



Blacklock Fine Arts School

Academic Excellence through Artistic Experience



5100 – 206 Street, Langley, BC V3A 2E5
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Principal: Mrs. Susanna Eppich

Admin Assistant: Mrs. Sabina Weber

September 29, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Blacklock Blast

Orange Shirt Day shows support for and celebrates the resiliency of Canada's Residential School survivors. Wearing an orange shirt helps us to remember that every child deserves to feel safe, valued and understood. Every child matters and each and every one has special gifts to give. Together, we can learn to understand the past in order to overcome adversity and create a better future. Thank you to everyone for participating in Orange Shirt Day!

On Thursday, October 5, between 2:50-3:30pm our teachers will be available for parents to meet with them to discuss curriculum, classroom guidelines. This is not a time to discuss your child specifically, but to gain a big picture of your child's classroom.

School will not be in session on Friday, October 6, for Curriculum Implementation Day, as well as Monday, October 9, for Thanksgiving!

Blacklock Fine Arts Elementary is pleased to announce the third annual Family Film Festival! This event is based on the 24 hour film festivals that are held all over the world. Participants create a home film based on an inspiration package. If your family would like to participate, you can sign up by submitting \$10 and completing a registration form that will be available in the office between October 2nd and October 16th. On Thursday, October 19th at 3:00pm, inspiration packages will be available for pickup in the Gym. These packages include specific, inspiring directions to follow in the making of your film. Film-making dates for family teams are October 20-22. This long weekend gives teams an entire extra day of fun film making before handing in their finished products on Monday, October 23rd. On Thursday, October 26th at 6:00pm, we will have our exciting Red Carpet Screening Night, which is open to all families of the school. Concession items will be available and prizes will be awarded to the film makers. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Lou Lou.

Please find attached a letter from the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Gordon Stewart, in regards to the teacher shortage.

Please make note of the following calendar updates:

October 3

PAC Meeting at 9am

October 5

Picture Day

Hot Lunch

2:50-3:30pm – Meet the Teacher

October 6

Curriculum Implementation Day – Students Do Not Attend

October 9

Thanksgiving Day – Students Do Not Attend

Have a great weekend!

Susanna Eppich
Principal

For access to our District Community Bulletin Board, please use the following link:

<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/news-events/community-bulletin-board/>. There are always new flyers that may be of interest to you.



September 28, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are likely aware, there have been challenges around the province, as well as here in Langley, securing permanent, qualified teachers for some positions. In Langley, we have local teacher contract language that existed prior to 2001 that is unique and the District is working within those constraints to meet contractual obligations that have been recently reinstated in the province. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

Every student in Langley is being taught by a qualified teacher though, in some cases, a permanent teacher may not yet be placed. In these cases, measures have been put in place to facilitate student learning and mitigate disruption, including placement of District Teachers in classrooms, reaching out to retired teachers to temporarily cover classes and utilizing administrators in the classroom.

Teaching positions that have proven especially challenging to fill include French Immersion, Trades, Special Education as well as secondary Math and Science. Competition for qualified teachers is at an all-time high as districts around the province vie for teachers but our Human Resources Department continues to actively recruit applicants and fill postings daily.

Restored local contract language has resulted in over 140 new teaching positions in Langley, in addition to the challenges presented by year-after-year growth in student enrolment that continues to exceed expectations. To put that into perspective, there have been 966 postings to date this year, while there were 692 for all of last year. Recruitment efforts include maintaining close relationships with teacher training programs at universities and attending job fairs across the country, postings on 'Make a Future' (an online teacher position posting site) and social media advertising in select markets to attract qualified applicants.

Again, thank you for your patience as District Human Resources staff and local school administrators work diligently to find permanent solutions to placement deficiencies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools