



## École Élémentaire Belmont Elementary School

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Website: [belmont.sd35.bc.ca](http://belmont.sd35.bc.ca)



Mr. Tim Bonnar  
Principal

Ms. Christine Wozney  
Vice-Principal

Ms. Rose Stahl  
Admin. Assistant

January 11, 2022

Dear Belmont Families,

We are happy to have students back at school with us this week and excited to see learning taking place. We are cognizant though of the need to be aware of the COVID Omicron variant and its impact in BC at the moment. This newsletter includes information on enhanced health and safety measures at Belmont. There is also information about Kindergarten Registration and Black Excellence Day.

Kind regards,

Tim Bonnar  
Principal

### Upcoming Events:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Friday, January 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Black Excellence Day – See below for more information  |
| • Monday, January 24 <sup>th</sup>  | Online Assembly (K – 7) – BC Lions – Energy Champions  |
| • Monday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>  | Online Assembly (K – 5) – Zero Heroes – reducing waste |
| • Friday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Pro D Day  |
| • Friday, February 18 <sup>th</sup> | Design and Assessment Day – No School                  |

There is a calendar on our website: <https://belmont.sd35.bc.ca/>.

## ENHANCED HEALTH AND SAFETY COVID-19 PROCEDURES - BELMONT

The Provincial Health Office has provided enhanced health and safety guidelines for COVID-19 for schools. Many of these enhanced guidelines are ones that our school has already been following. We have worked to reinforce the application of these protocols and to make changes where necessary to follow the enhanced guidelines. Below is a summary of the ways in which Belmont is implementing the enhanced guidelines.

### Daily Health Check

- All staff complete the daily health check before school each day and do not come to work if they are sick.
- Please complete the [daily health check](#) for your child prior to sending them to school each morning. Please DO NOT send your child to school if they are sick.

### Masks

- The Provincial Health Office expects all staff and students to wear masks in all interior areas of the school unless they are eating or drinking, or they have an exemption to not wear a mask.
- We encourage **all parents** to support our health and safety efforts by having their children wear masks at school
- We have been regularly reminding students to wear masks and will continue to do so.
- It would be helpful if you can send your child with an extra mask in their backpack.

### Hand Hygiene

- Students wash/sanitize hands when they enter the classroom from outside or transition from common areas (gym, library) back to the classroom.
- We will continue to have students do so.

### Visitors In Schools

- We are returning to limited access for visitors.
- Only visitors that are important for educational purposes will be allowed.
- As much as possible, presenters will present online instead of in person.
- Please make an appointment if you need to come inside the building.

### Spacing Out

- Teachers have made adjustments in their classrooms and/or in their schedules and systems to help space out students.
- These adjustments might include adding or rearranging furniture (ex. spacing out desks), changing seating patterns on the carpet, or reducing the number of activities in which students are face-to-face.

### Playground Zones

- We have had playground zones for each grade level all of this year, though they are not as strict as they were last year.
- Students have been reminded about playground zones and cones are being put out to mark the zones.

### School Activities

- Some school activities will be paused right now to prevent mixing from different classes. This includes our lunchtime clubs and our intramural sports. We hope to be able to return to these in the future.
- School sports will continue, but with some modifications. We will be having basketball teams and our teams will play against other schools, but there will be no tournaments with multiple schools. Spectators will not be allowed at games.

### School Gatherings

- All assemblies have been online for the last several months and will continue to be.
- Staff meetings have also been online and will continue to be.

### PAC Events and Activities

- For now, PAC will not hold any in-person events.
- Hot Lunch will be suspended for now because of the number of volunteers entering the building and the number of students entering classrooms to deliver food. More information is shown below in the PAC section.

### Functional and Health Closures

There are two types of closures which could impact our schools:

1. Health Closure is the closure of a class or a school by Fraser Health. It would be decided by Fraser Health based on the case count in a class or school or by evidence of a large number of students absent.
2. Functional Closure is the closure of a school by the school district. It is based on high absenteeism of staff leading to an inability to keep a school open and ensure the health and safety of students.

In the event of either type of closure, we would notify our community in a timely manner with the details. We would then switch to virtual learning for the duration of the closure.

## **BLACK EXCELLENCE DAY**

**What is Black Excellence Day?** (information from <https://blackexcellenceday.ca/>)

As a lead up to Black History Month, Black Excellence Day is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians.

- Black Excellence Day was created by Ninandotoo Society and takes place on January 15th each year, or the preceding Friday if it falls on a weekend or holiday. In 2022, the inaugural Black Excellence Day is on January 14th at 10 am PT.
- January 15th is in honour of the great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born on January 15, 1929.
- The contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggle of Black Canadians often go unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum.
- The term Black Excellence was born out of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

## **Additional Information from the School District**

Last January, many people across Canada wore black shirts to call attention to the need for greater focus on education around Black history and the need to confront racial inequality. This year, January 14 celebrates Black Excellence.

In education, we need to learn about Black history, a history that has long been ignored, erased, or whitewashed. We know that Black excellence and history have largely been missing from the things that we have taught. We know the extent to which the contributions of Black academics, politicians, and activists have been silenced. Now, we need to do better, to educate ourselves to help carve out a more inclusive, respectful, diverse perspective. We need to eliminate the racism that pervades so many systems and structures in our lives through better, more authentic education.

This Friday, we encourage students to wear black to show that they honour Black excellence and understand the need for a more inclusive education around Black history. By doing so, we can work to be anti-racists by encouraging a more inclusive understanding of the world that honours and respects Black excellence.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL STATUS IN INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? Current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or [www.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.sd35.bc.ca). Updates are also posted to Twitter @LangleySchools and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict](https://www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict). If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2022

Kindergarten registration across the Langley School District runs January 17, 2022 – March 31, 2022. If your child will be five years old by December 31, 2022, you will be able to register through your catchment school. Registration will take place online via email to the school. Our school will have site-specific instructions posted on our website once registration opens.



**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION  
OPENS**

**Monday, January 17, 2022**

All children who will be five years old by December 31, 2022 (children born in 2017) are eligible for the Kindergarten program beginning September 6, 2022.

Registration opens Monday, January 17, 2022 and will be open until Thursday, March 31, 2022. All registration takes place at the school level.

**For more information and instructions please contact your catchment school or use the QR code to visit the District webpage.**

The following documents are required at the time of registration:

- Student proof of age (Birth Certificate or Passport),
- Parents proof of Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Resident Status (Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian Citizenship Card, Canadian Passport, Secure Certificate of Indian Status [SCIS/Status Card], Permanent Resident Card, refugee documents from Immigration Canada), and
- Parents proof of residence (BC Driver's License, utility bill or mortgage papers, Property Tax Notice, Photo BC Services Card, subject-free purchase agreement — move in date within 6 months).

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**Please understand there is no advantage in rushing to register your child in the first few weeks of the registration period. Families have until the end of March to secure a space for their child.** For information on what documents you need and instructions on how to register, please visit the [District webpage here](#). To learn more about Kindergarten in the Langley School District, [read our brochure here](#).

## **PAC INFORMATION**

### **Suspension of Hot Lunch**

A message from your Hot Lunch Team,

Unfortunately at this time Hot Lunch has been suspended. We have cancelled January's lunch and until we have notice that we can resume the program, we will cancel each lunch on a date-by-date basis. We will update you as to when or if we can resume and orders can be placed at that time.

Any lunches that have been ordered and get cancelled will remain as credit on your account for the next session. If hot lunch remains cancelled we will then give options for refunds.

We can be contacted at [hotlunchatbelmont@gmail.com](mailto:hotlunchatbelmont@gmail.com) if needed.

Thank you,  
Your Hot Lunch Team

### **PAC Meetings**

The Next General PAC Meeting is **Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**

The PAC meeting will be on Zoom. Click below to access it:

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/62802735880?pwd=T1VPQmVyYVdURldYaGJsYUswenRaZz09>

### **Accessing PAC Information**

The PAC website (<http://www.belmontpac.com>) is a great place to find information about PAC activities, hot lunches, and volunteer opportunities. There is also a PAC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BelmontElementaryPAC>).