

January marks the end of the first semester of a school year, but at Ecole Salish it means we are just 8 months away until opening day. The excitement for that day continues to build as the school is closer to completion.

As we wait for the construction to end, there is so much we need to prepare for next year. In December, we started course selection. By the Winter break, we had visited all our elementary schools and spent time at Clayton Heights and Lord Tweedsmuir meeting with Grade 7, 8 and 9 students. In January, we followed up with the schools and met with Grade 10 students coming to Ecole Salish. The information students provided by choosing their courses, allowed us to determine the teaching assignments for teachers wanting to apply to the school.

Now that we have identified teaching positions, hiring for Ecole Salish will take place throughout the month of February. We will soon be able to announce several of the teachers who will be joining us on staff for September.

Along with teachers, parents are also an important partner in our school community. We encourage all parents to get involved. One of the best ways to engage in the school is to join the PAC. We plan to have our first PAC meeting in March. The date of the meeting will go out on our website and social media sites.

Another way to stay connected to the school is through our social media sites. In addition to our website, we are also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Most recently, we have been able to launch our school app called the 'Wolves E-genda'. [Click here](#) for information on how to access the app.

We continue to meet with students by visiting their current schools. We have also found a way to connect with them through Instagram. It has been great to receive student feedback and answer questions students have about their new school through both means of communication. In February, we will continue to meet with students and start to plan events for students from the Cloverdale and Clayton communities to meet and start to form a school culture that is unique to Salish.

Plans are underway for a community Open House to be held sometime in the Spring. We will advertise the day and time well in advance of the event so families can plan to attend. In the meantime, we ask that you call or visit us at our temporary office at Martha Currie. The school continues to be under construction and is not open to the public.

The next 8 months will most certainly go by quickly and the Ecole Salish Wolves will be ready to learn! Over the next few months, we will post articles that hope to clarify how Ecole Salish will implement the 'Learning by Design' principles developed by the Surrey School District. The 'Learning by Design' is aligned with the BC Education curriculum and new Graduation program. We are excited to see it come alive at Ecole Salish Secondary.

Timelines:

- January 31 - Out of Catchment forms due
- February - Hiring begins for teachers
- February - Course selection complete
- February 23 - Meeting with Leadership students

March Transition into the building

March 6 -9 Ecole Salish - Begin shut down of temporary office at Martha Currie

March 13 First PAC meeting – Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary