

A message to everyone in the Skwo:wech school community from Purpose:

We would like to thank you very much for your incredibly generous donation of non-perishable food items in support of our food hamper and Christmas Hamper Programs. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and are very appreciation of your support. The food items we received from your donation helped us to provide over 165 Christmas Hampers to families and 100 gift and food bags to singles without our community who would not be able to celebrate the holidays otherwise. Our programs could not exist without the support of organizations and people like you.

Bulletin Updates

School Closed for in-class instruction: Friday, March 11 & Monday, March 28

- Our teachers are ready to provide limited at-home assignments in advance, to enable continued learning over the two days for parents who would like that option; please view letter at the end for more info

Correction: Newsletter Calendar – Our school is closed for Spring Break March 14-25

- Please note, there was a misprint of Spring Break days in the visual calendar in our newsletter last week
- Our calendar for the school year that includes dates for all breaks, school closure days, and early dismissals can be found on our website under [“About Us – School Calendar”](#)

School Library Books

- Please check for any school library books at home and return them to the school library as soon as possible!
- Fees for lost or damaged library books are set up on School Cash Online about once a month

Early Dismissals and Student Learning Conferences – March 9 & 10

- Students will be dismissed from school at 12:24pm on March 9 and 10
- Please remember to help your child pack a recess snack
- If your child has ordered lunch through Fuel Up! on this day, they will receive their lunch to take with them at dismissal time
- Teachers have sent out information to families about Student Learning Conferences; please contact your child’s teacher if you need to adjust your appointment

Lost & Found

- Please remind your child to take a look in our Lost & Found for any items that may belong to them
- Families are invited to look at our Lost & Found items on the early dismissal days when we will have the items laid out for viewing

PAC Give-Away – Wednesday, March 9

- The Skwo:wech PAC has many items in great condition that will not be moving into the new school. On Wednesday at early dismissal time, the PAC will have these items available for families to take home, if they choose. Any remaining items will be donated.

Report Cards on MyEducation BC Family Portal – Thursday, March 10 at 4:00pm

- Report Cards will be published to [MyEducation BC](#) on the afternoon of Thursday, March 10 – look on lower right side under “Published Reports”
- If you have forgotten your password, click on “I forgot my password” and a temporary password will be emailed to you
- For more information about logging on to MyEdBC, please visit our [MyEducation BC Family Portal resource](#) on our website

School Washrooms After School

- Please note, our school washrooms are unavailable after 3:30pm as our custodial team has begun cleaning the facilities in preparation for the next school day
- Thank you for your assistance encouraging students to visit the washroom by 3:20pm!



Division 3 jumping for joy after hearing the news about moving into our new school!



Virtual Event for Parents

March 9th
6:30pm–7:30pm
To register, please
visit:

<https://youandyouryouth.eventbrite.ca>

Presenter: Dr. Saira
Sabzaali

The Zoom link is
available on the
Eventbrite page when
you register.

If you have any
questions, please
contact us at
wellness@sd40.bc.ca or
604-517-6291

Wellness Centre Series: You and Your Youth

New Westminster Schools invites you to join us virtually for our Wellness Centre Series for parents and caregivers.

Session 1: “Is this Normal?” An Exploration of the Teenage Brain

- Intro to Child/Youth Development
- The Brain’s Evolution from Childhood to Adolescence
- How to Support Your Child As They Grow and Evolve

Dr. Saira Sabzaali is a Registered Clinical Counsellor with a Ph.D. in Transpersonal Psychology. She is the Clinical Director of Dragonfly Wellness Centre, an online hub for mental health, personal growth, and counselling. She works with adults from diverse cultural backgrounds who are looking for a new approach to mental health and want to incorporate their cultural values and spiritual beliefs into therapy. She specializes in depression, anxiety, family harmony and burn-out.

Dr. Saira has delivered two TEDx talks and is involved in teaching and curriculum development in the Clinical Counselling program at Stenberg college. She enjoys reading, writing poetry, and volunteering in the community, and lives in a small town on Shuswap Lake with her husband and two kids in the Okanagan Valley.



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March 4, 2022

Dear students, parents and caregivers,

With slightly qualified excitement, we're reaching out to share good news!

We are currently on track to receive our occupancy permits for the new Skwo:wech Elementary, in time for us to do the move between schools over Spring Break.

This means Skwo:wech Elementary students and staff will get to return from Spring Break through the open doors of the beautiful new school our teams have been working so hard to build.

As we have shared in previous communications over this school year, in order to enable our staff to have time to both pack their classroom items for the movers, and provide time to set up new spaces, we will need to shift to temporary home learning options for students for one day before and one day after the scheduled move.

That means the school will be closed for in-class instruction on both Friday March 11th and Monday March 28th, with teachers ready to provide limited at-home assignments in advance, to enable continued learning over the two days for parents who would like that option. We are asking families to support this exciting move by providing or finding child care options for those two days. But, if that is not possible or would be a hardship for your family, please reach out to Principal Chad to coordinate structured supervision we can make available through regular school hours.

We're so excited to be this close to the long-awaited move-in, and we will certainly follow up with you should there be any unforeseen challenges to this schedule.

Principal Chad will be reaching out soon to provide you all with more information about how we will welcome students into their new school, on Tuesday March 29th.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and shared excitement about the opportunities this new space will provide students, staff and families in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hachlaf", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools / CEO