

Maywood Community School
4567 Imperial Street,
Burnaby, B.C. V5J 1B7

Who are we?

Our school is a strong, vibrant and welcoming community school. The school is the center of community life in the heart of the highly dense, urban area of Metrotown in Burnaby. Our school population of 500 is very diverse. The majority of our families are new immigrants. We have over 40 languages spoken in our school and serve an English Second language (ESL) population of 390 students. Many of the children, youth and families in our community face the challenges of relocating to a new country combined with issues of poverty, isolation and language barriers. As a community school we reach out to our community and welcome learners from pre-school to adult with programming that extends beyond the traditional school day. We work closely with many agencies to develop a range of programs, responsive to the needs of our community. Our Strong Start Centre for pre-school children and their caregivers supported by the Ministry of Education, our before and after school programs for school aged children in partnership with the South Burnaby Neighbourhood house; our youth programs in partnership with Burnaby Parks & Recreation and Cameray Centre; our adult ESL classes through our school district's continuing education department are examples of this responsive community development.

What do we believe?

Given our culturally diverse population, strengthening our students' ability to value diversity is a school wide goal. For us, this means beginning with the perspective that ethnic identity is an integral part of each individual's self concept. We work together with our students to develop the self-respect and self-knowledge that will enable them to respect the culture of others in our school community. We value the diversity of our community and have, as a staff, worked together to invite the stories and voices of our students and their families into the classroom and the school. We strive to create caring, inclusive classrooms where each learner experiences success.

How are our students and our community supported?

We have developed school wide structures to support the diverse learning needs of our students. The structures are inclusive and open-ended (writers'/readers' workshop; literature circles, literacy centers, literature circles, inquiry and project based learning) and create opportunities for each student to experience success at their level of development. Within these structures we use common language across the grade levels to develop continuity and deepen understandings. We develop multiple pathways to

learning for students using visual, kinesthetic, artistic and aesthetic teaching and learning strategies.

The early learning (Strong Start Centre; preschool playtime; Bridges pre-school; pre-school library collection; Immigrant PALS program) and parent support (Learning Together, Ready, Set, Learn, Pregnancy outreach) programs we have established in our school community have strengthened parents/caregivers understanding of way they can support their children's learning and provided a community of support for these often isolated families.

Our community school coordinator meets regularly with our new families, welcoming them into the community and providing access to support and resources. Our community council's focus is welcoming new families through regularly scheduled events (ie. Monthly potluck dinner and bingo evening, welcome back to school/year end barbeques, weekly coffee time) and informal community groups such as our quilting, cooking groups.

Our staff is a learning community. We have regularly structured 'teacher talk time' at our staff meetings and professional development days. We have implemented book talk groups using a variety of professional texts and resources. Over half of our staff have taken, or are currently taking, the Graduate Literacy Diploma Program offered in our district by Simon Fraser University and facilitated by the current Principal of Maywood Community School. The insights and learning staff has gained through this program has had a significant impact on the ongoing professional dialogue within the staff community.

Contacts: Susan Montabello, Principal
Linda Glasner, Head Teacher
Kim Baker, Community School Coordinator
Tracy Thompson, Teacher and Staff Committee Chair