



Tiger Times

September 2016 

Principal: Ms. Jillian Lewis - Head Teacher: Mrs. Laura Singh - Admin Assistant: Mrs. Giannina Rakic

WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the Brentwood Park Elementary School staff I would like to welcome all students and their families to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. We wish to extend a very special welcome to those students and families who are joining the Brentwood Park community for the first time this year. We hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing summer and enjoyed the beautiful summer weather that arrived in the Lower Mainland. I am excited about the start of a new school year and look forward to working together to create a strong community of learners.

Jillian Lewis
Principal

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Today your son/daughter returned to their last year's classroom. It is our hope to place students in their new classes on Monday morning with confirmation from the school district administrative office. With transfers of students in and out over the summer months, some adjustments to our school organization may need to take place. While we will do our best to get organized as quickly and efficiently as possible, it is important to be thoughtful about class placement to achieve optimum learning environments for all children.

Class Organization FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

How are children placed in classes?

Classroom teachers, learning support teachers, educational assistants and the school principal put a great deal of thought into organizing classes that will provide nurturing, productive learning environments. A number of criteria are considered including: academic needs, maturity, attitude, behaviour, gender, friendships, and leadership qualities. With these guidelines in mind, children are grouped into classes. We strive for balanced classes at every grade level.

Combined classes – Will my child learn grade appropriate skills and content?

All classes, whether single or multi-grade, include children with a wide range of skills, knowledge, interests, learning styles and personalities. Their interests, needs and abilities, combined with the curriculum expectations for their grade, determine the program for the year. Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher about the curriculum or visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/> to view it directly on the BC Ministry of Education website.

My child is a grade 3 student in a Grade 2/3 class. Does this mean he/she is in a "lower" group?

The most common misconception that persists about combined classes is that a child's placement in the lower grade indicates superior academic abilities, while a placement in the upper grade suggests weaker ability. This is simply not the case. Teachers use their knowledge of grade level curriculum and their understanding of each child's strengths and challenge areas to ensure that each learner moves forward along a continuum of learning. This is the art and science of teaching.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

8:55 a.m.	students enter school and prepare for the day
9:00 a.m.	instruction begins; students arriving after 9:00a.m. should report to the office
10:30 a.m.	recess begins
10:45 a.m.	recess ends
12:05 p.m.	lunch begins
12:53 p.m.	students enter school
12:58 p.m.	instruction begins
3:00 p.m.	students dismissed



FIRST WEEK AT BRENTWOOD PARK

This year, our first week of learning will center around the theme of Alert and Engaged Through Experiential Learning. Students will be working in primary (grades 1-3) and intermediate (grades 4-7) groups to explore these topics.

On Tuesday, September 6th, students should be dropped off and picked up at last year's classroom. Students new to Brentwood Park should be dropped off and picked up at the library.

For the remainder of the week, students should be dropped off and picked up at their "first week group" classroom. This information will go home with students Tuesday.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

To increase the safety, security and ease of payments, Brentwood Park Elementary is excited to continue with our full implementation of the School Cash Online system we introduced last year. From this point forward, families will have the option of making payments either through School Cash Online or through cheque, **Cash will no longer be accepted** as payment for school fees.

Benefits to Parents

- Provides a new 'parent' convenience
- Parent fills Online shopping chart & checks out
- Parent Receives Email Notification
- Parent can print receipts for their records and/or income tax

Benefits to Students

- Improves Student Safety
- Reduces the amount of cash/cheques coming to school

Benefits to Teachers

- Improves 'School to Home' Communication
- Less Bookkeeping = More Instructional Time
- Reduces the Time Spent Photocopying
- Helps School 'Go Green'

Benefits to School Bookkeeper

- Reduces the Time Spent Photocopying
- Saves Time
- Reduces Cash Counting, receipting, combining, bank deposits
- Reduces the NSF risk/loss

Please click on this link <http://www.sd41.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/School-cash-instructions.pdf> for more information about using School Cash Online. Access to the School Cash Online homepage can be accessed here <https://burnaby.schoolcashionline.com/>. Please contact the school if you have any questions about the payment options.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017



School Opening — 9:00-10:00am	Sep 6
Early Dismissal – 2:00 pm	Sept 22
Early Dismissal - 2:00 pm	Sep 23
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Sept 30
Thanksgiving	Oct 10
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Oct 21
Remembrance Day	Nov 11
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Nov 25
Winter Vacation	Dec 19 – Jan 2
School Reopens	Jan 3
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Jan 23
Family Day	Feb 13
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Feb 17
Early Dismissal - 2:00 pm	Mar 9
Early Dismissal - 2:00 pm	Mar 10
Spring Vacation	Mar 13-24
Good Friday	Apr 14
Easter Monday	Apr 17
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Apr 24
Victoria Day	May 22
Pro-D (students do not attend)	June 5
Last Day of school — 9:00-10:00am	June 29

ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is important if your child is to gain full benefit from the school program. If your child is going to be away for any reason, please call the school office before 9:00 a.m. to confirm his/her absence. Leave a message on the answering machine with the following information:

1. Child's first & last name (please spell last name)
2. Teacher and Division
3. Absent or late (please give anticipated arrival time)

If we do not hear from you, we will call home to ensure your child's safety.

SAFETY ZONE

TRAFFIC SAFETY

We all share a common concern about the safety of our children. Together we can ensure this by choosing safety over convenience. If you use Delta Ave. to drop off or pick up your child, please consider the following suggestions:

- * Carefully observe the no stopping zones on either side of the crosswalk.
- * All children must use the crosswalk (Parents are asked to use the crosswalk as models of safe practices).
- * Please do not use driveways to turn around.
- * U-turns on the street are illegal.
- * Please do not double park.
- * Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- * Do not permit your children to get out of your vehicle on the traffic side of the car. Ensure that they get out on the sidewalk side.



PARKING



Both the parking lot at the front of the school and the parking lot between the school and the child care centre are strictly off limits to parents dropping off and picking up children. **Also, please remember that parking in Burnaby lanes is illegal.** Families are strongly encouraged to walk to school with their children. If you absolutely must drive, there is plenty of parking on side streets throughout the neighbourhood.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to leave the school during school hours without consent from a parent or guardian. We would appreciate it if you would arrange medical appointments outside of school hours. However, if your child must leave during regular school hours, please sign them out at the office. Students who normally eat lunch at school must bring written permission before they are allowed to leave the grounds during the lunch hour. A note is also required if your child is going to another child's house for lunch. If a student needs to go home due to sudden illness, we will contact a parent/guardian or an emergency contact. Finally, if you have arranged for a friend or relative to pick up your child, please send a note to the classroom teacher or call the office.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

- Know the route your child takes to and from school and how long it takes
- Encourage your child to walk with a friend or in a group. Know the telephone numbers and addresses of these friends
- Arrange for your child to arrive at school as close to the morning bell time as possible. Set a time for your child to report home after school
- Encourage your child to wear light coloured clothing so that they are easily seen on rainy, dark days.
- Review street safety rules with your child.

PEANUT SAFETY

We have a number of children in our school who have serious, life-threatening peanut/nut allergies. This means that any contact with peanuts/nuts or nut products in the classroom, in even trace amounts, may endanger the child's life. We are requesting the assistance of all our families in keeping our school a peanut and nut aware environment. **Please do not send snacks and lunch items that contain nuts or nut oils.** We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



WELCOME

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome the following staff members to the Brentwood Park community:

Mrs. Yee is our new Learning Support Services teacher and comes to us from Chaffey-Burke Elementary School.

Mr. Jung has joined us on a temporary contract and is teaching a grade 6/7 class.

Mrs. Fleming rejoins the staff of Brentwood Park this year and will be teaming up with Mrs. Brolin to teach a grade 1 class.

Mrs. Tedham (formerly Ms. Greene) is returning from maternity leave and will be teaming up with **Mrs. DiSpirito**, who comes to us from Inman Elementary they will be teaching a kindergarten class.