

Dear Skwo:wech families,

Welcome everyone to a new year of growing and learning together! We hope that you enjoyed a lovely summer filled with rest, relaxation, and family fun. We are delighted to share with you that transitions to our new classrooms took place on Wednesday and our students are settling into their new classroom communities. Throughout our school, students and teachers have been working on developing classroom communities, expectations and engaging in meaningful learning experiences. Our youngest learners began their gradual entry this week and will be attending full time very soon.

Our staff is committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for all our students. We held two learning assemblies already this week to remind everyone of our school family code of conduct and our shared expectations for our playground. Next week we will begin the first of our safety drills.

Please check out our calendar of events attached to this message. You will receive a newsletter every second week highlighting events that have been happening around the school. On the alternating week, you will receive a brief bulletin describing upcoming events. These messages will be emailed on Friday afternoons so that you have timely information regarding our upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if it is a classroom specific question or to myself or Mr. Elves. We are all looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

With gratitude,

Mrs. Chad



Ms. Danielle, our Indigenous support worker led our school staff in a beautiful blessing song and smudging ceremony, inviting positive energy for our year of learning ahead.



# Bulletin Updates

## Website Update

- Please visit [skwowechool.ca](http://skwowechool.ca) for updates and information throughout the school year! This is where you can find newsletters, notices, our school calendar, and other information!

## Office Email

- Please update the office email address you have on file to [skwowech@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:skwowech@sd40.bc.ca)

## Fuel Up! School Lunch Program

- We have a new hot lunch provider “The Lunch Lady”. Every family should have received an email from our school district the last week of August requesting families to set up their account. Please see the list of divisions below for your reference when you are placing your child’s order.

<https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/fuel-up/overview/>

- Mrs. Sharp – Div. 1
- Mrs. Gibson – Div. 2
- Mrs. Bhatti – Div. 3
- Mr. Stevens – Div. 4
- Ms. Hikida – Div. 5MO
- Mr. Bamford – Div. 6
- Mr. Wong – Div. 7MO
- Mrs. MacLeod – Div. 8
- Ms. Lee – Div. 9
- Ms. Lacey – Div. 10

- Mrs. Toufic – Div. 11MO
- Ms. Tse – Div. 12
- Mrs. Kamagianis – Div. 13
- Ms. Gong – Div. 14
- Ms. Thompson/Ms. Pelka – Div. 15
- Mrs. Stewart/Mr. Elves – Div. 16
- Ms. Stephanie – Div. 17MO
- Mrs. Whyte – Div. 18
- Ms. Ballantyne – Div. 19
- Mrs. Simpson – Div. 20
- Ms. Peng – Div. 21MO

- Hot lunch program will resume Tuesday, September 19th. You must place your child's meal order two days in advance by noon before delivery. For example, for Monday's lunch you must order by noon on Saturday.

### **Creative Pack School Supplies**

- If your child's Creative Pack has any missing or damaged items, please visit this website for more information: <https://creativepacks.ca/pages/missing-damaged-products-creative-packs-canada>

### **Animals on school property**

- The School District's policy regarding bringing pets to school is designed to ensure the safety of our students. **Animals are not allowed on school property** without the prior approval of the Principal. Guide dogs and police dogs are allowed under the control of their owners. Also, with prior approval, animals brought for specific purposes, such as classroom demonstrations or units of study in the class, may be brought to school. Some teachers may choose to keep small animals in a cage or aquarium for instructional purposes, and will have received prior approval. We know that you share with us the desire to keep children safe on school grounds and in the buildings. **We are reminding everyone, please do not bring dogs or other animals onto school grounds when you drop off or pick up children; this includes all areas of school property.** Also, some children are allergic or fearful of these animals. Please assist us in keeping all animals off the school grounds. Additionally, this is also a reminder that animals cannot be left tethered and unattended according to city Bylaw No. 7586, 2013.



## **Safe arrival at school**

**Please be reminded the parking lots at the front of the school are for staff parking only.**

### **Student drop off:**

We encourage whenever possible that families park your vehicle a short distance from the school and walk your child to the site. There is parking available along Devoy Street.

To help with the flow of traffic, we ask that families access School Street from Devoy Street (please avoid turning onto School Street off Richmond Street.) As noted, you can park along Devoy Street and walk your child to the building.

### **Using the round about:**

Important note: parents will not be able to park and exit your vehicle in the round about, this is drop off only! (If you need to park your vehicle to walk your child to line-up, as noted above please park a short distance from the school and walk to the building.)

To use the round about please make a right turn into the roundabout (the roundabout that is closest to Richmond Street). Please pull to the first available space to drop your child off so that they can exit from your vehicle straight onto the sidewalk.

Once your child has safely exited your vehicle, please exit the round about by turning right onto School Street.

If we all work together to be mindful of these steps, we should be able to improve access and flow overall to our building.

Finally, please note that the upper drop off loop is for parents who are bringing their children to the Daycare Centre (this Centre is for infants to age 5).

## **Reporting Student Absences, Late Arrivals, & Early Pick Ups:**

If your child is going to be absent from school, arriving late, or being picked up early, there are three options you can notify us. You can go to our website and click “Report a Student Absence” located top right corner, by email or call us!

Email both your child’s *classroom teacher*  
**AND** [skwowech@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:skwowech@sd40.bc.ca) before 8:30am

OR, call 604-517-6090. Outside of office hours you will be able to leave us a voicemail.

Please provide:

- Your child’s full name
- The teacher’s name and division number
- The date(s) your child will be absent
- The reason for the absence (ex. illness, vacation, medical appointment, etc)

Once students have entered the building at the start of the school day the back doors will be locked. If you arrive after this, please have your child enter at the front doors where they will check in at the office.

## **Valuables & Toys at School**

Parents and students are reminded that personal belongings such as iPods, game systems, other toys, etc should be kept at home. The school cannot be responsible for any personal items that are lost or go missing. Also, if students ride bikes, they should use bike locks to keep them secure in the bike shed.



## **Medical Changes, Custody/Legal Updates, & Changes to Family Arrangements**

We know changes for medical conditions or family arrangements may come up at anytime throughout the year. When changes do arise, please contact the office to update information so our school is best able to support your child and family.

**Medical Forms must be updated annually** as well as whenever there are changes to serious medical conditions or medications being administered at school. Please bring medical forms and medication to the office as soon as possible for the 2023/2024 school year. Please be advised that we have staff members with First Aid Training, but we do not have full time medical professionals on site.

If custody of your child(ren) is limited by a court order, please contact the office and provide a copy of any legal documents pertaining to your situation. Information about other family arrangements are also helpful.

**For more information, please contact Ms. Noda at 604-517-6090 or [snoda@sd40.bc.ca](mailto:snoda@sd40.bc.ca)**



# SAFETY ZONE

## LEAVING THE SCHOOL






Students are not permitted to leave the school during school hours without consent from a parent or guardian. With parent consent and arrangements, students are able to go home for lunch. Please contact the office if you wish to make this arrangement.

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 advise the office ahead of time, and sign your child out at the office.

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, or have given your child permission to walk home alone, please send an email to the classroom teacher and the office.

## Tips to help your child be safe if they have your permission to walk home

-  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 welcome 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.

## DISMISSAL NOTE

We ask that parents waiting to pick up their children wait outside for their children to come out. Please ensure that you have left space on the front walkway to allow our classes to walk unobstructed to their dismissal locations.

## NUT SAFETY

We have a number of students 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.

## Morning Arrival

Before the start of the school day, children are under the supervision of their parent or caregiver. Unfortunately, we do not have supervision before the start of the school day. Please ensure your child is supervised.

Please do not send snacks and lunch items that contain nuts or nut oils. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.







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# Drawing

## Classes for Kids



Young Rembrandts

## Skwo:wech Elementary

Grades 1 to 5

We are back to school and back to drawing with Young Rembrandts! This session's selection of drawings introduces our students to a fascinating world of colour, pattern, and design. We say goodbye to our favourite summer memory in our detailed still life drawing of a beach. We will explore colour usage and composition in our silly monster and fire truck drawings. You will also be MOOOOved with our stylized patterned cow drawing.



**classes**

Mondays

3:05 PM - 4:15 PM

10/16/2023 - 11/27/2023

No Class Nov. 13



**tuition**

\$ 97.50 (tax included)

6 classes



**enrollment**

ENROLL ONLINE at

[www.youngrembrandts.com/  
metrovancover/](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver/)

## ALL NEW LESSONS EVERY SESSION!

YOUNG REMBRANDTS provides all classroom supplies and a trained instructor. Classes are held immediately after school inside the school. Parents are responsible for transportation at class end.

Young Rembrandts is an independent afterschool program and is not affiliated to the School Board

[www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver/](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver/) - 604-345-9053 - [metrovancover@youngrembrandts.com](mailto:metrovancover@youngrembrandts.com)