



Quilchena Elementary  
School District #38

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Principal: Nichole Kusch Administrative Asst. Sue Hughes School Liaison Trustee: David Yang

### Quilchena Community

**The Week Ahead ~ December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 10<sup>th</sup>**

We invite families to visit the School Calendar on our website for all of our future notable dates and events.

*December 20 – Term 2 PAC Hot Lunch Day orders open*

*December 21 – Winter Solstice*

*December 22 - January 3 – Winter Break*

*December 25 – Christmas*

*December 25 - January 2 - Hannukah*

*December 26 - January 1 - Kwanzaa*

*January 6 – First Day Back*

*January 9 – Late French Immersion Presentation to Gr. 5's*



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 2025! We are happy to welcome a new face to our Quilchena staff. We would like to extend a big Cyclone welcome to Mr. Atkinson, who will be filling in for the remainder of the school year in Division 3 for Mr. Henderson's leave of absence. Mr. Atkinson will be starting in the new year.

### In Other Quilchena News:



**Christmas:** December 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

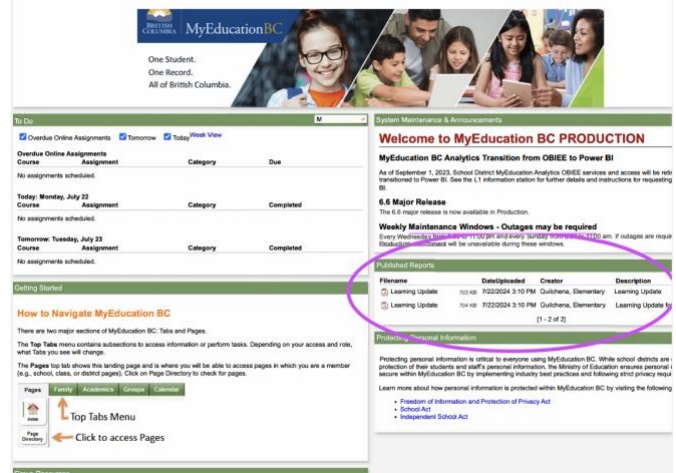
**Kwanzaa:** Kwanzaa, a weeklong Festival of Lights is rooted in African culture, and derived from a Swahili phrase meaning, “first fruits of the harvest.” A key custom during Kwanzaa is the daily lighting of the kinara. It takes place each year from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.



**Written Learning Updates:** The MyEducation BC Parent Portal is the site where you can view attendance, contact information, and published Learning Updates (report cards). Your child’s Written Learning Update, along with your child’s ELL report (if applicable), is now available for you to view. New families to our school this year were emailed from the District regarding instructions on how to access your MyEd account and how to reset your password if it expired. Accounts are created using the email addresses that you have provided to the office. If you have

issues logging into MyEd please send an email to the District MyEd Support Team at the following email address: [MyEdParentPortal@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:MyEdParentPortal@sd38.bc.ca). In the subject line please put Parent Portal, and in the message, include the following: Student’s Full Name, Pupil #, Parent/Guardian Name and Email Address.

Active accounts will remain active. However, you may have activated in past years and have lost the password or the password has expired. You can request a password reset by using the ‘I forgot my password’ link on the MyED log in page or you can send an email to [MyEDParentPortal@SD38.bc.ca](mailto:MyEDParentPortal@SD38.bc.ca).



**Travel Plans:** If you will not be back to school by January 6<sup>th</sup>, please complete an absence form from the office prior to leaving to ensure the office is aware of your return date.

**Parent Education Sessions 2024/25 School Year:** **Register Now!** The Richmond School District is excited to offer a variety of parent education sessions during the 2024/25 school year. These virtual sessions are open to all parents in the Richmond School District and will provide practical strategies, expert insights, and tools to support your child’s well-being in the digital age. More information and registration for parents is available on the SD38 District Website. Our next session *Cellphones: What’s Healthy, What’s Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids* is in January hosted by Hannah Beach. Please read more and click to register: [District Parent Education Sessions Link](#)

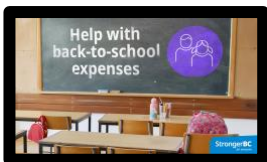


**RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38** **Late French Immersion Webinar:** The Richmond School District provides the Late French Immersion program beginning at Grade 6 at James Whiteside and John Diefenbaker Elementary schools. We invite families of current Grade 5 students to join us for a program information virtual meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6 p.m. This informative session will include information around program overview, student experiences and registration process. Please see attached flyer for more information.

**Online Public Open House – Long-Range Facilities Plan:**

The district is hosting an Online Public Open House on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 6 to 8 p.m. This virtual event will provide community members with the opportunity to learn about the 2025 Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and offer input to help shape the district’s long-term facilities strategy. More information about the LRFP and how to register can be found on our district website ([link](#)) and the attached poster.

**Needing Support:** The provincial government has renewed the *Student and Family Affordability Fund*. This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. We are requesting that families reach out to Mrs. Kusch ([nkusch@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:nkusch@sd38.bc.ca)). As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.



**PAC News:**

The PAC fundraising efforts have been very successful so far this school year. While supporting many ongoing initiatives, supporting our library renovation has been our main focus. Last year, we contributed \$6000 to the renovation and have already been able to add more than \$2700 toward the project so far this year! Please check out our PAC year-end update for more information.

As we approach the holiday break, the PAC would like to extend a special thank you to the dedicated volunteers that assist each week with the hot lunch and popcorn programs. These fundraisers would not be possible without the generous gift of your time. Your efforts will be directly reflected in the upcoming library renovations that you have helped to support. Thank you to all of the volunteers and everyone in our school community who have helped support our fundraising this year! If you would like to make a donation, or volunteer to assist with future fundraisers please email us at [quilchenapac@gmail.com](mailto:quilchenapac@gmail.com).



**PAC Hot Lunch Food Days TERM 2:** Mark your calendars! Hot Lunch ordering for Term 2 (January to March) is now open from **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**. Late orders WILL NOT be accepted. Don’t miss out! You MUST be registered to order, if you haven’t registered this year, please do so [HERE](#).

Jan 28 – Sushi Lovers	Feb 3 – Taco Luis	Feb 10 – Bala Foods	Feb 18 – Just Poke
Feb 24 – Village Curry	Mar 3 – Fresh Slice	Mar 10 – Sushi Lovers	

**Candlelight Concert:** Please save the date for our Candlelight Concert on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm.

***Calling all talented Quilchena musicians!*** We are looking for a group of students to perform at the Candlelight Concert on Feb. 21. Please send your audition videos (2 min max) to [quilchenapac@gmail.com](mailto:quilchenapac@gmail.com) by January 14. We encourage a variety of instrumentalists and highly recommend collaboration between students (vocalists, piano duets, violin with piano accompaniment...etc). Successful candidates will be notified on January 24.



Questions? Email Vanessa at [Quilchenafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:Quilchenafundraising@gmail.com)

## A Peek Into Our Festive Spirit Days





**Festive Spirit Days  
At Quilchena**





**Happy New Year  
Cyclones!  
See you in January!**