

Principal: Nichole Kusch Administrative Asst. Sue Hughes School Liaison Trustee: Heather Larson

Quilchena Community

We invite families to visit the School Calendar on our website: <https://quilchena.sd38.bc.ca/> for all of our future notable dates and events. Simply click on the 'event' for more details.

December 17- January 2 – Winter Break
December 18-26 – Hanukkah
December 25 – Christmas
December 26-January 1 - Kwanzaa
January 3 – First Day Back



The Quilchena staff wishes everyone a safe, relaxing, and peaceful winter break with your loved ones. Hoping you can find some time to connect and enjoy some time off with your family. We look forward to seeing you back in 2023!

In Other Quilchena News:



Christmas: December 25th marks this Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity. Christmas is a celebration, a time for giving and not simply a day we exchange gifts. The spirit of Christmas is in the 'togetherness', it's in the thought to which you put into thinking about others, it's a selfless time, where we forgive, take stock of what's important and become 'better' versions of ourselves. Christmas is also widely observed in secular (nonreligious) ways. *Merry Christmas* to all our Quilchena families who celebrate Christmas.



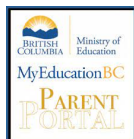
Hanukkah: December 18th marks the start of this Jewish eight-day, “Festival of Lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, and traditional fried foods. Central to the holiday is the lighting of the menorah, an eight-branched candelabrum to which one candle is added on each night of the holiday until it is ablaze with light on the eighth night. The Hebrew word Chanukah means “dedication” (also spelled Hanukkah). *Hanukkah Sameach* to those families who celebrate Hanukkah.



Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa, a weeklong Festival of Lights is rooted in African culture, and derived from a Swahili phrase meaning, “first fruits of the harvest.” A key custom during Kwanzaa is the daily lighting of the kinara. It takes place each year from December 26th through January 1st. This joyous holiday draws inspiration from time-honoured African customs and symbols, many related to harvest celebrations and community ideals of shared work, purpose, creativity, possibility, faith and celebration of togetherness. *Heri za Kwanzaa* to those families who celebrate Kwanzaa.



Travel Plans: Please remember if you will be travelling over the break and will not be back to school by January 3rd, **you need to notify the office of your return date.**



Written Learning Updates: A reminder that your child's report card has been posted on their e-portfolio and you can also access it through the MyEducation BC Parent Portal. Please see the school website for more instructions on how to access your account. All families were emailed on December 13th from the District regarding instructions on how to access your myEd account.



Thinking about Grade 8:

The parents/guardians of our Grade 7 students may be starting to wonder about preparations for their child's transition to high school. Rest assured; everything is in hand. When our Grade 7 students return to school following Winter Break, they will be given a letter indicating their catchment high school and the process to request a transfer if that's your plan.

PAC News:



PAC Bottle Drive: Saturday, January 7th - 9am to 12pm.



We still need many volunteers for:



- 1) distributing flyers** **before** the bottle drive
- 2) volunteer drivers to collect the bags of bottles in the neighbourhood
- 3) helping at the school parking lot to put the bags of bottles into larger containers.

**Please see attached maps. These are the areas that still require flyer distribution:

Quilchena map: Areas 7&8, 9&10, 11

Quilchena North: Areas 19, 20, and 20&21

Gilmore: areas 8, 10

Please go to the school website -> Parents tab->Volunteer opportunities, to sign up!

Hot Lunches/Food Days: Our Hotlunches/Food Days are starting up again in January!

January 25 – *Freshslice Pizza*

February 8 - *Subway*

February 22 – *Sushi Lovers*

March 8 - *White Spot*

March 29 – *Pizza Hut Pizza*



Hotlunches online ordering is NOW OPEN for the 5 food days that are scheduled between January and March 2023. **Ordering Deadline is Friday, January 13th at 8pm. There will be no late orders accepted after this date!**

You may order and pay for all the days all at once. *Note that a 25 cents fee is charged for one credit card transaction, so we suggest that you order for all the days in one transaction rather than several transactions or you will be charged each time.* The same goes for if you have several children in the Hotlunches system; order for all your children first, then pay once.

Please note that once food orders are paid for, there are no refunds (ie. your child is sick or absent), however, you are free to pick up your child's food at the school or let the school know you'd like to donate it to the PAC or school staff that day.

If you have not registered your child in the Hotlunches system, please go to the school website under Parents tab-> PAC fundraising-> Register for Hotlunches here.

To order, go to school website -> Parents tab->PAC fundraising ->Order Hot Lunches here or click the link below:

<https://quilchenapac.hotlunches.net/admin/>

Questions? Lana at quilchenafundraising@gmail.com

Please refer to the school's website <https://quilchena.sd38.bc.ca/> and go to the Parents tab for all PAC related information.

Thank-you for your support!
Quilchena Elementary PAC

Craft Make & Take: A big thank you to the organizing committee and all our parents who signed up to volunteer and help at our *Craft Make & Take* evening last Friday. Much fun was had connecting with our school community and the PAC raised over \$600! These funds will be put towards our school wish list items such as gym equipment and math manipulatives.

