



*Quilchena Elementary
School District #38*

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Principal: Nichole Kusch Administrative Asst. Sue Hughes School Liaison Trustee: Ken Hamaguchi

Quilchena Community

The Week Ahead ~ February 3rd – February 7th

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

February – Black History Month

February 1 – PAC Fundraiser – West Coast Seeds Order Deadline

February 2 – Groundhog Day

February 3 – Schoolwide Skate @ Minoru

February 3 – PAC Hot Lunch (Taco Luis)

February 4 – Gr.6/7 Basketball @ Steves

February 5 – Ash Wednesday

February 6 – Gr.6/7 Basketball @ Dixon

February 7 – Popcorn Day

February is around the corner! We have been very fortunate overall with our winter weather, but we do ask that families ensure students are properly dressed and prepared for all kinds of weather. Please also note district weather protocols below. Lunar New Year was this past Wednesday. In Chinese tradition each year the Chinese zodiac is associated with an animal sign. Lunar New Year 2025 is the Year of the Snake. The snake is associated with transformation, renewal, and spiritual growth. Happy New Year to all our Quilchena families who observe this tradition.

In Other Quilchena News:



Black History Month: Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities. The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: “Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.” This theme represents

both an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their histories, successes, sacrifices and triumphs. No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history.

*“We need to cultivate listening, partnership, and solidarity to carve out a better collective future.” —
Desmond Cole*

Library Renovation Update: The bookshelves are in and the cabinets are done. Our tech crew and electricians have been at the school all week getting the wiring set up. Next steps are to have the projector, printers and computers installed along with the acoustic panelling above the newly build wall. The countdown is on!

Inclement Weather, School Closure Notifications: If needed, the district will try to determine school closures due to inclement weather by 6:30 a.m. Updates will be delivered using social media and school and district websites, Facebook, and 'X'. No radio or television announcement will be made saying that schools are open. *Only school closures will be announced by the media.* To reach as many people as possible - as quickly as possible - we work closely with our local media to share information. Please listen to local radio stations and follow local news outlets online to also get information about the impact of severe weather or emergencies in our schools. If snowfall begins while school is in session, in most circumstances, schools will remain OPEN until the end of the school day. If schools are open,



and you wish to keep your child home due to weather conditions, you may do so. Please let your school know of this decision. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's safe travel to school.

Parent Education Sessions 2024/25 School Year: If you missed the session, *Cellphones: What's Healthy, What's Not, and What We Can Do to Support Our Kids*, given on the 21st by Hannah Beach, you can view the webinar recording using this link. [Webinar Recording Link](#) 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

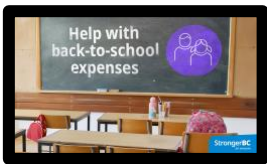


Richmond School District and will provide practical strategies, expert insights, and tools to support your child's well-being in the digital age. More information and registration for parents is available on the SD38 District Website. The next session is on February 25th and is again hosted by Hannah Beach - *Reclaiming Play: Revitalizing Childhood to Combat Anxiety and Aggression* from 6:30-8pm. Please read more and click to register: [District Parent Education Sessions Link](#)

Family Peer Support Workers and FamilySmart Monthly Online Events: The Richmond ICY Team and Foundry (Integrated Child & Youth) have five family peer support workers (employed by FamilySmart) ready and available to serve parents and caregivers in Richmond. The family peer support workers can meet with families supporting a child or youth with a mental health and/or substance youth challenge in person, by video chat, phone or email. Peer support services are available in Cantonese, English, Mandarin and Punjabi. Families can reach out directly for peer support by email richmond@familysmart.ca or phone 604-607-9570. On a monthly basis, FamilySmart also has several [online events](#) accessible to parents/caregivers. Please see the link to view upcoming sessions – [Session Information Link](#).



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). 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:



Popcorn Day: Friday, February 7th is our next Popcorn Day. Send your child to school with a toonie and they can buy a bag of popcorn for their recess snack.



Westcoast Seed Fundraiser: The PAC is excited to be sponsoring a new fundraiser this month, partnering with the Community Roots program at West Coast Seeds. They offer a broad range of vegetable, flower and fruit seeds - ordering open now until February 1st. They also have a curated collection for container gardening that would be wonderful for those working with smaller spaces or patios. An email with ordering information was sent out earlier this week. Order [HERE!](#)

Candlelight Concert Date Change: We have moved our Candlelight Concert to **Friday, March 7th from 6:30-8pm.** Please see the attached flyer for full details and the reservation link. Thank you to all the young Quilchena musicians for sending their audition videos these past few weeks. New this year, the Formosa Ensemble will be doing a collaboration with our students for the finale piece. We encourage any Quilchena students interested in singing with the ensemble to reach out to the PAC. No experience needed. Please email quilchenapac@gmail.com for more information.





PedalHeads: Register your child for Pedalheads Programs [HERE](#) using code: QUILCH25 to support our PAC fundraising - you save money, we earn money. They offer Bike, Soccer, Swim, and Trail options in both Richmond and South Vancouver. Please see the attached flyers for more information.

Questions? Email Vanessa at Quilchenafundraising@gmail.com

A Peek Into Lunar New Year



