



August 31, 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians / Caregivers,

Welcome back! This summer has been unprecedented due to the devastating forest fires in various parts of British Columbia. Our thoughts are with the families affected by these fires, who have lost their homes and livelihoods. We appreciate the courageous efforts of firefighters in extinguishing the fires and enabling displaced families to return home wherever possible. Additionally, we are grateful to the numerous community members who generously volunteered their time to assist those affected by the wildfires.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable break, and you got plenty of opportunity to spend time with your loved ones, whether you travelled or stayed at home. I also hope you're excited about the upcoming school year! Here are some updates for your consideration.

### **Futures School Food Program Fund:**

In April of the last school year, the Government [announced](#) the Feeding Futures School Food Program Fund for the 2023/24 school year. The Province is investing \$214 million over three years so school districts can increase food security for students by expanding or creating school food programs. This funding is expected to reach the 20% of students who are facing food insecurity across the province. School districts have the flexibility to use the funding provided in the 2023/24 school year to address the immediate need of feeding hungry students in a stigma and barrier-free manner with time to develop a longer-term approach to delivering school food programs.

The Chilliwack School District has hired Rosanne James as Coordinator to oversee the program and to work with Chilliwack Bowls of Hope, the successful vendor, who already voluntarily provides many nutritious meals to students in the Chilliwack School District. We will continue to utilize and grow programs that are currently in place across the district and establish a more uniform breakfast and lunch program to support students based on needs. More information to follow soon to schools.

### **Our Journey to Truth and Reconciliation – Friday, October 6, 2023:**

All staff in the school district will be participating in this important day of learning as we continue our journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. The day will include a message from Honourable Steven Point, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and current chancellor of the University of British Columbia, teachings from [Len Pierre](#), and [Dr. Keith Carlson](#), as well as discussion with a panel of local Indigenous leaders to learn more and commemorate the truth of history from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit knowledge keepers.

October 6th will be an important day and an opportunity for staff to come together to reflect and learn as individuals and a school district team regarding the past, including acknowledgement of the harm inflicted on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We will continue to be committed to acts of reconciliation, decolonization and building relationships in our communities and schools, recognizing our role in leading for equity. As a District, we will continue to live our core values and commit to taking a role and assuming responsibility in working towards a better tomorrow for all students in the Chilliwack School District.

### **Safe Spaces:**

Recent protests in various Canadian communities have been against the LGBTQIA2S+ community, highlighting the presence and increase of hate in our society. The Chilliwack Board of Education strongly believes that everyone should have the freedom to be their authentic selves without facing discrimination, harassment, or intimidation. The Chilliwack School District is dedicated to upholding the B.C. Human Rights Code and ensuring that the human rights of every individual within our district are respected and protected.

We look forward to working with our parents and community again to provide quality instruction, programming, and support for all our students in a safe, inclusive environment so every student can be inspired to thrive.

### **K-12 Student Reporting Policy:**

As students look forward to returning to school, a reminder to parents/guardians that learning updates (communicating and reporting of student learning) in K-12 in the new school year will align with the [new reporting policy](#) that came into effect on July 1, 2023. The learning students engage in today is more complex than ever. British Columbia redesigned the [provincial curriculum](#) to respond to the needs of today's learners. The curriculum continues to give your child a strong reading, writing, and math foundation. But it also teaches your child how to think, communicate, solve problems, and use their knowledge in ways that matter in the school community and a rapidly changing future.

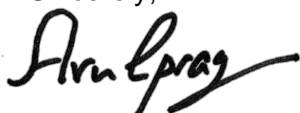
For Grades K-9 the Policy requires use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale while for Grades 10-12 the Policy requires use of letter grades and percentages. For Grades 10-12 a graduation status update is required on the Summary of Learning at the end of the year. Please see information on the [K-12 Student Reporting Information for Parents and Caregivers](#) ministry website for additional clarity regarding the upcoming changes to communicating and reporting of student learning.

### **Communication Home and School:**

Parent/Guardian home-to-school communication is pivotal to supporting your students' success. All schools have a communication brochure on their school websites. The brochure communicates the process of resolving any concerns parents/guardians may have regarding their child's program or other concerns that may arise during the school year. When we work together as partners, we can collectively create a safe, inclusive learning environment where your student(s) can thrive.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on September 5, and we hope you have a great school year. Please take care and enjoy the long weekend.

Sincerely,



Rohan Arul-pragasam  
Superintendent of Schools