



Nelson
Elementary School
4850 Irmin Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 1Y2

Welcome Back Newsletter – September 2023

Message from the Principal, Nadine Stack

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year at Nelson Elementary School. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy their summer, having fun in the sunny weather by spending time with friends and family. Michael Baldin (our new Head Teacher) and I are very grateful to be getting this opportunity to work with the Nelson community, known for its school pride. I have already met so many wonderful people. Thank you for being so welcoming!

Nelson staff members are very excited to be back. They have been working hard this week on planning and setting up the school. School start up is an exciting time but can also cause some anxiety for new and returning students. We will work together on building capacity, resiliency and belonging while helping you and your child feel as comfortable as possible. Please reach out at any time if you have any questions or concerns; email Nadine.stack@burnabyschools.ca 604-296-9025. I look forward to getting to know you and your children.

The First Week Back

This year will start with students returning to their last year's classes. These will operate as their "homerooms" for the first week as things settle into place and we go into our classes for this year. This is a time when we build community and learn new concepts, re-establish routines and give students and families the opportunity to get accustomed to being back in school. Students will rotate between three or four teachers, completing activities within our theme of "**Connecting With The Land**". We will explore relationships with nature through STEM, Art, Literacy and outdoor exploration of our school grounds which are situated on the traditional territories of the Musquem, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish territories.

New Students from Grade 1-7 - please report to the outside table in the courtyard and a staff member will help you.

New Kindergarten Parents have already received information about Gradual Entry in June. If you missed the June orientation and Welcome to Our School, you can come by the office between 9:00 -10:00 and pick up a schedule and Welcome Back Bag.

On Tuesday, Sept. 5th, students are at school from 8:53 – 10:00 am. Students go with their last year's class. Teachers will meet the students and bring them into the building. Students in lower level classrooms will wait outside their classroom door, while students in the upper floors will wait outside in the vicinity of their entrance locations; see attached map for line up locations for the upper floor classes. Hopefully this helps our new families. Students will be dismissed at 10:00 and can be picked up from the same location where they arrived. Highlighted sections indicate rooms that are different from where your child went last year.

We also have some new teachers this year. Use the chart below to guide you. For example: Mr. Morrison will be the teacher for Mr. Tesan's last year's class. Those students will line up outside Portable 1 where Mr. Morrison teaches. If you cannot find your child's class, please ask any staff member to help you. There will be several located outside.

Homerooms for the first week

Teacher *new teachers	Which Class	Current Grade in September	Location
Mr. Feng	Previous Grade 6's	7	Portable 3
Mr. Hui	Previous class	7	Computer Lab
Mr. Morrison	Mr. Tesan's previous class	6/7	Portable 1
Ms. Heighton	Previous class	5/6	Room 209
Ms. Wen	Previous class	5/6	Room 206
Ms. Tsumori	Previous class	4/5	Room 204
Ms. Watt	Previous class	4	Room 203
Ms. Edwards	Previous class	3/4	Room 207
Ms. Hoang*	Ms. Selig's previous class	3/4	Room 205
Ms. Sam	Previous class	2/3	Room 202
Ms. Gastaldo	Previous class	2/3	Room 104
Ms. Boyes	Previous class	2	Room 101
Ms. Marino/TBA*/Ms. Cobbett	Ms. Cobbett's previous class	1/2	Room 201
TOC/Ms. Tsakalos	Ms. Tsakalos' previous class	1	Room 103
Mr. Palmer	Previous class	1	Room 102

Bell Schedule

For this school year, Nelson Elementary will return to the regular bell schedule.

We will follow this schedule starting Wednesday, September 6th.

8:53	Bell – Building opens for students
8:58	Classes Begin
10:20	Recess Begins
10:40	Recess Ends
12:00	Lunch
12:10	First opportunity to go outside
12:25	All students go outside
12:50	Bell - End of lunch
12:55	Afternoon classes begin
3:05	Dismissal

Reminders:

Please ensure that students come dressed for any weather and any form of activity. Please have them bring an extra change of clothes in case they get wet.

We continue to keep the safety of ourselves and others in mind by monitoring ourselves and our students. Please check in with your child before coming to school to ensure they are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) that would limit their ability to participate fully in

regular activities to prevent spread of illness within school settings. Anyone exhibiting new symptoms of illness should stay home and follow the current guidance of public health.

Important Symptoms are:

- Fever (above 38°C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Sore throat and or excessively runny nose
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Body aches
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

Visitors

- If you would like to come in the office or meet with staff member, it is best to set up an appointment with them.
- Please do not drop-off lunches or treats during the school day unless pre-arranged with staff. If your child has forgotten their lunch, please phone the office (604) 296- 9025.
- Any students who will be going home for lunch must submit a note from their parents to the office or the parents can email the School Secretary at Chiharu.Warren@burnabyschools.ca.

Morning and Afterschool Traffic

Our drop off and pick-up areas can be very busy and community safety is a priority. To encourage the safest traffic situation: **We are asking that as many families walk to school as possible. Those that must drive, try to park a short distance from the school and walk the remainder. Please be very careful driving around the school and be respectful of our volunteer safety patrol and coned off areas. Our staff and students volunteer to contribute to the school, and we want a safe and respectful start to each school day. A couple of key things:**

- Please do not stop in “No Stopping Zones” – Follow the signs.
- Please do not walk through the staff parking lot between cars.
- Please do not park in the staff parking lot, the middle of the street, or people’s driveways. This is not safe or respectful.
- Pedestrians – Please demonstrate proper pedestrian behaviour – use the crosswalk and cross when directed by a patroller.
- Drivers – follow direction from our student patrollers- When the stop sign is out- you need to stop. These students do an important job- they deserve attention, appreciation, and respect.
- Please do not use the staff parking lot as a pick-up/drop off area or park in this lot. It prevents staff from coming and going and blocks access.

- **The block of Irmin Street attached to the school should not be used as a pick-up or drop off area.**

School Supplies

A school supply list is posted on the website. Teachers will also give updates about school supplies. Primary classes will continue to use shared supplies.

Staffing:

Staffing will continue to change as we move into September. Please check the Nelson website in the upcoming weeks for an updated Staff list.

How Consent forms will look this year

This year, we will provide packages of our year-starting forms (e.g. walking permission, Emergency Release, etc.) for families to complete and return. We will give the "Walking Permission" form as soon as possible as part of our First Week Plan includes trips to "Secret Park". Please hand back the "Walking Permission" as soon as possible to homeroom teacher. In addition, accurate information is very important!***

Student Verification Forms

Next week, you will get the **Student Verification Forms**. It is very important that you review both sides and update your information. If something has changed, please cross out the incorrect information and add the new information neatly so our secretarial staff does not end up calling parents to clarify information.

Have a great rest of the week and enjoy your weekend. We are excited to see you on Tuesday, September 5th at 8:53!