



# OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

2740 Beaverbrook Crescent Burnaby, BC V3J 7B6 (604) 296-9031

Principal: Mr. K. Gurney • Head Teacher: Mr. S. Leach • Secretary: Ms. F. Spartano  
Community Coordinator: Mrs. T. Briscoe • Community Assistant: Ms. L. Marghi

## Principal's Message

Dear Stoney Creek Families:

### To Be Late, Or Not To Be Late, That is the Question



All of us know that getting children up and out the door in the morning is a **blissful** way to start your day...as you enter your child's room at 7:00 a.m. and kiss them on the forehead, they open their eyes, smile, and immediately jump out of bed singing, "Good morning wonderful parent, I'm just going to make myself a healthy breakfast, is there something I can get you?" As you leisurely finish your coffee, your child melodically calls up to you, "I brought your lunch downstairs for you and will wait in the car." That's exactly the way it is...right? OK, maybe not. Maybe it's more like a parent yelling, "OK, you guys better be up, we have to leave in 7 minutes! Toby, bad dog, that's my new shoe! Where are my keys? What do you mean that you have to finish your homework, it's 8:40!?"

Yep, I know it can be difficult to get the kids out the door in the morning, I've got 2 daughters...but the fact that more and more students are coming in late each day is getting to be problematic. Not only does it lead to disrupting classes, causes students to miss start-up activities, but it also engrains the idea that being late is OK for those that are chronically late.

Without a doubt, there will be occasions that this cannot be avoided, but it's a chronic issue for far too many students that I'm hoping you can all help with. Thanks for doing your part to ensure students are on time each day.

### Stoney Creek Swim Team?

Each year, the district works hard to ensure proper drainage at our school, but this doesn't stop puddles from forming, especially in certain areas of our field...just the other day you would have sworn that our field was partially a pond.

With this comes the inevitable draw....a siren call for children to splash and get soaked. I was one of those children; if I saw a neglected puddle, I felt it was my duty to befriend it. I would start by teetering on the edge, flirting with disaster, and within about 3 minutes I would be surfacing for air asking my friends if they had a spare snorkel.

Long story short, could you please send a **spare set of clothing to school** in case your child gets too wet to sit in class. We're looking to have socks, pants, underwear, and a shirt, but please no snorkels. Thanks.



### Halloween Costumes

Of course, Halloween will be upon us in no time, which means we will all have an excuse to dress up as animals, pirates, witches, or super heroes. On page 2 are a couple guidelines we use when it comes to costumes at Stoney Creek:

### DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins: 8:50

Recess: 10:35

Lunch: 12:00

Classes resume: 12:57

Dismissal: 3:00



Cont'd . on page 2

# Principal's Message *(Cont'd)*

## Halloween Costumes

- ◆ Throughout the day, we must be able recognize every child for safety reasons. This means that students are not to wear **full face masks** or other coverings that would make identification difficult for the whole afternoon. It is fine for them to wear them for the “parade” in the afternoon, but after that, they will be asked to remove them. Half masks are often OK as long as we can see the child's eyes.
- ◆ **Detachable swords, light sabers, or other such “weapons”** are not allowed at school, even if they are brought in a bag, so please leave them at home so the students are not even tempted to take them out. Of course, this again has to do with student safety and it avoids putting staff in the awkward situation of disappointing students by having to take the “weapon” away for the day.
- ◆ In addition, we ask that students do not wear extremely “scary” costumes...again, common sense judgement is needed here. For example, dressing up as Pennywise, the clown from IT or Squid Game guards would not be an appropriate costume for elementary school, although coming as a clown is just fine. We want all students to enjoy the day so don't want to frighten the youngest of our students.
- ◆ And finally, just a reminder that **“culture is not a costume”**. For more information on this, check out this [article](#).

On **Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, we will encourage students, parents, and staff to bring costumes to show off in the afternoon. We'll likely have an afternoon assembly and some sort of parade, but more information will be coming, closer to the time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kurt Gurney,  
Principal



**Reminder  
No School!**

Friday, **October 20, 2023** - Pro D Day  
Friday, **November 24, 2023** - Pro D Day

**BOLO!!!**  
*(Be on the Look Out)*

Watch for information to come about our Christmas 2023 Purdy's Fundraiser.



# What is a Community School? F A Q's



We thought we would put together a few of our **frequently asked questions** to give you a better understanding about community schools:

What is a "community" school?

Community schools are regular public schools with a special belief in, and emphasis on **community involvement**.

Burnaby Community Schools began in the 1970s through a strong partnership with the Burnaby School District and the **City of Burnaby**. We are the only school district in BC which has this special partnership with the City!

Is the curriculum different in a community school?

We follow the same curriculum as other public elementary schools across BC.

However, what you might also notice in community schools is that we have many **partnerships and programs** with community organizations. These programs help to **enhance and extend learning opportunities** during the school day and into the afterschool/evening hours for ALL "students" in our community - from toddlers to adults!

**Our partners include:**

- Creekside Youth Centre
- Burnaby Parks and Recreation
- Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
- YMCA
- Cameray Child & Family Services
- Burnaby Family Life
- StrongStart
- Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Association
- Stoney Creek Environment Committee
- Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver
- NEBCA / Fun Rec (Northeast Burnaby Community Association)
- The City of Lougheed
- ...and more!

Who are some of the "partners" at Stoney Creek Community School?

*In a nutshell, **YES**, the Community Council is the same thing as a PAC.*

*However, it is called a "Community Council" because we are a community school. We also invite community partners to join us at our council meetings to help provide input and make decisions on our community. We often hear updates from Bby Parks & Rec or our Youth Centre as well.*

Is the **Stoney Creek Community Council** the same thing as a **PAC** (Parent Advisory Council)?

We are fortunate that in Burnaby, all of the Community School Coordinators are also **certified teachers**. Being a teacher helps to connect our teaching background and experience with our work in community development. We also work closely with parents and our community partners to plan and coordinate programs and events for our school and neighbourhood so that we can strengthen our community. **At Stoney Creek, Taryn Briscoe is your Community School Coordinator** ([Taryn.Briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Taryn.Briscoe@burnabyschools.ca))

We also have TWO offices at Stoney Creek, the main school office by the entrance doors, and the **Community Office** down the hallway on the lower floor. Please feel free to stop by the Community Office **if you have any questions** about community programs and events, family support services, financial support services, youth information, early learning programs, after school programs, adult education opportunities, and MORE! **Please also feel free to drop by just to say hello!**

Who is the "**Community School Coordinator**" and where is the "**Community Office**"?

## What is a Community Council?

The **Stoney Creek Community Council (SCCC)** is called a “**Community Council**” rather than a “Parent Advisory Council (PAC)” because Stoney Creek is a community school. One of the many important aspects of community schools is that Stoney Creek parents AND local residents/community members are welcome to attend the meetings to identify needs and initiate programs and services available through the school to support the school and local community. In addition, there is a broad scope for volunteer activity in a community school, with staff and residents working in an environment of cooperation to make the school a productive and comfortable place to share in.



As parents/guardians of Stoney Creek students, you are automatically a “member” of the Community Council and are always welcome to attend any of the monthly meetings to find out more school and community programs and activities, to hear updates from Mr. Gurney and Ms. Briscoe, and to meet other parents.

### Stoney Creek Community Council Members for 2023/24

Our Stoney Creek Community Council (aka PAC) held their Annual General Meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the following who are our Executive Council Members:

**Chairperson** – Chad Leaman

**Vice-Chairperson** – Kim Crow

**Secretary** – Nadia White

**Co-Treasurers** – Lisa Deines and Amanda Martin

**District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) Rep** – Ross Kukard

**District Comm. School Advisory Committee Council Rep**—Lucy French

### Upcoming SCCC Meetings

October 17, 2023

November 16, 2023

January 18, 2024

February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024

May 16, 2024

June 20, 2024 (Budget Meeting)



### Our next Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 17 @ 7:00 pm  
In the Library

For all parents, guardians & community members  
**All are welcome to attend!**

If you require childminding, please email  
[taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca)



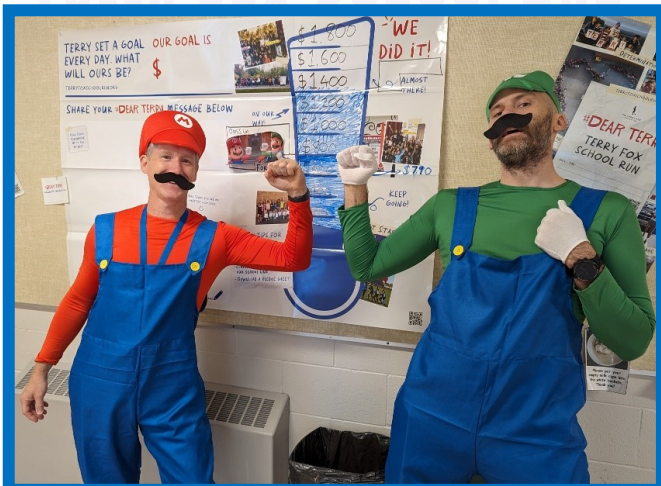
## IMPORTANT DATES AT STONEY CREEK 2023/2024

<p><b>September 2023</b></p> <p>5 School Opens 29 PRO D Day 30 National Day for Truth &amp; Reconciliation</p>	<p><b>October 2023</b></p> <p>2 Stat in lieu of Sept 30 9 Thanksgiving 20 Pro D Day</p>	<p><b>November 2023</b></p> <p>11 Remembrance Day 13 Stat in lieu of Nov. 11 24 Pro D Day</p>	<p><b>December 2023</b></p> <p><i>Winter Break</i> <b>Fri., Dec 22–Jan 5</b> (Fri., Dec. 22 is in Lieu of Jan. 1st)</p>	<p><b>January 2024</b></p> <p>8 School Resumes</p>
<p><b>February 2024</b></p> <p>16 Pro D Day 19 Family Day</p>	<p><b>March 2024</b></p> <p><i>Spring Break</i> March 18-28 29 Good Friday</p>	<p><b>April 2024</b></p> <p>1 Easter Monday 2 School resumes 29 Pro D Day</p>	<p><b>May 2024</b></p> <p>17 Sports Day 20 Victoria Day</p>	<p><b>June 2024</b></p> <p>7 Pro D Day 27 Last day of classes Early Dismissal</p>

## BBQ THANK YOUs

Thank you to everyone who braved the little bit of rain showers to join us at our Welcome Back BBQ in September. It is always lovely to get together with one another to reconnect and make new friends. Special thanks to the Youth Service staff at Creekside Youth Centre and to JJ Edwards from Cameray Family Services for grilling and serving, to our parent volunteers Janelle and Stephanie who did all the shopping, Amanda K., Conrad, Amanda M., Yayoi, Maria and Tanya for helping with chopping the vegetables, our clean up crew Corey, Janey, Laura, and Tim, and Ms. Gould for the amazing facepainting. Thank you to all of the Stoney Creek staff who were able to join us as well!

## Terry Fox School Run



Part of our event was raising money for cancer research, and specifically, we were hoping to raise a little more than we did last year. Last year, we raised about \$650 as a community, so our goal this year was \$700. Well, we easily made that first goal and actually doubled it to raise over \$1400 to go towards cancer research...WAY TO GO STONEY CREEK! As a reward, on October 6th, students earned a “sneaky recess” in the afternoon, received a special treat which was donated by our local Save-On-Foods, and also got to see Mr. Gurney and Mr. Leach dressed up as Mario and Luigi all day.

Also, special thanks to all of our parent volunteers who helped with counting laps and supervising along the route - Stephanie, Adina, Olha, Janey, Michelle, Corey, Lorah, Kim, Dennis, Carol, Jessalyn, Po, Shirly, Amanda and there were a few others who stepped in at the last minute - thank you!



# What You Need to Know

## TRAFFIC SAFETY, DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS:

Keeping our students safe before and after school is a priority.

- Parents are encouraged to walk their children to and from school to reduce traffic congestion.
- Student crossing guards will once again be stationed at the crosswalk in front of the school before and after school. Please be aware of their presence.
- If you do drive to school, please obey all signs at the front of the school.
- Please use the designated parking spots along Beaverbrook Crescent and avoid the front of the school as it impairs the vision of our crossing guards.
- Our crosswalk provides a small drop-off area just past the crosswalk for those parents who need it.
- Please limit drop-off time to accommodate other cars.
- **The parking lot is for staff only and is NOT to be used for dropping off and picking up students, turning your car around, or for accessing the YMCA Daycare.**
- **Please refrain from walking through the school parking lot to the playground. We have had some near misses in the past with students dashing between the parked cars.**

There is no supervision before and after school, so students should arrive close to their scheduled start times and leave the school grounds shortly after they have been dismissed.

## WHAT NOT TO BRING TO SCHOOL:

Toys, electronic devices, trading cards or anything of value should be left at home to avoid loss or damage. **Cell phones are not permitted during school hours.** Students who have a phone are asked to keep them turned off and put away during the day. Should you need to contact your child during the school day, we ask that you call our main office at 604-296-9031. Any bikes or scooters brought to school need to be locked up in the under-cover area beside the parking lot. Students are to walk bikes and scooters when on school grounds.



## STUDENT INFORMATION:

In order to ensure student safety please make sure the school has all relevant information up to date. This includes any medical and safety concerns as well as phone numbers and emergency contact information.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION:

Having an open line of communication between home and school is crucial for student success. Please stay in touch with your child's teacher on a regular basis and feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. We send our notices and newsletters home via e-mail in order to reduce paper consumption. You can check our website for a variety of information and weekly updates are posted on our home page (click [here](#)). Please remember to update the school if any of your personal information (email, phone number, etc.) changes throughout the school year.



## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES:

Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is important if your child is to gain full benefit from the school program. If your child is going to be late or away for any reason, please call the school office before 8:45 a.m. to report his/her absence or tardiness by email at [StoneyCreek.Info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:StoneyCreek.Info@burnabyschools.ca) or by calling our absence line at:

**604-296-9031** and choose **Option 2** to leave a message with the following information:

- ◆ Child's name (first and last)
- ◆ Teacher name or Division
- ◆ Dates of absence or, if late, estimated time of arrival

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:

Regular hours for our school office are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Voicemail comes on automatically if we are unable to answer. If **Ms. Spartano** is away from her desk, or on the other line, please leave a message and she will respond as quickly as possible.

# Reminders

## Student Illnesses

Please click [here](#) for the latest Health and Safety information.

In addition to COVID-19, of course we still have to be aware of our usual seasonal illnesses such as colds and the flu. Staying healthy throughout the school year is not always easy. To avoid illness, the Fraser Health Authority recommends that children wash their hands regularly, use a tissue when they sneeze, eat healthily, exercise, and get a good night's sleep. If your child does get sick, *please do not send them to school and limit their contact with others to avoid infecting them.*



## Be Nut-Aware!

Stoney Creek Community School is a "Nut Aware" school. There are a number of children with life-threatening nut/peanut allergies at our school. We strongly request that your child NOT bring any nut/peanut products to school.

Nut-safe snack ideas include: yogurt, fruit, cheese and crackers, nut-free granola bars, pasta, veggies and dip, boiled eggs and cottage cheese.

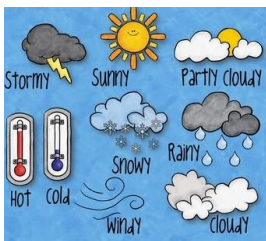
Thank you for keeping Stoney Creek Community School a safe place for everyone.



We received a small donation of **backpacks** with basic school supplies from Telus.

If your child/ren could use a new backpack, please email our Community School Coordinator, [taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca).

## Dressing for the weather



Just a reminder that students will be going outside at recess and lunch time this year, regardless of the weather. Please make sure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately. We would also suggest a change of clothes be left at school for what we know will be those wet days ahead of us. Please remember to label your child's clothing.

## Keep Informed!

View newsletters, calendar, upcoming events, and updates from our Community Council on our school's website at:

[stoneycreek.burnabyschools.ca](http://stoneycreek.burnabyschools.ca)

# Parking Lot Safety

Are you a parent picking your child up from the daycare?

Please remember that it is very unsafe to walk through the parking lot. We ask that you please walk on the sidewalk (close to the building) when you are walking between the daycare and the school.

**Thank you.**

# Community Programs

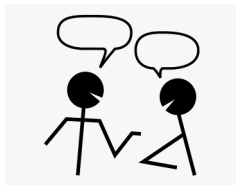
## Stoney Creek Breakfast Program

The Stoney Creek Breakfast Program is up and running. We are able to offer this free program thanks to community donations and parent volunteers. The program runs Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 8:50 am.

If your child(ren) are in need of a little extra food support at the start of the school day, please contact Taryn Briscoe, Community School Coordinator at 604-296-9031 ex 651013 or by email at [taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca).

## English Conversation Circle Peer Support Group

Practice speaking English with other adult English Learners. Open to all levels of English. This is FREE and no registration required.



Thursdays  
**9:15 – 10:15 am**

Please email Taryn Briscoe at [taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca) if you would like to join in. Click [here](#) to see the poster with full details.

## LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE?

Burnaby/New Westminster Child Care Resource  
and Referral

4460 Beresford Street, 3rd Floor  
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B8  
Phone: 604-294-1109 Fax: 604-294-6278  
[crr@gv.ymca.ca](mailto:crr@gv.ymca.ca)



## Do you need a new winter coat for your child(ren)?

Now that Fall is here, the colder weather is approaching, and the students are extending their outdoor learning opportunities, we want to make sure that all students have the appropriate attire to stay warm and dry.

The Rotary Club of Burnaby Metrotown is running its annual COATS FOR KIDS program for children of low-income families who may need a new winter jacket. If your children are needing new coats this year, please contact Taryn Briscoe, Community School Coordinator at [Taryn.Briscoe@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Taryn.Briscoe@burnabyschools.ca) to register for a new coat. We will need to have your current child's sizing.



# Community Programs

## Burnaby Neighbourhood House



In need of a little extra food support? The Burnaby Neighbourhood House is offering a Food Hub for families with low-incomes.

This includes:

- Coordination of food security issues for Burnaby residents who are experiencing food insecurity.
- Supporting individuals and families who have loss of employment and/or are low income with food hampers and grocery gift cards
- Supporting low income seniors with prepared meals and food hampers
- Grocery shopping and free delivery for Burnaby residents who are unable to get out
- Coordinating response in Burnaby for Food Sourcing, storage facilities, transportation and volunteer management relating to Food security issues

**All food pick-ups at the Burnaby North Food Hub will be by appointment only.** Burnaby residents please contact us for more information on available food resources.

**North House** - for North Burnaby Residents - 604-294-5444 - [northfoodhub@burnabynh.ca](mailto:northfoodhub@burnabynh.ca)



## BURNABY PARKS AND RECREATION CREDIT PROGRAM

The Burnaby Parks and Recreation Credit Program for income assistance or low-income families provides a credit amount (in dollar value) per person in your family to use towards City of Burnaby recreational facilities and programs. This amount is also transferrable within your family. For example, if you will not be using your total individual amount, you can use it towards a program for your child or another member of your family, and vice versa. For more information on what you need to register, please contact Taryn at the Community Office or call Cameron Rec Centre at 604-297-4456.

**Qualifying gross income for low income** - for more detailed information, please click [here](#)

Individual	\$5,000 - \$29,380	Family of 5	\$5,000 - \$61,920
Family of 2	\$5,000 - \$36,756	Family of 6	\$5,000 - \$69,835
Family of 3	\$5,000 - \$44,966	Family of 7+	\$5,000 - \$77,751
Family of 4	\$5,000 - \$54,594		

**Your recreation credit can be used towards our after-school programs at Stoney.**

# BURNABY RCMP OPEN HOUSE



RAIN OR SHINE WE WILL BE THERE

**OCTOBER 14TH, 2023**

**PRIZES 10AM-3PM FUN**

**POPcorn**

**FOR ALL AGES!**

**CAKE**



Learn more and stay connected on our website

