



DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter

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,



Winter Concert (mark your calendars)

As you likely know, our Winter Concert, "Star Bucks!", is happening on Tuesday, Dec. 19th and Wednesday, Dec. 20th. We'd love to see you there, so here's your official invite!

Stoney Creek Community School Cordially Invites you to:

Star Bucks!

*Please join us for either of the below performances:
(Each performance is specific to different Divisions)*

Tuesday, December 19th, **Odd divisions, not 15** (1,3,5,7,9,11,13)
Wednesday, December 20th, **Even divisions and 15** (2,4,6,8,10,12,14,15)
1:30 pm *Open Dress Rehearsal (Open to all, no tickets required)*
6:30 pm *Evening Performance (Limited to 2 per family)*

Due to limited seating please plan on attending only **one** of the performances. If you have small children, it is suggested that the Matinee performance may be better suited. If you have multiple children in our school, they may be involved in separate performances. Please check the division dates carefully.

Admission by ticket to the evening performance
The Office will send out more information closer to the performance

Due to the fact that this is a performance, it is very important that all students attend both the afternoon and evening performance for their divisions. If your child will be absent, please be sure to inform the office ASAP (stoneycreek.info@burnabyschools.ca).

Tickets are free, but we will be accepting donations online and at the door for future performances (costumes, props, etc...). More information will be coming soon, so keep your eyes peeled. We look forward to seeing you all there.



DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins: 8:50

Recess: 10:35

Lunch: 12:00

Classes resume: 12:57

Dismissal: 3:00

DEC 19
WINTER
CONCERT
ODD DIVISIONS
(NO DIV 15)

DEC 20
WINTER
CONCERT
EVEN DIVISIONS
(PLUS DIV 15)

DEC 21
PANCAKE
BREAKFAST FOR
STUDENTS

**DEC 22 -
JAN 7, 2024**
WINTER
BREAK

Math Musings

What's Up With Math Nowadays?

Back when I was younger...yep, WAY back then when we had dinosaurs as pets...Math looked a LOT different than it does nowadays. We had Math textbooks, we learned basic formulas such as long division, and we were able to recite our multiplication facts as quickly as we could blink.



But nowadays, things seem to be different. Have we lost our way? Or is there something to the way we learn math today? Based on some of the information out there (like the funny video [HERE](#)), many might think we've lost our rigour and deviated too much from the rote memorization and repeated practice ways of old.

I think you know where I'm going with this, so I thought I'd share an interesting story that helps put things in perspective that I've heard a couple of times from Janice Novakowski, a district Math Consultant out of Richmond who currently works at UBC and has helped inform provincial Math curriculum development. She was approached by a fellow hockey mom at her son's practice and asked, "What up with the new math? Kids nowadays don't know their multiplication facts?"

Janice's response was something along the lines of "Really? Let's check." So she called over both of their sons and asked them the question 8×7 .

The question was barely out of Janice's mouth when the other mom proudly called out, "56!" She was way faster than either of the boys. The boys seemed surprised at how fast the mom was. Then Janice asked, "What is 8×14 ?"

The mom looked perplexed but again quickly responded, saying "Well, I didn't learn that in my multiplication tables", but the one boy responded, also quite perplexed, saying, "It's 112 mom, it's just double 56".

I've seen this play out in many situations not only in my teaching career but also with my own daughters in the way they "see" and understand numbers. We have moved far beyond just learning math facts and doing repetitive practice to showing our understanding, demonstrating an ability to "deconstruct" numbers, and linking numeracy concepts to apply in various situations.

Of course, this is just one situation/example, but now that Mathematics and Numeracy will be a focus for Stoney Creek over the next couple of years, I want to start delving into how students learn Math and how we can support our kiddos in this area. So please be on the lookout for "**Math Musing**" in upcoming newsletters as we go into how Mathematical understanding is best developed in children.

Until then, if you're keen to know more about how Canada does academically in comparison to other countries there is some very interesting information in the PISA results (found [HERE](#)) which examines what students know in reading, mathematics and science, and what they can do with what they know. For information a little closer to home, [HERE](#) is some basic information on the Math curriculum in BC.

Finally, I'll leave you with a video link to a [TEDTalk on Math instruction](#) centred around questions and exploration to unlock mathematical thinking and interest in students...with some tips for parents as well.

Wellness Check

Emotional Well-Being

I thought that a “burning” topic for families nowadays is Emotional Wellness, particularly when it comes to anxiety in children and families.

Especially since the start of COVID, anxiety and emotional well-being have been growing topics of conversations and issues educators and families are being confronted with on a more regular basis.

Of course, everyone has worries at some point in their life, but one thing that is quite helpful for many children is getting a sense of the size of worries and knowing the difference between a “glitch” and an “emergency” worry. Staff at Stoney often use this terminology when speaking to students about issues, worries, stresses, problems, anxieties, etc...to help children begin to clarify the size of worries and then react appropriately.



How Big Is My Worry?	
Sometimes our brain thinks our worry is much bigger than it really is!	
5	<p style="text-align: center;">EMERGENCY</p> <p>Fire, you or someone else may be in danger. You may need an ambulance, police or a fire engine quickly.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">GIGANTIC PROBLEM</p> <p>Fighting, someone is getting hurt, bullying, getting lost or You will need an adult to help you.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">BIG PROBLEM</p> <p>Small accident (you may have fallen down), you may be bleeding or in pain. You will need an adult to help you.</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">MEDIUM PROBLEM</p> <p>Someone is bothering you, you feel tired or unwell. You could try and sort this out for yourself or ask for help.</p>
1	<p style="text-align: center;">LITTLE PROBLEM</p> <p>Can't understand your work, forgotten your homework or falling out with your friend. You can sort this out yourself with a little reminder.</p>
0	<p style="text-align: center;">GLITCH</p> <p>Losing in a game, not being picked, making a mistake, you have forgotten something. You can fix this yourself!</p>

Another thing we often speak to students about is things they need to know about stress and how it can be a [source of strength](#). Check out these [5 things you need to know about stress](#).

Most importantly, we try to focus on relationships and attachments to form healthy bonds with children so that they feel safe, welcome, and comfortable enough to seek our support, ask questions, and feel safe enough to make mistakes and move on. And alongside that idea is to continue to nurture the relationships between family and school in whichever ways we can to benefit our students the most.

For more information on Emotional Well-Being, I suggest you visit Ms. Aquila’s blog [HERE](#). It’s got helpful hints and great ideas to help children and families deal with anxiety and worry.

In upcoming articles, we’ll be talking about SLEEP, SCREEN TIME, EATING HABITS, & information on the NERVOUS SYSTEM. So stay tuned.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kurt Gurney (Principal)



School Reminders...

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.

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.

Student Illnesses

Please click [here](#) for the health 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.*

If your child will be away or late, please advise the office.

Attendance emails can be sent your child's teacher and to: Stoneycreek.Info@burnabyschools.ca

You can also continue to use the Absence line. Dial 604-296-9031 (option 2).

Please include the following details:

- * Childs' Name
- * Teacher or Division
- * Dates/times they will be away
- * Whether or not the absence is illness related



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 for the weather as they will be going outside in inclement weather. We would also suggest a change of clothes be left at school for what we know will be those wet days ahead of us.





Community Programs and Resources at Stoney Creek

Backpack Buddies

Helping families with snacks

We are very grateful to be partnering with the Backpack Buddies organization. They provide small bags of snacks each week for students who might need a little bit of extra food sent home with them.

If you would like to sign up your child(ren) to receive Backpack Buddies snack bags, please email taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca for more information. If you would like to find out more about Backpack Buddies or to donate to their program, please visit their website [here](#).

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 if you would like to join in. Click [here](#) to see the poster with full details.

Stoney Creek Breakfast Program

The Stoney Creek Breakfast Program is up and running. The Breakfast Program helps to make sure our students have a healthy start to the day. 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 you wish for your child(ren) to participate in the Breakfast Program, please email us in the Community Office and we will send you a form to fill out.



STONEY CREEK HOLIDAY CHEER

Every year, Stoney Creek Community School collects donations to help families in need in our community.

If you are in need of support this year, and/or know a family at our school who may benefit from food or other support over the holidays, please contact Taryn Briscoe, Community School Coordinator in the Community Office before **December 16, 2023**.

Together we can help make everybody's holiday season a little bit brighter! *(Information will be kept confidential)*

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Taryn Briscoe,
Community School Coordinator and

Leila Marghi,
Community Office Secretary

Hours in the Community Office vary depending on events and meetings. Please feel free to check the schedule in the Community Office, or phone 604-296-9031, ext. 651011





Important Dates...



Intermediate Choir Performance at Lougheed Mall

Thursday December 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Location: Upper Level East Side, across from Great Wall Tea

SCHOOLWIDE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On **December 21, 2023** we will be hosting a schoolwide pancake breakfast for all of our students. More details to come but we would love to have parent or guardian helpers with this event, serving, cooking, and enjoying some holiday cheer with our classes! We will also be asking for donations of food items (specific items) towards our event so that this can be a free event for our students - stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Taryn Briscoe at taryn.briscoe@burnabyschools.ca. Thank you for your support!



School Meal Program Cycle 5

Cycle 5's School Meal Program runs from January 8-31, 2024.

Sign and indicate the reference number on the School Meal Program envelope which must be returned to the school no later than December 15, 2023. **Note: This fee is available to pay online until December 15, 2023.**



StrongStart Centre Closure

The Stoney Creek StrongStart Centre will be closed for the Winter holidays from:

December 22 - January 7
Reopening on January 8, 2024

Note: The centre will also be closed on:
January 10 and January 29, 2024

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK

The last day of school is on Thursday, December 21

The winter break goes from Friday, December 22 to Sunday, January 7

School reopens and classes resume on Monday, January 8 2024



CREEKSIDE CENTRE

WILL BE CLOSED FOR ALL REGULAR PRE-TEEN ACTIVITIES FROM DEC 22 - JAN 5.

THE CENTRE REOPENS THE WEEK OF JAN 8, 2024



KEEP INFORMED!

View the monthly newsletter, calendar, upcoming events, minutes and agenda as well as updates from our Community Council on our school's website at:

stoneycreek.burnabyschools.ca



Free Seasonal Events in the Community

Christmas at Canada Place kicks off on Dec. 1, 2023, and runs through the holidays until Jan. 2, 2024. Come enjoy the seasonal displays at the free event along the Vancouver waterfront.

BVM Heritage Christmas Experience the Heritage Christmas presented by Concord Pacific at Burnaby Village Museum. Enjoy the special atmosphere of festive lights and the traditional decorations. The hours of operation are:
Nov 25 - Dec 17: Tues-Fri 1-5:30pm, Sat-Sun 1-9pm
Dec 19 - Jan 5: Daily 1-9pm, Closed Dec 24 & 25, Open Jan 1 (2024)

Lights at Lafarge Produced by the City of Coquitlam and presented by Coquitlam Centre, Lights at Lafarge is Metro Vancouver's largest free outdoor winter lights display. Lights at Lafarge will run from Friday, November 24, 2023 until the end of February 2024.



Community Council Information

Future SCCC Meetings

January 18, 2024
February 15, 2024
April 18, 2024
May 16, 2024
June 20, 2024
(Budget Meeting)

Our next Community Council Meeting

Thursday, January 18 @ 7:00 pm (via Zoom)

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



The next fundraiser event is coming up on
Friday, February 2, 2024!

More details to come for the
SCCC Adult Trivia Night





Stoney creek HOLIDAY CHEER



This last year has continued to be extremely challenging for many in our community.

During the month of December, we will be accepting donations through School Cash Online to help support families in our community over the holidays. With these funds we will purchase gifts, grocery cards, and/or any other items to support our Stoney Creek families. This will be in place of our “Holiday Food Drive” we have done in previous years.

Receipts will be issued by the School District for donations \$25 and over.



**THANK YOU for
donating and
bringing extra
holiday cheer to our
families in need!**



Burnaby Christmas Bureau

The Christmas Bureau offers brand new gifts for children of Burnaby families with low income, as well as hampers for seniors and at-risk individuals. **To find out if you qualify, please read the information below. Register between November 1 and December 9, 2023**

LOCATION—Brentwood Town Centre 4567 Lougheed Hwy, Old Sears Store location, Main mall level, next to Children’s Play Area When you come in to register, you will be provided with a PICK-UP DATE and TIME in December to come back to the Toy Room to select your children's gifts. **** NOTE: You will not be able to pick up any toys on your registration day.**

TIMES

Monday – Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm; **Saturday:** 10:00am-3:00pm (*Note: we are CLOSED on Sundays*)

Qualifying families will receive new toys for their children and food gift cards.

To qualify, applicants are families who:

Live in Burnaby and have children from newborn to 16 years old.

Are working families with low income, or families receiving Income Assistance

Proof of Income will be required:

Working Families **must** have a **Proof of Income Statement (C-Print)** for **EACH** adult - To obtain one, please call: 1.800.959.8281, press * to speak to an operator, or for an automated service, call 1.800.267.6999. You can also access your Proof of Income Statement online at: **CRA My Account>My Account for Individuals>Sign In>Tax Returns>Proof of Income Statement** (this is the C-Print doc)

If you are on Income Assistance (Welfare), you need to request a **Release of Information** from your Ministry Office. This will replace the Proof of Income Statement

You will also be required to bring:

Identification for each child (e.g. BC Services Card/Care Card, birth certificate, child tax benefit statement, passport, Permanent Resident card)

Recent proof of **current address** (e.g. bills from Fortis, Hydro, internet or phone provider, or current residential tenancy agreement). Must be within two months of application.

Identification for each child - e.g. BC Services Card (this has replaced the CareCard), birth certificate, passport, child tax benefit statement, or Permanent Resident card.

We will have **health & safety protocols** in place during Christmas Bureau registration and toy pick-up. We will follow guidelines set out by BC Ministry of Health.

**We would appreciate if only 1 family member per household enter our Christmas Bureau location to both register and pick-up gifts. Please arrange for child care early.*

If you have any questions, please call **Marney @ (604) 292-3900.**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please have this translated.

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Congratulations to Bea T. in Division 5, who is the winner of MLA Katrina Chen's Holiday Card Contest! Well done!!


Katrina Chen
MLA Burnaby-Lougheed

Holiday Card Design Contest

What do the holidays mean to you?



Merry Christmas to one and all
There is not a hint of fall
Can you hear the jingle bell
All the stories we can tell
This is a merry holiday
See the reindeer fly away
The quiet street is covered in mist have a very
Merry Christmas



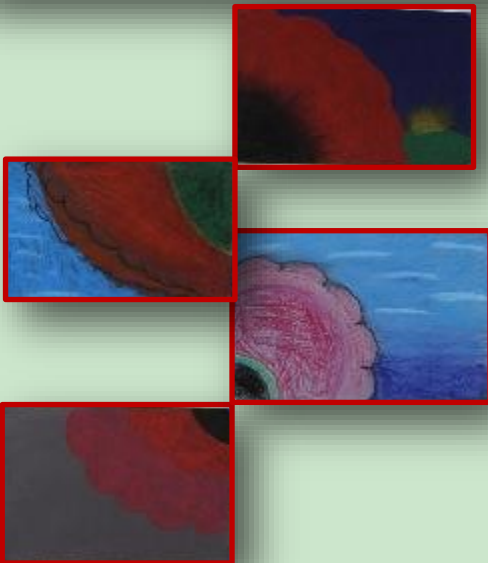
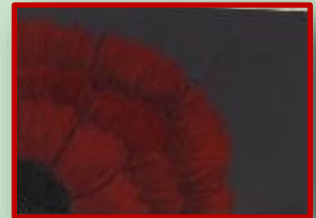
Looking back...

Halloween Fun with the Stoney Creek Staff!





Remembrance Day Poppy Artwork in the Halls





Peace

Sounds like	Looks like	Feels like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very nice and very clear (Aiden) saying sorry (Lucas) someone saying "I love you" (Abi) being nice (Bianca) are you ok? (Parsa) asking for a hug (Ella) silence (Cori) sound of a crackling fire (Mik) a beating heart (Lucas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a hard body (The Gator) the fighting zone a poppy (Theo) walking in the forest with your family (Bianca) going for a bike ride in the forest (Abi) looks like friends playing together (Ella) playing with grandma and grandpa (Parsa) to be safe (Ben) the sun shining (Lucas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> swimming in a warm swimming pool (Ethan) when you get a hug (Aidan) having dinner (Aidan) (Cori) a test (Ella) going on a trip to your grandparent's house (Mik) going for a walk together and respect (Lucas) going on vacation (Aidan) help (Ella)





STONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL WINTER 2024

Babysitters Training - 11-16 yrs

Children learn valuable skills, emergency procedures and tips on childcare. Certificates are awarded to those who successfully complete the course, which uses Canada Safety Council Babysitter's Guidelines. It is recommended that children under 12 not babysit without adult supervision.

\$89.90, 6 sessions

Tues, 3:15pm-5:15pm

Jan 30 - Mar 5

Activity #21852

Stoney Creek Community Room



Lego and Snack - 5- 8 yrs

Participants play, create, learn and use their imagination while building with LEGO® and making a new delicious snack each week.

\$29.90, 6 sessions

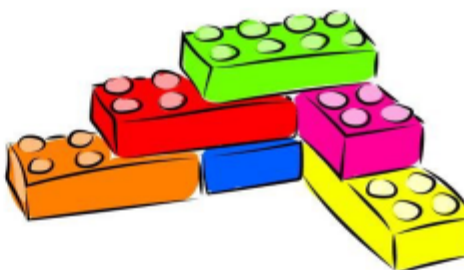
Fri, 3:00-4:30pm

Jan 26-Mar 8

Activity #21858

(No class Feb 16)

Stoney Creek Community Room



Registration Opens Dec 11th @ 10:00am!

Burnaby.ca/webreg

Call 604-297-4452 or visit any Burnaby Recreation Centre



For more information call:
Laurie Bedford 604-297-4529
Community Coordinator
Travis Collins 604-297-4537
Community Recreation Leader