



## Year End Newsletter - Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### 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 Bridge families for supporting our children and the school community in so many ways. It was nice to enjoy our new seismically safe building and see all of the final touches that were added – our second floor breezeway, an updated staffroom, an elevator, a beautiful rainbow bench for the lobby, the Bridge Bulldog logo in our gym, a green screen in our Library Learning Commons, new benches for our gym, picnic tables for our courtyards and playground, freshly painted lines in our parking lot, and the addition of a daycare on our school grounds.

### 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 and Staff have enjoyed Hot Lunch Days, Freezie Fridays, a Halloween Howl, the Grade 7 Recycling Program, the Spring Fair, a Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and many other special events, field trips and additional resources thanks to our PAC.

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

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

**PAC Co-Chairs** - Sara Lee and Vera Menzies  
**Secretary** - Theresa MacDonald  
**Treasurer** - Angeline Singh

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: 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.

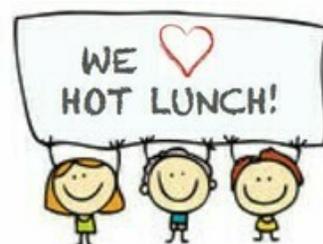
### Welcome to our PAC Executive for the 2024-2025 School Year

**Co-Chairs** - Vera Menzies and Kim Nowitsky  
**Secretary** - Theresa MacDonald  
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### 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.



**SCHOOL FRUIT  
AND VEGETABLE  
NUTRITIONAL  
PROGRAM**



## 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 some of our band students, followed by a barbeque and fun afternoon at South Arm Pool and Park. 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 **Sharline Gosal** for leading a large group of parent volunteers who helped make this day extra special for our students.



## PAC Spring Fair

We are so very happy that we were able to host our PAC Spring Fair again this year, and only get drizzled on a little bit. Thanks to the amazing efforts of our staff, high school students and parent and grandparent volunteers organized by **Theresa MacDonald and Lisa Craker**, the fair was a great success! The games, food, cookies, activities, raffle prizes, henna, photo booth, 50/50, silent auction and music were a hit! It was fun to have the Richmond Sockeyes, the Fire Truck, the RCMP, a food truck, and Move 103.5FM onsite for this special event.

## 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 but wish you all the best at your new schools. And remember...



**"Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!"**

## Good Luck to Our UBC Teacher Candidates

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting two Teacher Candidates, **Madame Stephanie Burchell** and **Ms. Crystal Yang**, from UBC's Faculty of Education. They both had a successful practicum experience at Bridge, contributed to our school community, and are sure to have bright futures as teachers. Best wishes to you both as you embark on your career as educators.



## Summer Homework from Mrs. Lin

Now that it's summer, and you have a break from school for two months, I'd like to give you a little bit of "homework", a challenge...

### 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.

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 a book, write a letter, play a board game, get outside, play music, go for a swim, hang out with friends, and more!

But also, and maybe even more importantly... **Be kind!**

**"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."**

Henry James

## Farewell Wishes to Staff



### **Ms. Anna Sun**

Ms. Sun worked with many students at our school once a week this year. Thank you for being a part of our Bridge family and we hope to see you back soon, Ms. Sun!

### **Mr. Zach Wolfman**

Thank you to Mr. Wolfman for working in Division 13 this term and as a regular TIOC at our school this year. We enjoyed your drama lessons, flexibility and friendly face. You are welcome back any time!

### **Mme Raphaelle Vrain**

We would like to wish Mme Vrain all the best as she transitions to a position at Palmer Secondary School. She has been an important member of our ELL and Resource Teaching Team this year working with both French and English students, as well as teaching in Division 13. Bonne chance!

### **Mme Kristine Canas**

Congratulations to Mme Canas who will now be working as Richmond School District's French Teacher Consultant. She has been an active member of our school for the past two years teaching Grades 6 and 7 Early French Immersion, coaching basketball, working with our Student Voice group and helping students prepare for the Concours d'Art Oratoire. Thank you for all that you have done in and out of your classroom at Bridge and all the best in your new role! Félicitations, Mme Canas!

### **Mr. Jack Tubajon**

We have been so lucky to have Mr. Tubajon at our school for the past three years. He knows each and every one of our students, works in many classrooms, collaborates with teachers, coaches volleyball and basketball, and has amazing school spirit. We wish him all the best as he continues his teaching career in his own classroom at Quilchena School. And an early congratulations on his upcoming summer wedding! What an exciting year ahead!

### **Mme Shahina Djaffar**

Mme "J" has been an Educational Assistant at Bridge for the past six years working with many of our students in both French and English. We have enjoyed learning with and from her over the years and are happy to know that many of our former Bridge students will see her familiar face in the halls at McRoberts Secondary next year. We wish her all the best at high school and we are sure to see her at Basketball Tournaments, the French Festival, Band Concerts and the Concours d'Art Oratoire. Bonne chance, Madame Djaffar, and remember...Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog!

### **Ms. Sara Lai**

How lucky we were to have two wonderful years with Ms. Lai as our Vice Principal. She is a calm, kind, organized leader with a passion for working with students, staff and the community in a variety of ways. She is a master scheduler, a tech expert, and a wonderful teacher. This year she worked closely with our Student Voice group to organize Family Team Activities, Spirit Days and lots of fun events. We wish you all the best as you continue your role as Vice Principal at Whiteside School just down the street. We hope to continue collaborating with you to bring our two schools together. We will miss you, Ms. Lai. Whiteside is lucky to have you!



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

We are happy to welcome **Ms. Eleanor Lee** to Bridge as our Vice Principal. Ms. Lee is joining us from Byng Elementary School. We also extend a warm welcome to **Ms. Vanessa Wardell** who will be joining our ELL and Resource Team. We can't wait to get to know you both in September.

We are also thrilled to welcome **Ms. Tina Kuan** back to Bridge in a permanent position. We're happy she will continue to work with students at our school.

#### **Bridge School Website:**

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

**X (Twitter): @bridgebulldogs**

#### **PAC Facebook Page:**

William Bridge Elementary PAC





## Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

### 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, Madame Parkes** and extra support staff at the front of the school.

**Kindergarten Families:** Please refer to the [Gradual Entry Schedule and Letter](#) 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. 4<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, Sept. 5<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 6<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
- oranges
- a banana
- mini carrots
- cucumbers
- celery
- cheese and crackers
- a hard-boiled egg
- a granola bar
- berries
- cheese strings
- 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 cutlery 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!



## 2024-2025 School Hours

8:40 am

8:45 am

10:10-10:25 am

11:50-12:42 pm

2:45 pm

Doors Open

Classes Begin

Recess Break

Lunch Break

Dismissal

# HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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!**



For updates, please check our website and **Week at a Glance (WAAG) newsletters.**

**Friday, September 20, 2024**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, September 30, 2024**

Schools Closed in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

Individual and Class Photo Day

**Monday, October 14, 2024**

Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

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

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024**

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

**Friday, October 25, 2024**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, November 11, 2024**

Remembrance Day – Schools closed

**Monday, November 25, 2024**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Wednesday, November 27, 2024**

Grades 6 and 7 Immunizations

**Thursday, December 19, 2024**

Written Learning Update #1

**Winter Break:**

December 21, 2024 – January 5, 2025

*Last day of school before the Break*

*Friday, December 20, 2024*

*Return to school – Monday, January 6, 2025*

**Monday, January 27, 2025**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In- Person Learning Updates #2

**Thursday, February 13, 2025**

Early Dismissal at 1:45pm  
for In-Person Learning Updates #2

**Friday, February 14, 2025**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

Family Day – Schools Closed

**Friday, February 28, 2025**

Pink Shirt Day

**Spring Break**

March 15 – March 30, 2025

*Last day of school – Friday, March 14*

*Return to school – Monday, March 31*

**Friday, April 18, 2025**

Good Friday – Schools closed

**Monday, April 21, 2025**

Easter Monday – Schools closed

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

Written Learning Update #2

**Friday, May 16, 2025**

Pro-D Day - No school for students

**Monday, May 19, 2025**

Victoria Day – Schools closed

**June 2-4, 2025**

Grade 7 Outdoor Ed – Camp Jubilee

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

Grades K/1/6/7 Immunizations

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

Final Summary of Learning published  
Last day of school for students

**Summer Break**

June 27 to September 1, 2025

Return to school – Tues., Sept. 2, 2025

# PAC VOLUNTEERS

## PAC EXECUTIVE

Vera Menzies  
Sara Lee  
Angeline Singh  
Theresa MacDonald

## HOT LUNCH TEAM AND FREEZIE FRIDAYS

Rob and Sally Mah, Kim Nowitsky,  
Vicki Xiong, Sara Lee, Quinnie Pak,  
Chelsea Zhu, Bonnie Leung, Saloua  
MacDonald, Sokhun Thompson,  
Travis and Cindi Feist, Tingting  
Jiang, Kitty Sun, Sylvia Chu, Sarah  
May and Rosamelia Andrade

## SPRING FAIR

Theresa MacDonald,  
Lisa Craker  
and countless parents,  
grandparents and high  
school volunteers.

## HALLOWEEN HOWL

Tina Tam  
Angeline Singh  
Kim Nowitsky  
Sara Lee  
Theresa MacDonald  
Rob and Sally Mah  
Friecca Kurniawan  
and many more!

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Friecca Kurniawan

## GRADE 7 FAREWELL EVENTS

Sharline and Gary Gosal, Cathy Leong,  
Amy and Paul Bring, Theresa MacDonald,  
Corrine Villafuerte, Dupinder Yablonsky,  
Lauren and Elvis Foster, Sandy Wan,  
Marianne and Karm Lidder, Chunmei Liu,  
Sophie Yajie Niu, Toshiko Honjo,  
Carmina Medalle, Sharon Munoz, Christa Budai,  
Sally and James Huang, Jessie Bracho Revilla,  
and Ellis Hui

## STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Sharline Gosal  
Cathy Leong  
Kim Nowitsky

**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!**





GET YOUR  
**Summer**  
 ACTIVE PASS  
 \$29

**SWIM, SKATE, GOLF  
 AND WORK OUT  
 ALL SUMMER!**

For 5 to 18 year olds

**RICHMOND.CA/SUMMERPASS**



Recipe for a  
**"SUMMER of JOY"**

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 cup of laughter (cup with strawberries)
- 1 cup of relaxation (cup with avocado)
- 1 tbsp of mindfulness (lemon character)
- 1 tbsp of adventure (spoon with flower)
- 2 cups of quality time together (two tomatoes)
- A dash of creativity (honey jar)

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Step One:** Toss all ingredients in a large bowl until well mixed.
- Step Two:** Spoon the mixture into small, joyful moments.
- Step Three:** Season to taste with your family's favorite flavors.
- Step Four:** Share with loved ones. Savor every bite of the season.

# SUMMER BREAK SCREEN-FREE ACTIVITY IDEAS

## Imagination Play and Physical Activity

- Build a sandcastle
- Create a dance routine and share with your family
- Go wild life watching at the park
- Go for a bike or scooter ride
- Put on a puppet show



## Music, Arts, and Crafts

- Learn Origami
- Paint or draw
- Make paper planes and have a contest
- Listen to music/sing together
- Make a paper flower bouquet
- Create your own musical instruments and make up a song



## Science and Literacy

- Keep a nature journal
- Design a menu for a special meal
- Write a poem, song, or story
- Read a book or a magazine together
- Visit your local library
- Do a science experiment
- Build a cardboard rollercoaster



## Games and Connecting with Others

- Design a treasure hunt in your home
- Help a friend or neighbour together
- Write a letter of appreciation
- Cook or bake together
- Visit a community centre
- Play or make a board game to share
- Plan a picnic together

# 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?"

