

**WILLIAM BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE WILLIAM BRIDGE**  
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PRINCIPAL: MRS. KAREN LIN

VICE-PRINCIPAL: MS. SARA LAI

## Year End Newsletter - Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Thank you for another wonderful year together at Bridge!

It has been an exciting, busy and memorable year at Bridge, and we are proud of the growth and progress our students have demonstrated. Thank you to our families for supporting our children and the school community in so many ways. We are very close to the completion of our Seismic Upgrade Project and can't wait to see the final touches that our amazing construction crew will be working on throughout the summer. We have been so thrilled with the addition of a breezeway to connect our two upstairs hallways. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding over the past two years of this safety project.

### Thank you to our Amazing PAC

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) dedicate their time behind the scenes to help make life and learning at Bridge so enjoyable. Our students have enjoyed Hot Lunch Days, Freezie Fridays, the return of the Spring Fun Fair and many other special events, field trips and additional resources thanks to our PAC.

**THANK YOU!**

### Special thanks to the following PAC Executive Members:

**Kim Nowitsky** – PAC Chair

**Theresa MacDonald** – Secretary

**Angeline Singh** – Treasurer

Thank you for your outstanding leadership, unwavering service and volunteer time you gave to the school community throughout the year.

In addition to the Executive Members, so many other Bridge parents and family members have volunteered their time this year to help organize many exciting events and activities for students and staff including: a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, the sponsorship of field trips, wonderful Fine

Art Performances, a delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon and much more! We thank you for your time, creativity, effort and selfless leadership and support you have given to our community and our students.

### Welcome to our PAC Executive for the 2023-2024 School Year

**Co-Chairs** – Sara Lee and Vera Menzies (new team)

**Secretary** - Theresa MacDonald

**Treasurer** - Angeline Singh



### Our Hot Lunch Program

Thank you so much to our Hot Lunch Volunteers who, under the direction of **Rob and Sally Mah**, made sure that hot lunches were delivered in an organized, quick and safe manner.



### Fruit, Veggies and Milk Program

Thank you to **Lynn Wong** for giving her time each month to clean and sort our fruit and veggie deliveries so that students could try healthy snacks at recess along with donated milk for our primary students.



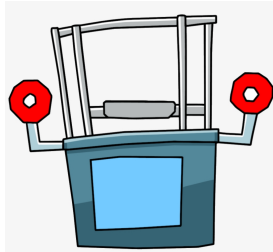


### Grade 7 Farewell Celebration

Congratulations to our Grade 7 students who enjoyed a special day organized by parents and staff. We were so thrilled to be able to host a special assembly in the morning accompanied by our Grade 5/6 band, followed by a delicious luncheon and a fun afternoon of bowling. Thank you to everyone for your creative ideas, time and fundraising efforts to help make this day a special one for all involved. Although there were many people who helped behind the scenes, we'd like to thank **Dupinder Yablonsky, Trish Carvalho, Vera Menzies, Cherry Chen, Venus Matiguina, Melanie Boutin and Theresa MacDonald** for helping to make this day extra special for our students.

### Spring Fun Fair

We are so very happy that we were able to host our PAC Spring Fun Fair this year. Thank you to the amazing efforts of our staff, high school students and parent and grandparent volunteers organized by **Sharline Gosal**, it was a resounding success! The games, food, cookies, activities, and music were a hit but we know the biggest attraction was the dunk tank. Everyone had fun getting the chance to soak their teachers!



### Farewell to Families Leaving Bridge

In addition to the grade 7s students who are moving on to high school, some Bridge families are moving to different schools and/or cities next year. To those students and their families, we will miss you greatly but wish you all the best at your new schools. And remember... **“Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog”**.



### Good Luck to Our UBC Teacher Candidate

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting one Teacher Candidate, **Mme Tina Kuan**, from UBC's Faculty of Education. She had a successful practicum experience at Bridge, contributed to our school community, and is sure to have a bright future as a French Immersion teacher. Best wishes to Mme Kuan as you embark on your career as an educator.



### Summer Homework from Mrs. Lin

Now that it's summer, and you have no school for two months, I'd like to give you a little bit of homework, a challenge...

To be KIND  
Kindness Counts  
Kindness is Cool

Open a door  
Smile  
Help someone find their way  
Play with a new friend



Kindness is universal. It is for everyone. You don't have to speak the same language, be the same age or even know the person well.

Your kindness will be remembered and appreciated – more than any other homework you will ever do.

So that is my challenge for you. Try to be kind every day this summer.

Feel free to read, play a board game, get outside, go for a swim, hang out with your friends, and more!

But also, and maybe even more importantly...

**Be KIND and have a wonderful summer!**

## Farewell Wishes to Staff

### **Madame David-Harel**

We would like to wish Madame David-Harel all the best as she moves over to Whiteside Elementary to teach Early French Immersion Kindergarten and Grade 1. She will be missed after being a teacher at Bridge for ten years as well as a former student here! But...Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!

### **Ms. Vesna Ranisavljevic,**



Congratulations to Ms. Ranis on her retirement! Our students learned so much from her over the last three years at Bridge. Her passion for animals was contagious and will be remembered. Good luck on your next life adventure!

### **Madame Lucie Ferrari**

Good luck to Madame Ferrari at her new school, Spul'u'kwuks. We can't wait to hear how you enjoy their balanced calendar. Thank you for all that you have taught us here at Bridge.

### **Ms. Kiran Sidhu**

Congratulations to Ms. Sidhu who will be moving to Steveston London Secondary School in September. She is looking forward to having the opportunity to teach one of the Indigenous Studies courses required for graduation. Thank you for all that you did for our students and staff at Bridge!

### **Mr. Matthew Holman**

We were so happy to have Mr. Holman with us for part of this school year and wish him all the best as a classroom teacher at Dixon.

### **Ms. Heather Tanemura**

Thank you for a wonderful year of Speech and Language Support for our students, Ms. Tanemura. Wishing you all the best at your new schools.

### **Ms. Carla Thiessen**

McKinney is lucky to be welcoming Ms. Thiessen to their school in September. She will continue to work with students and may even see if she can star in a Talent Show there! All the best!



### **Ms. Shine Misa**

We'd like to wish Ms. Misa a smooth transition over to Anderson School in September. We wish you all the best and thank you for all that you have done for our students here at Bridge.



## **Welcome to our New Bridge Staff**

We are thrilled to welcome the following staff to Bridge and can't wait to get to know them all in September.

Mme Melanie Boutin	EFI Primary Teacher
Ms. Julie Jeffrey	Intermediate Teacher
Mr. Nicolas Szeto	Resource/ELL Teacher

## **We are also thrilled to welcome back to Bridge in permanent positions:**

Ms. Lily Fu	Educational Assistant
Madame Ashley Parkes	EFI Teacher
Ms. Valerie Nguyen	Primary Teacher
Mr. Gideon Kalman-Lamb	Primary Teacher

### **Bridge School Website:**

<https://bridge.sd38.bc.ca/>

**Twitter: @bridgebulldogs**

### **PAC Facebook Page:**

William Bridge Elementary PAC





## Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### All students in Grades 1-7

9:00-10:00am

Please return to your last year's class using the door and classroom guide on the **Welcome Bulletin Board** in September. New Bridge students will be placed with students at their grade level. We will meet you at the front of the school to guide you to your class for the week.

### Kindergarten Students

10:30-11:15am

**All English Kindergarten students**, please meet Ms. Nguyen and extra support staff at the front of the school.

**All EFI (Early French Immersion) Kindergarten students**, please meet Madame Yamamoto and extra support staff at the front of the school.

**Kindergarten Families:** Please refer to the [Gradual Entry Schedule and Letters](#) for more detailed information about the first two weeks of school (sent to you in a separate email).

We can't wait to see you in September!

## Wednesday Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>

8:45am – 2:45pm

All students in Grades 1-7 will attend school for full days. Please remember to send a healthy recess snack, a lunch and a water bottle in your child's backpack. **Students will be outside rain or shine for recess and lunch breaks so be sure to send your child dressed and prepared for weather changes.**



## Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Grades 1-7

We hope to have all students placed in their new class for the year by the end of this first Friday.

### **Recess Snack Ideas**

Ideas for healthy recess snacks:

- apple slices
- cheese and crackers
- oranges
- a hard-boiled egg
- a banana
- a granola bar
- mini carrots
- berries
- cucumbers
- cheese strings
- celery
- snap peas

### **Cutlery – Forks, Spoons, Chopsticks**

Thank you for packing cutlery in your child's lunch box if they need a fork, spoon or chopsticks to eat their meal. We are working hard to help save the environment, so we don't have extra forks and spoons at the school. Many Dollar Stores have stainless steel forks, spoons and re-usable chopsticks which are easy to clean and re-use every day!



## 2023-2024 School Hours

*Please note a few changes for our break times.*

8:40 am

Doors Open

8:45 am

Classes Begin

10:10-10:25 am

Recess Break

11:50-12:42 pm

Lunch Break

2:45 pm

Dismissal

On behalf of all of us at Bridge, we wish you a summer full of fun and lasting memories. Be safe and enjoy the break. See you in September!

**HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!**



We will communicate additional events via our school website and our **Week at a Glance (WAAG) newsletters.**

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, October 2, 2023**

Schools Closed in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day-**September 30**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

Individual and Class Photo Day

**Monday, October 9, 2023**

Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed

**October 10 – 12, 2023**

Outdoor Ed (Camp) for Grade 7s

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In-Person Learning Updates

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In-Person Learning Updates

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, November 13, 2023**

Schools Closed in recognition of Remembrance Day - November 11

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

Grades 6 and 7 Immunizations

**Friday, December 1, 2023**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

Learning Update #1 published in MyEd

**Winter Break:**

December 23, 2023 to January 7, 2024

*Last day of school before the Break*

*Friday, December 22, 2023*

*Return to school – Monday, January 8, 2024*

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In- Person Learning Updates

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In-Person Learning Updates

**Friday, February 16, 2024**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

Family Day – Schools Closed

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

Pink Shirt Day

**Spring Break**

March 15 – April 1, 2024

*Last day of school–Thursday, March 14*

*Return to school – Tuesday, April 2*

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

Pro-D Day – No school for students

**Friday, April 26, 2024**

Learning Update #2 published in MyEd

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, May 20, 2024**

Victoria Day – Schools closed

**Monday, May 27, 2024**

Panorama School Photo

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

Grades K/1/6/7 Immunizations

**Thursday, June 27, 2024**

Summary of Learning published in MyEd  
Last day of school for students

**Summer Break**

June 28 to September 2, 2024

Return to school – Tuesday, Sept. 3

# DIGITAL SAFETY 4 KIDS

5 tips for parents & guardians to help students stay safe on their device

## KNOW THE APPS

Parents often do not know what apps or platforms their children are using to communicate and share. Be aware of age restrictions, inappropriate content, and who they are chatting / connecting with online. Talk with your kids about the pros/cons of these apps.

Did you know?

- Discord's age rating is 17+ for the iOS app while the online age rating is 13+
- 50% of teens admit to hiding their online behaviour from parents.
- 40% of kids in grades 4-8 have connected or chatted online with a stranger.

## DIGITAL HARASSMENT

Talk with your child about possible things to do if they are harassed or feel unsafe:

- let an adult know
- block / mute / unfriend that person
- take screenshots of the offensive or inappropriate content
- prevent an escalation of the situation (don't share with friends)
- in serious situations, contact the RCMP



## SCREEN TIME

Most social media apps are designed to keep users engaged with their content for as long as possible. The more screen time our kids have, the more influence this messaging and built in ads will have on them. Limit the amount of screen time by:



- NOT storing it overnight in their bedroom
- setting daily usage limits on the device
- encouraging them to be active outside
- having device free times
- modelling your own screen time limits

## LOCATION SERVICES

Our phones have a built-in GPS that records the location of where we are. Ensure that location services are turned off for the camera and for apps like Snapchat and Instagram. This prevents location stamping of photos and in some cases, where the kids are in real time.



## POSTS ARE PERMANENT

Remind students that text messages and photos posted on social media last forever. Talk with your children about this and the pitfalls of content that is deemed inappropriate. A good rule of thumb is to ask "Would I share this with a grandparent?"

