



## **Update on BC's New Curriculum from Education Minister Mike Bernier**

November 29, 2016

Dear Parent,

The world is changing and B.C.'s new curriculum is critical in making sure your child is connected with the skills he or she needs to succeed in this changing world. We have just announced important updates on B.C.'s new curriculum – on how it will be implemented in Grades 10-12, and on the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) written in Grades 4 and 7.

### **Grade 10-12 curriculum implementation**

Teachers, principals and trustees asked for more time to work hands-on with the redesigned draft curriculum in Grades 10-12

– and we agree. The extra time means teachers can try out the draft curriculum and provide feedback before it is fully implemented in the 2018/19 school year. The new curriculum is already fully in place in the earlier grades.

The extra year makes sense because the graduation years are more complex than the K-9 years. They are tied to provincial exams. They are connected to post-secondary choices. We are making sure that we get the Grade 10-12 redesigned curriculum right for students, ensuring their future success in post-secondary and the workforce. When it comes to provincial exams, we have mapped out which old exams and new exams will be written and when. The most important thing is that new or old, our standards remain high, testing remains rigorous, and combined with in-class exams we will be thoroughly testing student knowledge. Detailed exam information can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info>

### **Foundation Skills Assessments**

Along with our new curriculum, we are enhancing our Foundation Skills Assessment that students in Grades 4 and 7 are required to write under B.C.'s *School Act*. The FSA measures reading, writing and math problem-solving skills that students have gained over several years of learning and provides critical information for parents, for teachers, and for the education system.

Starting next year, students in Grades 4 and 7 will complete their FSAs in the fall instead of the spring. This means you and your child's teacher will get results earlier – and that means any necessary actions can be taken sooner. More information on the new FSA can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment-reporting/new-foundation-skills-assessment> Additionally, we will be giving parents like you a snapshot of the FSA results in broader school reports. You deserve to know how your child's school is succeeding on a variety of fronts – and we will include that information to provide a complete picture.

Together with teachers, our new curriculum is making sure that your child learns the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, while also engaging the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they'll need to succeed in college, university, and the workforce.

Thank you

Mike Bernier

Minister of Education  
Province of British Columbia

### Coming events at FG Leary:

- Dec. 12- Kindergarten Christmas Concert – 6:00 pm at FG Leary
- Dec. 13- Primary Christmas Concert- Matinee (12:15) and Evening Performance (6:30) at Chilliwack Cultural Center
- Dec. 15- Report Cards sent home
- Dec. 16- Pancake Breakfast- 8:45 am & Last day before Christmas vacation
- Jan. 3 - First day back at school

#### We are a Nut-Aware School

We encourage everyone to think about the foods that they bring to school. There are a number of students who have a life threatening reaction to nuts.

This allergic reaction would require the use of an EPI Pen and a call for an ambulance. There are other students who have a variety of allergic reactions to food and animals. Students are asked to wash hands, face and desktops carefully. It doesn't matter if there isn't a student in the class who has an allergy we need to think about all the students in the school when it comes to keeping them safe.



Try to save peanut butter sandwiches and treats to enjoy at home.

#### Electronic Devices At School:

We have an increase in the number of students who are bringing electronic devices (Ipods, Nintendo DS) to school. We would encourage you to keep these items at home. Cell phones can only be used after school and should be turned off and kept in a safe place during the day. Students are encouraged to socialize and play during the break times. There are a number of events and activities for students to participate in at school. We will also not be responsible for damaged or stolen items that have been brought to school.

### Bad Weather Guidelines & Information for Parents & Students

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions and general condition of buildings. While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the School District website [www.sd33.bc.ca](http://www.sd33.bc.ca), tune into radio stations **STAR FM 98.3**, **The Drive 89.5**, or **The Weather Network (cable channel 90, STAR Choice 398 or Bell Expressview 505)** to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00am and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is **no need to call your school**, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record. In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.