get enough sleep which makes learning at school difficult.
6. Read to your children and encourage them to read extensively. As much as 75 % of what your kids learn will come from a book.
7. Teach your children how to be organized. Remember the best way for your kids to learn is through example. Practice what you preach.
8. Encourage your children to listen, participate and be kind to everyone in class. If you reinforce what the teachers are doing and saying this has a huge impact.
9. Talk to your kids about school and ask them questions. Do not be satisfied with one-word answers. A lot can happen in 6 hours, especially when a lot of this time is spent away from the adult radar. Help them problem solve when they have personal and academic issues.
10. Help us support your child in becoming independent young people. Parents play a big roll in this idea.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Chow

# COLD AND FLU SEASON

Now that cold and flu season has arrived, we are making an extra effort to keep our school healthy. We suggest the following guidelines for parents in determining when to keep your child at home.

It is recommended that you keep your child at home if they:



- are coughing regularly,
- has a fever,
- are very congested or frequently blowing his or her nose,
- is complaining of aches and pains; and/or,
- is generally not feeling well

When students stay home (despite the fact it may be inconvenient) and rest they recover more quickly and this prevents the spreading of germs throughout the school.

At school, our custodians work hard each day to keep the school as clean as possible.

Finally, everyone can help by remembering to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly. A hint for children is to keep rubbing the soap around at least as long as it takes to sing the *Happy Birthday* song!

## SCHOOL CLOSURE

Please note the following dates when students do not attend school:

- Monday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Holiday
- Friday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Professional Development Day



## Traffic Safety



While students are at school, we are constantly reminding them not to travel through the parking lot when playing at recess and lunch. You may have seen lots of blue fencing put up around the school to help reinforce our school boundaries. We are looking for parent support to help reinforce our school messaging. Please do not to walk through the parking before and after school and to follow the pathways to the street.



## Parking Issues

Parents and caregivers are reminded to follow the correct city bylaws when parking at the school. Please be considerate of others

# UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY ROOM

## Community Garden Grows with DUDES Club

Last September, the Stride Community Garden needed to be relocated in preparation for the new school construction. This was a monumental task for the community gardeners to take on by themselves. Fortunately, we found out about the DUDES Club during a meeting with other community agencies and they offered to come and help us. Kanatiao, who is an Indigenous Elder at the DUDES Club brought several volunteers and they made a plan to relocate the garden boxes on the west side of the school property, along Griffiths Drive. Unfortunately, many of the garden boxes has deteriorated over time and did not make it over to the new location but several truckloads of soil and a few garden boxes found a new home.

In April, Kanatiao and a few Stride students started the construction of new garden boxes. Under the careful guidance of Kanatiao, students Kaleb, Coco and Aaron learned how to measure, cut, drill and assemble garden boxes for the temporary community garden. The students learned valuable life skills and were excited about their contribution to the school community! The DUDES Club also hosted a Garden Party with the Community Council to celebrate the new garden boxes and introduce the Three Sister Garden. This garden, located near the flagpole will grow corn, squash and beans which all support each other just like the members of the Stride school community!



## Grade 6 and 7 Students Secure \$3500 in Youth Grants

In addition to the removal of large trees on the south side of the property, the intermediate playground had to be dismantled and removed to make space for the new school. As a result, many students have had limited options for play and socialization. We were fortunate to find out about some students grants offered through Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Students as young as 12 years old could take on a leadership role by applying for a \$500 grant to promote social connections and beautify the neighbourhood. Seven students in Grade 6 and 7 applied for the grants and were awarded \$500 each. The two grade 7 students Arron B. and Calvin D. used their funds to purchase four picnic table kits for the Grade 7 Legacy project. You will now find two picnic tables near the community garden and the other two table are in near the basketball court area for students and community members to enjoy!

The other grants were secured by students in grade 6. Two students Yasmine and Marian used their grant funds to purchase backyard games such as Corn Hole, Jenga, Connect 4, Ladder Ball and much more. These items are available for students to use outside the Gallery area starting October during lunch recess. The grants received by Dean H, Kaiya T. and Saige W are being used for mural projects at the school. In June, a large dragon was painted on the wall inside the school between the main office and the gymnasium. This dragon will "breath fire" with the names of students to recognize those who are Friendly, Independent, Respectful and Empathetic. The rest of the funds will be used to create a large mural in the new year. We are so proud of the leadership initiative these students and we know they will continue to be great leaders in their final year of elementary school. Thank you also to parents for their support!



**Thank You to Community Supporters:** We would like to recognize a special member of the BC Hydro's Employees Holiday Giving Team, Debra Knowles who recently announced her retirement from BCH. We would like to thank Deb for her many years of commitment to raising funds and preparing hampers (pre-pandemic) to support Stride's families in need during the holiday season. The staff, students, and families all wish Deb and healthy and happy retirement!

We would also like to thank the following community organizations and businesses for their donations of time and financial support: DUDES Club, Burnaby Neighbourhood House, United Way, Save-on-Food & Starbucks (Highgate Village Shopping Centre) and Buy-Low Foods. (these are specific to the June event)