



BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CHRIST | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY

August 17, 2021

Dear BCCA Families,

Elementary School Summer Mail-Out 2021-22

God is building something exceptional at BCCA!

Not only are we seeing the steady physical changes taking place on our Fernwood campus this summer, as offices are moving to make more space to accommodate our double Grade 4 classes and the new Middle School, but the community is alive with activity as parents seek out other families for get-togethers and Kids' Club Summer Camps engage our school- and neighbourhood-families with activities that inspire and challenge our children, pointing them to Jesus and reaching many who do not know Christ yet.

Perhaps most significantly we see new enrollment exceeding our projections as God sovereignly grows our humble school in spite of the onslaught of hostility from current culture that distains our Lord and biblical truth, arrogantly rewrites history or deletes it entirely, creates confusion around sexuality and continually attacks the sacred unit God created and loves - The Family.

By His grace and for HIS GLORY, we strive in every way to support and uphold our families here at BCCA. By partnering with our parents in training children to understand and embrace God's Word, to fall in love with Jesus and to develop a thirst for biblical truth that will equip them for a lifetime, we purpose to teach our students to swim bravely and boldly against the tide of culture by putting Christ, Community and Compassion first.

To this end we are energetically preparing for and anticipating the start of school on September 7th. Here's what you can expect in the new K-Grade 4 Elementary School for 2021-22:

1. Relaxed COVID Protocols

including but not limited to a passive health check-in each day for students. Parents are expected to continue the vigilant practice of assessing their children's health before school each day and keeping them home if there is any sign of illness (cough, runny nose, temperature, stomach ache, vomiting, etc.) Reporting on Bloomz will no longer be required. Children who become sick while at school will be isolated until the parent or guardian arrives to pick up the child. It is imperative that you ensure the School has correct phone numbers for your emergency contacts on file with the Office in the event you are not able to return to the school on short notice. While we have not received notification from the Ministry of Education and the Fraser Health Authority about specifics at the time of the writing of this letter, we understand that mask-wearing will be optional for those staff and students who prefer to use one. Increased hand hygiene will continue to be practiced each day. Should we receive new instructions from the authorities regarding these protocols, we will, as usual, inform our families as soon as possible.

2. COVID Vaccine

While vaccines have been actively promoted across our country they have not been mandated. Therefore, BCCA will not discriminate against any child, parent or staff member who has chosen to decline the vaccine at this point. All medical information of our students and their families is private and indeed protected under the Protection of Privacy Act. Please remember to be considerate of your neighbour's medical privacy.

bcchristianacademy.ca | office@bccaschool.ca

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High School Campus | 3000 Christmas Way Coquitlam BC V3C 2M2 | 778.819.8534



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3. **Buddy System and Cross-Grade Activities Resume**

Required cohort groupings are no longer restricting us from reinstating the popular Buddy-System, Weekly Chapels, combined-grade recess breaks and activity days or cross-grade field trips. Learning Adventures will again be able to assign learning groups of multi-age students

4. **Extra-Curricular Activities**

After school sports, music and arts activities will resume this Fall. Keep your eyes on the BCCA WEEKLY for information of what's being offered and when.

5. **Parent Participation Program**

Back after a one-year hiatus, the popular PPP that offers opportunities for our parents to get involved. We eagerly invite our parents to come alongside the staff and enrich our programs in a multitude of ways. Check out our School Website for opportunities and watch for specific requests from time to time coming from our Facilities Crew and the Marketing Department.

6. **New Staff**

We are delighted to welcome the following new teachers this year in the Elementary School: Miss Maureen Rah (K), Mr. Jethro Archangel (Grade 3), Mrs. Lissa Machado-Jones (Grade 4). Our standards for qualification to teach at BCCA are extraordinarily high and as such, finding the right staff is not an easy task. We thank God for His faithful provision of gifted and godly men and women to teach and lead like Jesus in their assigned areas AND for those who have been faithfully serving the Lord for many years at BCCA. We are so grateful and blessed!

7. **Renovated Front Office Spaces**

Work is ongoing to provide a second Principal's Office for Mr. Bylenga, our new MS Principal, an expanded Office Storage/Photocopier room and a bright, new Health Room.

8. **Business and Marketing Offices relocated**

These offices have moved to their temporary locations in our office trailers in order to make room for the second Grade 4 classroom.

9. **New Student Bibles, Grades 1-4**

Parents and educators know that just-right books promote personal reading and increased comprehension. The NIV (New International Reader's Version) is a simplified, controlled-vocabulary version of the NIV that enables personal use by emerging readers and promotes understanding at the mid-primary level. It is the School's desire to teach students to read God's Word critically and independently at their own reading level. Starting this year, the Grade 1's will be using The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories - more information to come from your Grade 1 classroom teacher. The Grades 2 and 3 students will need a copy of the NIV Adventure Bible for Early Readers this year whereas Grade 4 (and 5 in the Middle School) will continue using the familiar NIV Adventure Bible. These two hard-cover Bibles will be available in the Front Office for purchase.

10. **Uniform Standards Re-enforced**

All uniforms pieces are to be purchased from our supplier, Neat Uniform, and must be in clean condition each day. Kindly send a note of explanation if something is out of order. We will be issuing Uniform Infraction notices as friendly reminders and following through to ensure all children are in compliance. Thank you for helping us to teach our students about dressing neatly, as we represent Christ and the School to those around us.

11. **Girls' and Boys' Hair**



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Additionally, all girls with long hair should come to school with it neatly tied, clipped, braided or pony-tailed off the face. Hair accessories should be modest in size and as much as possible, coloured to match the school colours: black, white, grey /silver and cranberry. All hair colour for boys or girls must be natural colours. Those who come with unnatural dye jobs or hair extensions will be sent home to correct it to a natural colour. Boys' hair should be kept short and neat.

12. Hot Lunches

Due to the risk of burns, microwave ovens will not be permitted in the K-Grade 3 classrooms for student use. Grade 4's will be permitted this option. Otherwise, please use thermos containers for items that need to be served hot. We are planning to invite The Lunch Lady back once a week to offer a wide selection of healthy, hot lunches as this has been a popular program with many of our families.

13. NEW Grade 3&4 FLEX BLOCK

Every Wednesday afternoon this year our teachers will pool their skills and talents to offer specialty subjects to our upper class students in the Elementary School. Children will be able to choose two of the following areas to explore: Handbells, Dance, Foods, Gardening, Drama, Bucket-Drum Club, Calligraphy and Painting. (Subject to change.) These Clubs will run for 20 weeks each, allowing for two rotations a year. Watch for more information around this exciting new program!

14. Class Lists Release

You will be able to find your child's class when the lists are published by the School Office on Friday, September 3. Serious thought, prayer and multiple necessary considerations by our educational professionals drive all these decisions. We make a sincere effort to ensure that each child has at least one friend in the same class with them. Kindly be aware that we cannot accept special requests for placement with a certain teacher or classmates.

15. First Day of School

Remember this is a half day for all our students. Please pack a healthy snack for morning recess and check the information in this mailout about the September 7th staggered release times. Our popular Ice Cream Kick-Off at dismissal this day invites families to mix and mingle for a chance to start the year connecting with old and new friends.

16. FERNWOOD TRAFFIC

Please comply with all our traffic safety routines at all times.

- One-way traffic enters at Oakdale off Lincoln, exits at Evergreen.
- 30km/hr in the school zone and 10km/hr directly in front of the school.
- Drop-off and pick-up allows for a 1-minute stay at the curb with no exceptions.
- If your child is not ready to jump into the car within 60 seconds of your arrival you must drive around the block to keep our traffic moving.
- Please encourage your passengers to get in and out on the curb side of the car.
- Please be kind and considerate to the Traffic Volunteers who help us out.
- For Grades K-2, parents are to park on Oakdale, Evergreen, Lincoln or Killarney.
- **PLEASE ALWAYS SHOW UTMOST RESPECT FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS BY CAREFULLY FOLLOWING ALL THE RULES OF THE ROAD.** Never block driveways or speed. Park in the direction of the flow of traffic. Courteously pull over and let oncoming traffic through if they happen to appear during our school rush hours.



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This is not an exhaustive list of our routines - we are currently updating the Elementary Handbook for your reference, to be published on the School Website and available shortly.

Thank you for choosing BCCA to journey with your family in the adventure of education. Our creative and gifted teachers are passionate about seeing each student succeed and learn to love learning in whatever way is most meaningful to them. Our School Office will be pleased to answer any inquiries you may have.

We look forward to seeing you in a few short weeks!

Beth Peters, Elementary Principal
Community | Compassion | Christ