

# Montecito News

September 2024



Dear Families,

Today your children were placed in their classrooms for the 2024/2025 school year! This is an exciting time of year, for both children and caregivers. Educators have spent many hours discussing class placements. We look at each child individually, and decide where their best learning environment will be. Keep in mind that many factors are considered when placing children including:

- Classroom teacher and school-based team recommendations
- The overall make up of the class being created
- Learning styles Intellectual, emotional, social & physical development
- Behavioral issues
- Need for additional services such as learning assistance, ELL, and Education Assistants Student leadership skills
- Pre-existing conflicts between children
- Provincial legislation for class size and composition
- Pre-existing supportive relationships between children

**Combined Classes:** We have some combined classes this year. Some of you may have concerns about your child being placed in a combined-grade class, where students from different grades learn together. I want to reassure you that combined-grade classes are a common and well-established educational practice in Canada. In fact, research indicates that one in every five Canadian students experiences a combined-grade classroom during their elementary years and thrives in classrooms structured this way.

I encourage you to be positive with your children as they come home from school today. When we show that we are scared, uncertain, or nervous about the new year, they too will feel these emotions. Staying positive, and sharing with our children that this is an exciting time of year will make your children feel better. If they are not placed with a friend they were hoping to be with, this is a great opportunity to practice and build resilience, and share that this will be a great opportunity to make even more friends! Requests for classroom changes will not be accommodated.

I look forward to a wonderful year of learning with you.

With care,  
Tanis Anderson  
Principal, Montecito Elementary

## September's Important Dates:

September 13 – School Photos  
(Individual photos)

September 16 – Kindergarten students  
begin school full days!

September 20 – Welcome Back  
Barbeque 3:00–6:00 (more info to  
come)

September 23– Professional  
Development Day – Students do not  
attend school

September 25 and 26 – Parents as  
Partners Conferences (more details to  
follow)

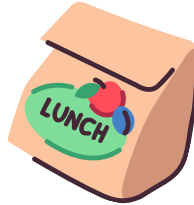
September 27 – Orange Shirt Day

September 30 – Truth and  
Reconciliation Day – School Closed

## A few reminders:



We practice “West Coast Recess and Lunch”, so please make sure your children are dressed for the weather.



We aim for litter-less lunches, so reusable containers are a great option. We are not able to heat up lunches, so consider a thermos and also reusable cutlery.

Please contact the office if  
your child is going to be  
away:  
604-296-9023

We offer subsidies for families who require financial assistance. This support can include subsidized hot lunch and free after school programs that run out of our school. Please email Mrs. Anderson if you require financial aid.

# WELCOME

### Traffic Safety

Please follow school speed limits and street signs. Parents have been reporting to the office that the driving before and after school has been unsafe for our children. RCMP was at our school Friday, to monitor traffic. Please allow for extra time, be kind and patient to fellow drivers. Children learn from watching how the adults behave.

### Welcome to our new staff:

Ms. Moore is our new learning support teacher.

Mr. Law will be teaching Grades 6/7.

Ms. Cunanan, Ms. Chiu, and Ms. De Angelis are our new Education Assistants.

Mr. Cohen is our new band teacher.

## **Accidents Happen**

The Burnaby School district does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for these expenses. Whether it's playing sports, using playground equipment, or simply having fun in the gym or in the schoolyard, accidents sometimes happen. The Medical Services Plan (MSP) either limits or does not cover some charges and group health plans often have deductibles. Costs that are not covered by MSP or may be limited by group health plans may include:

- Dental treatment
- Eyeglasses
- Physiotherapy

## **Accident Insurance**

For many years the district arranged for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program. That program has been replaced by the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan provided by Industrial Alliance. This voluntary plan provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply or to find out more, visit, call, or email:

[Industrial Alliance Financial Group](#)

Phone: 1.800.266.5667

Email: [solutions@ia.ca](mailto:solutions@ia.ca)

# A Message from the PAC

## ***We are in need of a DPAC Representative!***

DPAC General Meeting Dates for upcoming 2024/25 school year:

Our 1st DPAC General Meeting is Mon. Sept. 16 at 7 pm. All meetings will be at Burnaby Central Secondary in Room A206.

### **Who can become a member of DPAC?**

DPACs are composed of elected parent representatives from PACs and serves as an umbrella organization for the PACs in their school district.

### **What does DPAC do?**

DPACs support and encourage PACs and parents in accessing the school system at all levels by providing regular forums for the exchange of ideas and information to ensure that public education serves the best interests of all students.

### **The Role of an Elected DPAC Representative:**

The roles, duties and responsibilities of elected DPAC representatives vary from DPAC to DPAC and PAC to PAC.

### **Generally, DPAC representatives:**

- Act as a liaison between the PAC and DPAC by attending DPAC meetings
- Communicate and obtain information to and from PAC
- Bring forward issues that may be common to more than one school

### **What does DPAC NOT do?**

DPACs are not a venue to discuss individual students or staff problems or conflicts.

*If interested, email [pacmontecito@gmail.com](mailto:pacmontecito@gmail.com)*