

Blueridge Elementary

2650 Bronte Drive, North Vancouver, B.C. V7H 1M4

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www.nvsg44.bc.ca



Tuesday September 27, 2011

Dear parents,

It's been a very busy, but smooth start to the school year. On behalf of Scott Sutherland and I, we'd like to say how much we've appreciated the warm welcome and people coming to introduce themselves to us throughout the month. Our next newsletter is October 7, 2011; however, there are some items we would like to pass on to you before that date.

Phase One of BCTF Job Action:

Thank you for your ongoing patience and attention to school related matters during Phase 1 of BCTF strike action. We have had a number of questions about how you can communicate with teachers about the progress of your children.

The NVTA has indicated that teachers will continue to focus on instruction and will continue to assess student progress. While the Labour Relations Board essential services order provides that teachers need not:

- Participate in meetings or interviews with parents/guardians outside of instructional time, or
- Participate in meet the teacher activities outside of instructional time, or
- Prepare or distribute report cards

the NVTA has confirmed that teachers may continue to communicate with parents in informal meetings, phone calls and emails to discuss student progress. This includes teacher participation in the upcoming 2:00 early dismissal days scheduled for Thursday October 13 and Tuesday October 18th. If you wish to arrange a meeting or have questions regarding your son's/daughter's progress, please contact the appropriate teacher directly. Your child's teacher may also contact you. Although teachers need not prepare or distribute report cards during Phase 1, they are assessing and evaluating your son/daughter on a regular basis and can provide you with up to date progress status in the curricular areas of instruction.

If a concern arises regarding communications between teachers and parents, parents may wish to contact the NVTA office for clarification, or contact the school principal or vice-principal.

As the strike continues, we will provide regular updates to you and encourage you to go to websites listed on the NVSD web-page for up to date information. Again, we thank you for your ongoing support to the school and for your patience at this time.

Safety Patrol:

We have 61 Grade 5-7 students who have signed up and been trained by the BCAA for Safety Patrol this year! Our patrollers will once again be providing a valet service at the Byron Street turn around. We think that everyone would agree that student and parent safety is of paramount concern for this community. As community members our hope is that everyone will co-operate to follow the rules that have been laid out over the years.

Here is a reminder of the Blueridge traffic information:

- **When at all possible, children should walk to and from school.**
- **If driving, please use the valet at the Byron drop-off. Students can also be let off at the trails that begin at Byron/Whitman and Arroyo/Standish.**
- **For the safety of our students, there can be no drop-offs in the turn-around at the front of the school, which is a through-traffic zone only. Similarly, there can be no drop-offs, pickups or turn-arounds in the north or south parking lots.**
- **The north lot is reserved for staff only.**
- **The south lot is reserved for use by the disabled, day care vans, and overflow staff parking.**
- **There is only one disabled parking spot in the south lot. Please don't park here unless you display a valid disabled parking permit.**
- **When the valet is not there, you may stop in that area and wait for your children but you may not park and leave your car. Please check the posted NV district signs.**

The valet at the Byron Road turn around will be from 8:30-8:40. There will be 3 patrollers per shift starting Monday October 3rd and they will be positioned at the turn around wearing safety vests and have the red wands. As you approach the valet, please watch carefully. The valet students will move their arm in a circular motion to move you forward to the first available valet spot. They will put their arm out to indicate for you to stop. At this time, please put your car into park and the valet will assist to open the door for your child(ren). They will then close the door, move to the front and wave you forward with a circular motion of the wand. Please do not move when the door closes because the valet and students getting out of the car need to have time to get back to the curb. They have been trained to make eye contact with you, so please help to do the same. If the valet is very busy, you will need to wait your turn to get assistance, please be patient. Do not drop off on the inner part of the turn around because cars will be pulling out. Please let your daycares and alternate pick up people know about this process if they'd like to use the valet as well.

If you do not wish to have the assistance of the valet, please pull over at the side of the street to drop your children off safely.

We are in need of some parent volunteers to assist with the valet. If you are able to spare a bit of time in the morning, please let Ms. Kee know as soon as possible. Working together, our school community can ensure that students arrive and depart safely from Blueridge School.

Weather:

As we move into the Fall and Winter seasons, the weather is going through its natural changes. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate weather gear for our mountain rain and eventual snow. Remember it will start to get dark earlier so make sure your child can be seen in rain and darker weather. Recess will continue to be an outside time (except in extreme weather conditions). Lunch play time will also continue to be an outside time; however, the library will continue to be open Mon-Wed with 5 library passes per class. We will provide an option of inside days on extreme weather days at lunch time.

Students will have the choice to either stay in the classroom to play quietly or go outside to a restricted supervised area.

Reminders:

All student forms are due on Friday September 30th. Our office staff is working really hard to get all the forms organized and information updated in our computer system. If you have any contact information changes throughout the year, please remember to let the office know. We need to be able to reach you in case of emergency.

There will be an early dismissal on Tuesday October 4th at 1:45 for all NVSD staff to receive mandatory Child Abuse Protocol Training. Please make the appropriate arrangements to ensure your children are picked up on time.

We are looking forward to a great school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Katherine Kee
Principal

Mr. Scott Sutherland
Vice-Principal