

ECOLE SALISH SECONDARY

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Principal's Message

The month of October has been a busy both at the construction site and for the schools that will feed into Ecole Salish. With the nice weather, construction on the exterior and landscaping progressed through the month of September and early October. The grass continued to grow on the sports field and topsoil was spread on the practice field. Inside, the large gym was painted and millwork, plumbing and electrical fixtures were installed throughout the school.

Throughout October it has been my delight to visit all the schools that will join to form our new school. The purpose of my initial meeting with students at all the schools was to welcome them to Ecole Salish and answer questions they had about the school. What began as curiosity quickly grew into excitement as they learned more about the learning community that they would enter next year. Their concerns about what the new school would offer were alleviated once they discovered that Ecole Salish will have sports teams, clubs and other activities like all schools in Surrey.

Creating a vibrant and rich culture for the students in the Clayton and Cloverdale area is most important in laying the foundation for the school. I enjoyed learning from the students as they shared ideas about what would connect them to Ecole Salish. Students were excited to know that sports teams at all age levels will be available from September and throughout the year. I gave them a few ideas for teams but I was very impressed with the diverse sports that they requested. I took note of their ideas and will share them with the Athletic Director who will be hired in the spring. It will be the first job of the Athletic Director to have our athletic program up and running for September.

During my school visits, students were also interested in the clubs and courses that will be offered at Ecole Salish. Once again, the ideas generated from the students gave me excellent information on what aspects of student life they want available at the school. It will be a focus for me and the staff at Ecole Salish to offer the clubs generated from student interest.

It has been a real pleasure to meet with parents who will have children attending Ecole Salish Secondary. Parents are a vital part of our learning community as they connect their children to our school. I welcome and encourage parent participation in the school and the best way to get involved is to join PAC. The first Ecole Salish PAC meeting will be called early in the New Year. A notice will go out through our social media and in communications home so please make note and attend the first PAC meeting.

We are pleased to announce that we are developing the Ecole Salish App that will be launched in November. We will send out information on how to access the App a few days prior to the launch. The

App will allow parents and students to receive information regarding any upcoming events that we will run prior to the opening of the school.

A significant aspect of creating a school culture is the identifying and naming of the school mascot and logo. The naming of the Ecole Salish mascot will allow us to identify attributes of the mascot that we hope will reflect our students. I have been most fortunate to work with the First Nations Council members from Semiamhoo, Katzie, Kwantlen and Qay Qyat in understanding the Aboriginal perspective of the traditional and unceded territory upon which Ecole Salish Secondary is built.

Through my meetings with the four First Nations Councils, I have learned that the principles of Aboriginal learning is strength based. Further, all students are to be recognized and encouraged to grow holistically and to develop the gifts unique to the individual.

In keeping with the traditions of the Salish people and pioneers of the Clayton/Cloverdale communities, it is only fitting that the mascot reflect an animal that would have inhabited the area. Although many different species roamed the land, the two of great significance was the Bear and the Wolf.

In the Aboriginal culture, the bear represents strength, family, vitality courage and health. The bear is a thoughtful creature, independent and strong-willed. The wolf is a great team player who has strength in relationships. The wolf symbolizes perseverance, intuition and success.

I invite students to participate in the final selection of the mascot by voting either at the school or online. To have your student vote counted, students need to intend on going to Ecole Salish Secondary. Students can cast your ballot in person or online. I will be visiting all the schools that feed into Ecole Salish in the first 2 weeks of November. Students will have an opportunity to vote at the end of my visit or they will be able to go online at goo.gl/rB1W2W

Sheila Hammond

Principal

Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will there be sports teams? **yes**
2. What sports will be offered? **It will be based on student participation and finding a coach.**
3. Will there be leadership? **yes**
4. Will there be music? **yes**
5. Will we have our own locker? **yes**
6. Will there be clubs? **yes**
7. What courses do we take? **Combination of required and elective courses required for graduation.**

8. Is there an elevator and can we use it? **Yes. Only those needing assistance will have access.**
9. Where can we go for lunch? **School cafeteria or bring from home.**
10. Will there be a bus to the school? **The School District is currently working with Translink.**

What's coming up next?

Throughout the month of November, I will continue to meet with students and parents from all the schools feeding into Ecole Salish. As I meet with students, I will be asking for input regarding the courses they would like to see offered next year. This is in preparation for course selection which is scheduled to begin in December and go through the month of January. More information will be coming out soon regarding the course selection process for Ecole Salish.

Social Media

For the latest information and construction updates, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Our website is also updated regularly at www.surreyschools.ca/schools/salish. An Instagram account and School App is also currently being developed and will be shared in the coming weeks.

Timelines

- ❖ November 2017 – February 2018
 - ◆ Grades 8-11 Course Selection
 - ◆ Student Assemblies to introduce Principal
 - ◆ Parent Information Night
 - ◆ Student/parent and teacher participation in creating a school culture
- ❖ January – March 2018
 - ◆ Staff Hired
- ❖ Spring 2018
 - ◆ Timetable Built
 - ◆ School Tours
- ❖ Summer 2018
 - ◆ Moving In
 - ◆ Information Packages to Families
- ❖ September 2018
 - ◆ School Opens