



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 ~ January 13<sup>th</sup> – January 17<sup>th</sup>

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

January 14 – Richmond Academy of Innovative Learning Presentation to Gr.7's ([Link](#))

January 15 – Black Excellence Day

January 17 - Raoul Wallenberg Day

January 17 – Priority 1 Kindergarten Registration Deadline

January 17 – Late French Immersion Registration Deadline

January 17 – Fused Glass Workshop Part 1

January 17 – PAC Hot Lunch Term 2 Order Deadline – no late orders

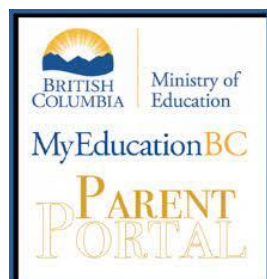
The Quilchena staff would like to wish all our families a Happy New Year! We have enjoyed the positive buzz back in our hallways and classrooms this past week and look forward our second term together. We hope you all had a restful and family-filled winter break and enjoyed the warmer weather we received over the holidays! The predicted cold weather has arrived and will be with us for a while.

#### In Other Quilchena News:



**Black Excellence Day:** Black Excellence Day started from the movement in early 2021. Black Excellence Day is a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians and to learn about the contributions of Black Canadians and their ongoing civil rights struggle. A day to honour the rich history, art, and stories of Black Canadians. The term “Black Excellence” was born out of the civil rights movement in the 1960’s and honours great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929.

**Raoul Wallenberg Day:** On January 17 we remember the selfless bravery of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who took the initiative to save thousands of persecuted Jews during the Second World War. In 1944, Wallenberg opened a Swedish embassy in Budapest, where 400,000 Jewish men, women and children had already been deported by the Nazis. He began his efforts to protect the Jewish community in Hungary through unconventional methods. It was under the safeguard of the embassy that he provided special protective certificates called Schutz-Passes for 4,000 Jewish people, which granted them immunity from deportation. On January 17, 1945, Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet forces as they pushed the Nazis out of Hungary. Although his fate remains unknown, his legacy remains. Mr. Wallenberg’s heroism is a lesson in humanity, compassion, and courage that inspires us every day to pursue our collective fight against hatred and antisemitism in all their forms.



**Written Learning Updates:** A reminder that your child’s Term 1 Written Learning Update (report card), along with your child’s ELL report (if applicable), was published in December on the MyEducation BC Parent Portal. Please see the school website for more instructions on how to access your account. All families received an email from the District regarding instructions on how to access your MyEd account and how to reset your password if it expired.

**Glass Art Workshops:** Divisions 1-7 will be participating in an inhouse school workshop given by local artist Debbie Hungle. Students will learn about fused glass and create their own art piece. Using coloured glass on a clear base, all kinds of designs are possible. The finished pieces will then be melted in a glass kiln at approximately 1450 degrees Fahrenheit, back in her studio and then will be returned to school for the students to take home. There is a rich beauty in the glass once it comes out of the kiln.



**Squid Game:** We know as parents, trying to keep up with social media and online streaming shows can be a full-time job. A second season of *Squid Game* has started on Netflix and is rated for mature audiences, and we wanted to make sure all our community knows what this show is about if you are not familiar. The series revolves around a contest in which players, drawn from different walks of life play a series of children's games for the chance to win a monetary prize, with a deadly penalty if they lose. This show has violent and adult content and many of our students have been watching and talking about the show during the school day. Some students are also playing games that mimic the show at recess and lunch, which at school we do not support. We know as guardians and parents; you make the decision in the content your children watch but we encourage you to have open discussions with your children of what behaviours are appropriate when at school and in the community. Thank you for your support with this matter.

**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 on January 21<sup>st</sup> is hosted by Hannah Beach - *Cellphones: What's Healthy, What's Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids* from 6:30-8pm. Please read more and click to register: [District Parent Education Sessions Link](#)



**Kindergarten  
Registration**  
NOV · DEC · JAN

**Kindergarten 2025:** Priority 1 Kindergarten (children born in 2020) Registration will close on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Every year there are families who miss out on this registration period resulting in their child not being able to attend their catchment school or being placed on a waitlist, both of which cause undue stress to parents and guardians and are completely avoidable. Families are strongly encouraged to register during the Priority 1 registration period for the best chance at attending their catchment school for the 2025/26 school year. Please visit our [website](#) for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates, and FAQs.

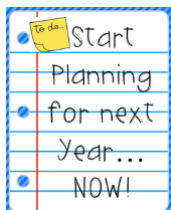
**District Program Options Applications for September 2025/26:** Applications for Early French Immersion (entering Kindergarten or Grade 1), Late French Immersion (entering Grade 6) and Montessori (entering Kindergarten to Grade 4) are being accepted online. Parents must have their child's registration ID number (new students) or Pupil Number (current students) in order to apply. **The deadline for applications for September 2025/26 is Friday, January 17, 2025.** After this date, the online application will close and parents who wish to submit a late application will need to email [programoptions@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:programoptions@sd38.bc.ca) to submit a PDF application. Click [HERE](#) to apply now.



**RICHMOND** **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 pm [CLICK HERE](#) 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 pm 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.

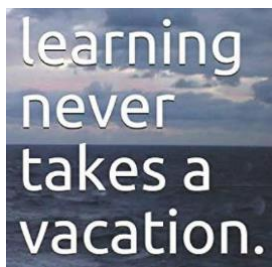


**Intent to Attend Notice:** **Planning for the 2025/26 School Year** has begun (can you believe it?). Your youngest child will have brought home a pink notice, the *Intent to Attend Form*. Please complete this and return it to their teacher by January 17. The information gathered will help with our staffing and classroom planning for next year. If you have any questions about how to answer, please contact Mrs. Hughes in the office.

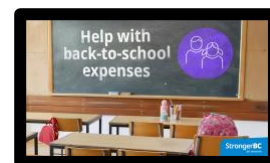
**Thinking about Grade 8:** The parents/guardians of our Grade 7 students were given a letter indicating their catchment high school (and the parent information evenings they host) earlier this week. Please contact Mrs. Hughes if you did not receive this information. If you are considering submitting a Transfer Request, the form will be available on our school website under Parents>Resources>School Forms in late January. Completed forms are to be emailed directly to the chosen high school between February 3-28. Students applying for out-of-catchment incentive programs MUST also submit a transfer request.



**Voluntary Student Absences:** As we begin our second term, we would like to remind families of the importance of student attendance. We acknowledge that there may be exceptional circumstances that necessitates a student’s extended voluntary absence, but it should not be the goal of families to remove their children from school for vacations during instructional time. We have very generous vacation periods throughout the year that can be used for holidays. Missed school not only impacts your child, but also the entire class when group projects and collaboration times are affected. If voluntary absences exceed the allowable amount, your child will be withdrawn, requiring re-registration on your return. We cannot guarantee their placement at Quilchena. If voluntary absences are unavoidable, please complete the Extended Leave Form [HERE](#) and return it to the office at least one week prior to departure. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.



**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:**

**PAC Hot Lunch Food Days TERM 2:** Hot Lunch ordering for Term 2 (January to March) is now open until **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 24 – Village Curry

Feb 3 – Taco Luis  
Mar 3 – Fresh Slice

Feb 10 – Bala Foods  
Mar 10 – Sushi Lovers

Feb 18 – Just Poke





**Westcoast Seed Fundraiser:** The PAC is excited to be sponsoring a new fundraiser later this month, partnering with the Community Roots program at West Coast Seeds. They offer a broad range of vegetable, flower and fruit seeds - orders open January 18th and close February 1st. An email with ordering information will be coming soon!

**Candlelight Concert:** *Calling all talented Quilchena musicians!* We are looking for students to perform at February's Candlelight Concert. Please send your audition videos (2 min max) to [quilchenapac@gmail.com](mailto:quilchenapac@gmail.com) by January 17<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup>.



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

### A Peek Into Our Library Renovation



