

Dear Parent/Guardian,

May 2025

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 main purpose of the School Meal Program is to provide a nutritious lunch for those students who would otherwise go hungry while at school. The cost of this program for the 2025-26 school year is \$80 per month, per child.

Limited funding is available to school districts through the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Feeding Futures Fund to provide food to students who need it most. If families are experiencing food security challenges or financial hardship, and children require a meal during the school day, subsidized meals are available. Families unable to pay the monthly amount in full are asked to contribute any amount that they can.

Families wishing to use the School Meal Program as a convenience, rather than prepare lunches at home, are expected to provide the monthly contribution in full. Please note that menu items must meet our Provincial Healthy Schools Guidelines, and *The Lunch Lady* does their best to provide a variety of options and tastes but cannot accommodate special diets and nutritional requirements that some children may have.

The \$80 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.

<u>Children with life threatening food allergies should not participate in the School Meal Program.</u>

We are pleased to continue with The Lunch Lady for the 2025-26 school year.

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 604-763-6563.

Sincerely,

Sheri Brattston, District Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Please have this translated.