

BLUERIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2650 Bronte Drive

North Vancouver BC V7H 1M4

Telephone: 604-903-3250 Fax: 604-903-3251

Safe Arrival/Callback: 604-903-3252

blueridgeattendance@sd44.bc.ca



Welcome back to the 2014-2015 school year!

Dear Families,

We are excited to be back at school and we look forward to sharing our summer stories with one another.

We've had a great day visiting classes, and welcoming our children back to Blueridge. We have 13 new families plus all of our new Kindergarten students.

Please remember that students in Grades K—7 are dismissed at 2:00 pm every Wednesday.

As with every September, there are many thoughts about the new school year. How can parents help with the transition from home to school and from grade to grade?

- Encourage a “can do” attitude
- Support your child in accepting change by being open-minded. Each new year is a new beginning for staff and students alike.
- Help your child understand that adjusting to change can take time, but things will work out fine! This helps to build resiliency.
- Connect with your child's teacher to establish a mutually respectful partnership.
- Many children settle quickly into their new learning environment with the help and encouragement of family.

Blueridge staff have spent a great deal of time considering placements in the context of individual students' needs, our school's organization and priorities for balancing class compositions. Our task is not an easy one. Children often need encouragement when adjusting to a new classroom placement, and we appreciate your support in assisting with this process.

Please come in when the doors are unlocked at 8:30 a.m. and get settled. Once the 8:40 a.m. bell goes, we respectfully request that you assist us by clearing the hallways so we may begin our teaching & learning.

Your co-operation is appreciated!

On behalf of the staff at Blueridge, we are looking forward to a great year of learning in this great school community!

Sincerely,

Ms. Katherine Kee
Principal

Mr. Scott Sutherland
Vice-Principal



**Reminder: Individual School
Photos -
Friday, October 3, 2014**

Please note that the District-Wide Curriculum Implementation Day has been moved from Friday September 19, 2014 to Friday January 9, 2015. Please see the yearly calendar on Page 5 of this newsletter.

NVSD web-site and emails

NVSD: www.sd44.ca

Blueridge:

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/blueridge/Pages/default.aspx>

Blueridge email: Blueridge@sd44.ca

Attendance: blueridgeattendance@sd44.ca
or 604-903-3252

Staff emails are: first initial last name@sd44.ca
Eg. jsmith@sd44.ca



Promoting a Safe and Healthy School Environment For Children with Medically Diagnosed Life-Threatening Conditions

Ensuring a safe and healthy school environment for all children is a responsibility shared by students, parents and staff. Please notify the school if your child has any or all of the following:

*A MEDICALLY-DIAGNOSED health condition/s, which may require emergency care at school such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, severe asthma, seizure disorder, blood clotting disorders or serious heart conditions. (Please contact the school office to complete a **Medical Alert Information Sheet**).*

Allergen Aware ... for the safety all children, we respectfully request peanut and nut free snacks. We have several students who have severe, life threatening allergies to nuts and seeds.

Please note the pink allergy aware areas on the classroom doors.

We respectfully request if everyone could help to create a safe environment by packing peanut free snacks and lunches.

Safety To and From School

This is an opportune time for parents to review the safest route to and from school, especially for younger children. Students learn traffic safety by **watching and doing**. Parents need to walk the route and practice these safety steps:

- Stop at the curb or edge of the road.
- Listen and look for traffic to the left, right and left again. Teach children who don't know left from right to look "this way", "that way" and "this way".
- Remind children to use sidewalks.

If your child is riding a bike to school, please take the time during an evening or on a weekend to ride with your child to ensure proper bicycle road rules. Students **MUST** wear a helmet when riding a bicycle to and from school and need to dismount when on school property. Bicycles kept at school during the day should be locked. Some students have asked if they can bring scooters and skateboards to school. **Since we have very little room for storage, we ask that skateboards, scooters and rollerblades be kept at home.**

Student Supervision:

Blueridge can only provide student supervision during school hours. Unless students are receiving extra help from their teacher, they should not enter the school until 8:30 a.m., and we encourage all students to enter the school at the 8:40 a.m. entrance bell. Except in the case of an emergency, early arrivals not meeting with teachers and/or involved in a school activity will be asked to wait outside until 8:30 a.m. Please note that a private licensed daycare is located at Blueridge and is available to those families that require before and after school-care.

Forms

On Friday September 26th we will be sending home an envelope of forms for you to fill out. We recognize that this is a large amount of work for parents, but we hope that you will take the time to fill out the forms as soon as possible.

Inside the brown envelope you will find:

Impromptu Walking Field Trip Form
Emergency Forms: Student Release and Student Emergency ID Form
Outside Media in Schools/Personal Information Consent
Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement
Blueridge Code of Conduct
Pink—BPAC contact permission form
Volunteer Application Package

Please return all forms to the office by Friday October 3rd.

Cell Phone Use:

It is becoming increasingly common for students to be carrying cell phones and other electronics to school. We recognize that for some families a phone is important for communication between students and parents or caregivers before and after school. However, we are finding that cell phones can be a source of classroom disruption and a safety concern on the playground. We would like to assure that students can carry cell phones to school and, at the same time, assure that disruptions and safety concerns are dealt with. We ask that parents support our efforts by following these guidelines:

- Do not allow your child to carry a cell phone to school unless it is necessary for before and after school student/parent communication. Do not send your child to school with personal electronics .
- Cell phones at school must be turned off and kept in zipped backpacks between 8:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. unless approved by the teacher. Students may not use cell phones in classrooms, hallways, washrooms or on the playground during the school day. The school office phone is available during the school day if it is necessary for parents to call in.
- Cell phones are often equipped with cameras. Students may not take pictures at school. In order to satisfy legal requirements around the protection of privacy, photography at school is allowed only for school purposes and with the permission of a staff member.

The school takes no responsibility for loss or damage to cell phones or any personal property. Parents send cell phones and other electronics to school at their own risk.

Contact information

If you have had a change of email, phone, address, or emergency contacts please make sure you let the office know as soon as possible.

Student Verification Forms which provide parent and emergency contact information for the school will come home soon.

Notice to Parents, Loss Prevention

Please note that the North Vancouver School District is unable to insure any and all personal property owned by students such as musical instruments, phones, toys, calculators and computers. The School District will therefore, not accept any liability for loss or damage of personal property under any circumstances.

Students should refrain from bringing personal belongings of value to school, unless necessary. Items brought to school should be adequately insured by parents for loss or damage. For more information regarding insurance, please contact your insurance agent providing home owner coverage.

Student Telephone Use



Students may use our student phone with their teacher's permission for any "important" reason. They may not, however, use the phone to inform parents or friends of after-school plans. Students are expected to make their social arrangements the night before. The phone is always available in an emergency.

Regular School Hours for Kindergarten to Grade Seven

8:40 First Bell - Arrival Time

8:45 First Instructional Period

10:20-10:35 Recess

10:35 Second Instructional Period

11:55-12:30 (Play)

12:30-12:45 (Eat)

12:45-Afternoon Bell - Arrival Time

12:50-3:00 Third Instructional Period

***Note Wednesday 2:00 Dismissal**

Volunteer Forms and Driver's Abstracts

If you wish to volunteer at Blueridge throughout the year, you will be required to fill out the NVSD Volunteer Forms. These forms will be in the brown envelope that comes home with your child on Friday.

Please note that Driver's Abstracts are required every 3 years so we have saved the ones that were submitted last year. Moving forward, if you wish to drive on field trips, and we do not have one on file, please order as indicated on the Volunteer Forms.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

For your convenience, the district has made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. Copies will come home in the brown envelope on Friday.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For more information, please visit the Kids Plus Insurance website at www.kidsplus.ca or phone 1.800.556.7411. Kids Plus Newsletter to Parents <http://www.sd44.ca/District/Documents/KidsPlusInsuranceNewsletterParentInformation.pdf>
Kids Plus Insurance Form <http://www.sd44.ca/District/Documents/KidsPlusEnrolmentForm2013.pdf>

Callback

If your child is going to be absent or late, please call our callback at 604-903-3252. This number is available anytime. Or you can now e-mail us at blueridgeattendance@sd44.bc.ca



****REMINDER WEDNESDAY DISMISSALS ARE AT 2:00****

REVISED—BOARD APPROVED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014/2015	
DESIGNATION	2014/2015
Maximum number of non-instructional days	6
Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday	Monday, October 13, 2014
Province-wide non-instructional day (NVTa)	Friday, October 24, 2014
Vacation Day (schools are not in session)	Monday, November 10, 2014
Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday	Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Schools close for Winter vacation	Friday, December 19, 2014
Winter vacation period	December 22, 2014 to Janu-
Schools reopen after Winter vacation	Monday, January 5, 2015
District-wide non-instructional day (Curriculum Implementation)	Friday, January 9, 2015
Blueridge Professional non-instructional day	Monday, January 19, 2015
BC Family Day Statutory Holiday	Monday, February 9, 2015
District-wide non-instructional day (NVTa)	Friday, February 20, 2015
Schools close for Spring vacation	Friday, March 6, 2015
Spring vacation period	March 9 to 20, 2015
Schools reopen after Spring Vacation	March 23, 2015
Good Friday Statutory Holiday	Friday, April 3, 2015
Easter Monday Holiday	Monday, April 6, 2015
District-wide non-instructional day (NVTa)	Monday, May 4, 2015
Victoria Day Statutory Holiday	Monday, May 18, 2015
Blueridge Professional non-instructional day	Monday, June 8, 2015
Administrative Day	Monday, June 29, 2015
Schools Close for Summer Vacation	Monday, June 29, 2015

Blueridge Elementary School Cares!

Please slow down and follow the speed limit, as well as the parking and stopping laws. Most of all, let's keep our CHILDREN and the members of our community safe! Thank you to all the families who are doing their part to follow these important safety rules.



The RCMP has communicated that the Provincial Fine Amounts are as follows:

- i) Speed in School Zone Section, 147(1)...\$196.00 (speed limit exceeded by less than 21 km/hr)
- ii) Speed in School Zone Section, 147(2)...\$253.00 (speed limit exceeded by 21 km/hr to 40 km/hr)



The crosswalk on Upper Byron has "No Stopping" areas so there are clear sight lines for pedestrians.

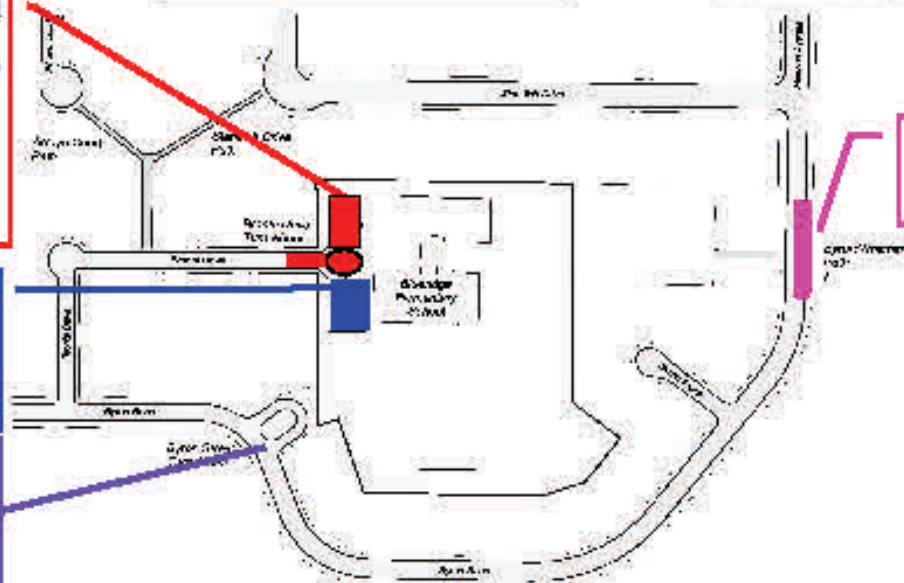


The snowplows need time to clear the roads. Please look for the signage.

Staff Parking and Round-about. No student drop off or stopping. Please do not park on or next to the cones on Bronte.

Staff, Disabled, Daycare vehicle Parking. No student drop off or stopping.

Student drop off and pick up. Please do not block traffic flow.



Please share this information with anyone who will be doing drop off or pick-up for your child. Thank you for your support!