

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

VICE-PRINCIPAL: MS. ELEANOR LEE

SCHOOL TRUSTEE: MS. DEBBIE TABLOTNEY

Year End Newsletter - Thursday, June 26th, 2025

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 staff and families for supporting our children and the school community in so many ways.

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 November Pajama Dance Party, support for Outdoor Education and our Grade 7 Farewell Celebrations along with many other special events, field trips and additional learning resources thanks to our PAC.



Special thanks to the following PAC Executive Members:

PAC Co-Chairs – Kim Nowitsky and Vera Menzies
Secretary - Theresa MacDonald
Treasurer - Angeline Naidu

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, the Young Actor's Project Drama Workshops, a delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon and much more! We thank you for your time, creativity, effort, selfless leadership and support you have given to our community and our students.

Welcome to our PAC Executive for the 2025-2026 School Year



2025–2026 PAC Executive:

Co-Chairs: Kim Nowitsky, Mei Shum

Treasurer: Angeline Naidu

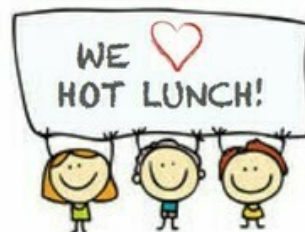
Secretary: Theresa MacDonald
(with Tina Tam shadowing for the year)

Members-at-Large: Sarah May, Sara Lee,
Angel Bajgoric, and Sally Mah

All Bridge parents and caregivers are part of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). We'd love to see you at our meetings each month or to help out at the school.

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 every week.



Fruit, Veggies and Milk Program and The Bridge Fridge

We are very grateful to the **Richmond Food Bank** for supplying Bridge with fruit, veggies and milk.

Our Bridge Fridge has been well-stocked, and students are able to access the fridge if they are hungry during the day so that they are ready and able to learn without a grumbling tummy.



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 delicious luncheon in the gym and a fun afternoon of games based on a retro video game theme. Students also enjoyed signing each other's yearbooks. Thank you to everyone for your creative ideas, donations, 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 **Sarah May** for leading a large group of parent volunteers who helped make this day extra special for our students.



Farewell to Families Leaving Bridge

In addition to the grade 7 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 Candidate

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting one Teacher Candidate, **Ms. Joyce Chan**, from UBC's Faculty of Education. Ms. Chan completed a successful practicum experience in Ms. Funston's Division 3 class at Bridge, contributed to our school community, and is sure to have a bright future as a teacher. Best wishes, Ms. Chan, as you embark on your career as an educator.

A message from Mrs. Lin

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

1. **Spend as much time off of your devices as you can.**
2. **And be kind!**

Here are a few words from one of my favourite books, **Be You**, by Peter H. Reynolds.



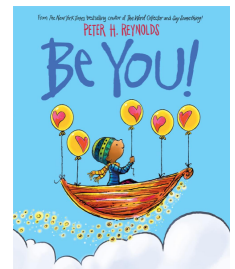
"You were born to be many things. My wish for you, no matter where your journey leads, is for you to always...

Be you!

Be ready.
Be curious.
Be adventurous.
Be connected.
Be persistent.
Be different.
Be silly. Be quirky. Be unique.
Be okay with being different.
Be just the way you are.

Be kind!

Be understanding.
Be brave.
Be your own thinker.
Be okay being alone.
Be patient.
Be okay reaching out for help.
And remember...no matter what, you will always **be loved!**



Farewell Wishes to Staff



Ms. Craker

Ms. Craker has been a Noon Hour Supervisor at Bridge for the past 12 years. She will now begin a new adventure as she moves to the Sunshine Valley. Thank you for your dedication to children and our community, Ms. Craker. We wish you all the best in your new home!

Ms. Flores

Ms. Flores, our Area Counsellor, will be supporting other schools in Richmond next year. She has been at Bridge for 7 years and we have appreciated her support and guidance. We know you will continue to help students at your new schools, Ms. Flores!

Ms. L. Fu

Ms. Fu, one of our amazing Educational Assistants, will be working at Whiteside School next year. Thank you for much for the support you have given to so many of our students these last two years! We will miss your smile!

Ms. Khanal

After almost two years at Bridge, Ms. Khanal, another one of our wonderful Educational Assistants will be moving to Cook School. We know you will you have as much of an impact on the Cook community as you have at Bridge!

Mr. Szeto

We'd like to wish Mr. Szeto, one of our Resource and ELL teachers, all the best as he continues his teaching journey as a classroom teacher at McNeely. Thank you for your work with students at Bridge both in the classroom and out. We appreciate how much time you dedicated to our basketball teams and for the time you spent at Camp Jubilee with our Grade 7 students. We will miss you!



Welcome to our New Bridge Staff

Ms. Colleen Orzen

We are happy to welcome **Ms. Colleen Orzen** to Bridge as our **School Principal** beginning July 1, 2025. Ms. Orzen is joining us from Dixon Elementary School, and we know you will all welcome her with open arms.

Ms. Austin

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Austin to the Bridge Community as our incoming Area Counsellor.

Ms. Ng

We are excited to welcome Ms. Ng back to Bridge as part of our Resource and ELL teaching team. Ms. Ng was here as a Teacher Candidate a few years ago.

Bridge School Website:

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

Bridge on Instagram

@BridgeBulldogs2024



PAC Facebook Page:

William Bridge Elementary PAC



Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

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

10:30-11:30am

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 in a separate email). We can't wait to see you in September!

Wednesday Sept. 3rd - Thursday, Sept. 4th

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 5th – Grades 1-7

We hope to have all students placed in their new class for the year by the end of this first Friday, September 5th.

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 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!



2025-2026 School Hours

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

**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.**

Monday, September 22, 2025

Pro-D Day - No school for students

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Schools Closed in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Individual and Class Photo Day

Monday, October 13, 2025

Thanksgiving Day - Schools Closed

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

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

Thursday, October 23, 2025

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

Friday, October 24, 2025

Pro-D Day - No school for students

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Remembrance Day – Schools closed

Monday, December 1, 2025

Pro-D Day - No school for students

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Written Learning Update #1 in MyEd

Winter Break:

December 20, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Last day of school before the Break

Friday, December 19, 2025

Return to school – Monday, January 5, 2026

Monday, January 26, 2026

Pro-D Day - No school for students

Friday, February 13, 2026

Pro-D Day - No school for students

Monday, February 16, 2026

Family Day – Schools Closed

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026

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

Spring Break

March 14 – March 29, 2026

Last day of school – Friday, March 13

Return to school – Monday, March 30

Friday, April 3, 2026

Good Friday – Schools closed

Monday, April 6, 2026

Easter Monday – Schools closed

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Written Learning Update #2

Friday, May 15, 2026

Non-Instructional Day

Monday, May 18, 2026

Victoria Day – Schools closed

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Final Summary of Learning published
Last day of school for students

Summer Break

June 26 to September 7, 2026

Return to school – Tues., Sept. 8, 2026

Thank
you 

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped with our PAC Hot Lunch Days, Freezie Fridays, Sports Day, the Pajama Dance Party, the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Parking Lot Safety, the Grade 7 Farewell and other Special Events at Bridge. We appreciate you!

Sally Mah, Rob Mah, April Chen, Vicki Xiong, Chelsea Zhu, Tingting Jiang, Angel Bajgoric, Quinnie Pak, Cyndi Feist, Travis Feist, Aileen Cheung, Rosamelia Andrade, Tina Tam, Sokhun Thompson, Barbara Lee-Son, Sylvia Chu, Sylvia Li, Jing Zhang, Katharine Li, Kim Nowitsky, Holly Abegg, Cathy Lu, Kitty Mui, Leanne Wang, Akisa Kurebayashi, Yasuko Ozawa, Theresa MacDonald, Lisa Craker, Sarah May, Kim Johansson, Niklas Johansson, Sunshine Co, Shuai Gu, Maureen Perzan, Jason Velasquez, Jeevan Dehal, Slava Kovalov, Mary Rigg, Frank Tang, Claudia Wang, Eddy Ng, Saloua MacDonald, Colin Fleming, Jeremy Sze, Amy Wong, Klement Mui, Susan Yu, Semiha Nahal, Sara Lee, Neelam Murti, Mei Au, Billo Puni, Ronalyn Samson, George Samson, Charity Janzen, Vera Menzies, Angeline Naidu, Mel Boutin, and Yifei Tang.

**Thank you for understanding if we missed you.
We appreciate everyone!**



STEVESTON SALMON FESTIVAL

It's about COMMUNITY

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025



GET YOUR
Summer
ACTIVE PASS
\$29

**SWIM. SKATE.
GOLF. FITNESS.**
**YOUR ALL-ACCESS PASS
TO SUMMER FUN!**

For 5 to 18 year olds

RICHMOND.CA/SUMMERPASS



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SPLASH ALL SUMMER!

DIVE IN

STEVESTON AND SOUTH ARM
OUTDOOR POOLS ARE NOW OPEN

richmond.ca/OutdoorPools



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?"

