



Superintendent Welcome back letter to all – Fall 2022

Dear students, staff, and families,

To our students: Welcome back returning students. Welcome to our new Kindergarten students, all those involved in our Early Learning programs, and all who are new to School District 22. We hope you have had a wonderful summer filled with time outdoors, sunshine, friends, family, and lots of laughter. We welcome our near 300 International students who come to us “from away”. We look forward to meeting you and hosting you here in the traditional lands of the Syilx people. We especially welcome our Grade 12s who are in their final year of a thirteen-year (K-12) journey. This is an exciting time, and we wish you the best as you complete your studies and make plans for the wonderful future that awaits you. Dream. Believe. Achieve.

To our staff: We are so happy to see you and wish you a fabulous start-up. The Human Resources (HR) department hosted over 60 newcomers – from sea to sea to sea - to our district this week, and it was terrific to see the enthusiastic (and nervous) energy in the room. All are committed to our vision to become a community where all are respected, and each person (adult and child) is encouraged to develop their potential. Thank you, HR department, you have found great people to add to the SD 22 team.

To our education staff who were working throughout the summer, we thank you for running our successful summer learning programs. We are also incredibly thankful for our teams in maintenance, facilities, and custodial services who have worked hard to ensure things are ready for our families, staff, and students to return to school. Updates to our facilities include:

- 8 childcare modules are in the final stages for: Ellison, Alexis Park, Mission, and Harwood schools
- 3 classroom portables have been added - 2 for Seaton, 1 for Alexis Park
- Hillview/Lavington Lighting upgrades have been completed with an expected CO Reduction of 16 tons per year
- DDC system (to monitor HVAC) upgrade is underway at Alexis Park and Hillview with an expected CO2 reduction of 18 tons per year
- Phase 1 of Bloom upgrade is completed (HVAC) - phase 2 is underway with an expected CO2 reduction 30+tons per year when project complete
- Hallway flooring has been replaced at BX and Lavington
- Learning Commons has been completed at Seaton Secondary School
- Irrigation Replacement has been completed at Mission Hill
- Mission Hill bathroom renovation has been completed
- Mission Hill exterior has been painted
- Mission Hill gym floor has been completed (first time in over 40 years!)
- Preparation of the Whitevale school gym for Gymnastics Club rental for the year has been completed
- We have discovered, removed, and remediated buried fuel tank at BX (!)

- vLearn has been relocated to Fulton and renovated with gender neutral washrooms
- And, every single venue is sparkling, ready for the return of little feet, medium-sized, and growing feet.

Thank you to our Finance department who worked on the annual audit, completed on-boarding with payroll and benefits, and hired some new folk along the way, and processed millions of dollars of payments.

To our families – Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. We are so excited to be able to open a school year (for the first time since 2019!) where we can welcome all our parents and caregivers, and especially, our new parents/caregivers. That would include all of you who have moved to the School District over the last three years and those who are bringing students to us for the very first time. To our Inclusion families, please know we are here to help you navigate the system so please reach out when needed. Thank you to all who have offered to host our visiting international students by opening your hearts and refrigerators! Together, we will inspire and nurture students to thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.

Prior to the summer, through surveys and focus groups, our students told us they wanted change. They want to be seen, heard, and understood. We need to promise, as adults, that we will do everything we can, to ensure our students experience greater personalization of their learning. We need to promise to help them dream, believe, and achieve.

The Board of Education has approved a new five-year Strategic Plan (2022-2027), modernized the Visual Identity for the district, and is currently updating policies and procedures. More to come about these topics in the near future. We thank all of you for your participation in the process and encourage you to continue your full engagement in all things School District 22. The next Board of Education meeting, held in public, for the new school year will take place at the Board office on Thursday, September 21, 2022, at 5:30 pm. We hope to see you then.

Remember, your voice matters. Welcome back.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christine Perkins | Superintendent & Chief Executive Officer

Proud to live, work, learn, and play on the ancestral, unceded territory of the syilx nation.

(she, her, hers)

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