

## **Dear Parent/Guardian**

June 2024

The Burnaby School District is pleased to be able to continue to provide a School Meal Program at your school during the coming school year. The purpose of the School Meal Program is to provide a nutritious lunch for those students who would otherwise go hungry while at school. The cost of this program for the 2024-25 school year is \$70 per month, per child. Families who wish to participate but are unable to pay this amount in full are asked to contribute monthly any amount that they can.

The school district recognizes that many Burnaby families find it convenient to have their children participate in the School Meal Program rather than prepare lunches at home. While this participation is welcomed, it adds to the cost of delivering the program. Therefore, families wishing to use the School Meal Program as a convenience are expected to provide the monthly contribution in full. Please note that menu items must meet our Provincial Healthy Schools guidelines, and we do our best to provide variety in options and tastes but cannot accommodate special diets and nutritional requirements that some children may have.

The \$70 program cost is the same every month (despite the varying school days per month) because the cost is averaged over the entire school year. Students participating in the School Meal Program can expect to receive a meal every day of the school week. Food is ordered based on the number of participants, so it is not possible to provide meals only on select days. Picking and choosing of certain meals during the week results in increased costs and food waste, reducing our ability to provide an affordable program.

It is the parents' responsibility to review the monthly menu to ensure that their child is aware of any menu item that is prohibited due to dietary restriction and to instruct the child to avoid this menu item. Despite our reasonable efforts, the school district cannot guarantee that there are no alleraens in the menu items which may cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Children with life threatening food allergies should not participate in the School Meal Program.

We are pleased to continue with The Lunch Lady for the 2024-25 school year.

Your support of the School Meal Program is important and valued. If you have any further questions regarding the program, please contact your school principal or the district's School Meal Program Coordinator at 604-763-6563.

Sincerely,

Sheri Brattston, Managing Director, Community Education

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** Please have this translated.