

January 11, 2018

Dear students, parents, guardians,

As we quickly move back into the routine of school following our winter vacation, I wanted to take a moment to share a few thoughts and updates.

I hope that all of our community enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with friends and family and celebrate the coming new year. We have had a great start to our school year with students and staff participating together in a great number of endeavours. We have seen a great number of our students stepping up to be leaders, academically and socially, within our school and the greater Delta community. Our teachers have been working extremely hard to develop and deliver relevant programs to our students and continue to work to modify existing classes to reflect and teach the new ministry curriculums. I am always impressed with the number of opportunities our staff provide our students to showcase their learning.

As a staff, we continue to engage in conversations regarding the BC Education Plan where the grade 8 and 9 curriculum is currently being implemented to better support the needs of our students in preparation for their journey to pursue a career of their choice when they graduate from Burnsview. It was recently announced by the Ministry of Education that the grade 10 curriculum will be implemented for the 2018-19 school year and the grade 11 and 12 curriculum will be delayed until the 2019-2020 school year. For more information about the curriculum redesign, I encourage parents and guardians to visit the Ministry of Education website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

Our first term report card was distributed on Thursday, December 7th, through Parent Connect. The report card provides an opportunity for parents and guardians to obtain an understanding of their child's progress in each of their courses. We hope that this report leads to some family discussion and a time of reflection, goal setting and action planning based on the results of the report card. The report card data needs to be used in a process for improvement or maintenance. Students must take the responsibility of working through the improvement process to create a plan for success. The part of the process that tends to break down over the course of a term is the execution of the plan. Students need to be committed, with the support of their families, to their scheduled activities in order to create positive routines. In meeting with families regarding report card results, the same themes seem to come up over and over again. The themes include committing to an organizer (paper-based or electronic), regular attendance and establishing a focused study routine at home. Ultimately, it comes down to creating positive work habits at school and at home.

As we have had a few new students and families join our school following the winter holiday, I want to inform them and remind our community that Burnsview is a seafood (fish and shellfish) free zone. We have students here with extreme (deadly) allergies to the seafood. As this is an airborne allergy, just the presence of the seafood is sufficient to cause severe anaphylaxis. Unfortunately we have had a couple of incidents happen this year where seafood has been brought to school, while this was caught early and no anaphylactic reaction occurred, we ask that our full community help us in ensuring that our school is safe for all students. Please do not send seafood (fish or shellfish) in student lunches or snacks.

We look forward to a great second half of the school year.

Thank you,

Don Younger
Principal