



## Dr. Roberta Bondar School

1580 Strathcona Dr. SW Calgary, AB T3H 5B1 | 403-817-3564 f | 403-777-8373 | drrobertabondar@cbe.ab.ca

### Principals' Update – June 1, 2016

Greetings Dr. Roberta Bondar Families,

We are pleased to bring you the second Principals' Update! The past few weeks have been very busy as we continue to plan for the upcoming school year. I have been working with the K-4 principals of new schools and we have met with publishers to order our literacy resources for our classrooms. We have finalized many of our other resources and will work with our new staff to ensure we have classroom supplies in place for September. We are presently in the midst of staffing and hope to have most of our teachers and support staff in place over the next few weeks. It has truly been a pleasure to meet with parents and students! We look forward to meeting with our new staff next week, building relationships, partnerships and initiating the vision for our new school.

#### **Open House – June 15th 6:30 – 7:30 Olympic Heights School**

Please join us on June 15th to learn about our wonderful new school, provide us with your thoughts and ideas as to the vision of the school, ask questions and meet with the new staff. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

#### **Transportation and Start and End Times**

This is an excerpt from the April 29<sup>th</sup> letter sent to you regarding School Bell Times.

*“One of the things we have learned from our recent transportation engagement sessions is that bell times have a significant impact on families, and that the impact is different for every family, based on work schedules, need for childcare, number of schools their children attend and ability to drive or walk to school or bus, to name but a few factors.*

*Similarly, each school has individual circumstances that might prioritize particular start and end times, but not align with nearby schools or the overall need to transport large numbers of children across the city every day. We do try and coordinate times across feeder schools (i.e. elementary & junior high) where possible and where they both exist in the same community. A leeway time of 5-15 minutes is needed in the morning prior to the bell for students to leave the bus and enter the school. This same leeway is needed at the end of the day to provide time for students to gather belongings and safely board the bus.*

*We have tried wherever possible to facilitate families and learning by allowing older students, who are more independent and generally not early risers to start later, and*

*younger students who are up earlier and may need supervision before school, to start earlier.*

*Each year in May principals must submit a declaration form to both their area director and the transportation department, advising of their desired start and end times as well as late entry or early dismissal days. Where changes are requested from one year to the next, we work collaboratively to see if they are feasible and what the impacts will be on learning and on transportation.*

*With the opening of 16 schools in the 2016-2017 school year, principals were asked to refrain from making changes to bell times for the coming school year. This enabled us to establish start and end times for the new schools that allowed for route partnerships with new or existing schools based on changes in population. This in turn will allow us to save on costs, where possible. Times were determined in keeping with the factors mentioned throughout this letter. It is possible that the transportation engagements will give us new information regarding bell times, which can then be incorporated into decisions for 2017-18.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support of your school and your interest in understanding the complex and interconnected effects of transportation on your child's learning environment.*

*Sincerely,*

*Carrie Edwards Director, Planning and Transportation*

This fall, when we are a “School within a School”, the start and end times for the Dr. Roberta Bondar students will be the same as the site where the students are attending. If you are unsure as to which site your child will be attending, please contact me, or Linda Millions at the school (403-817-3564) or by email [ismulholland@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:ismulholland@cbe.ab.ca) or [lmillions@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:lmillions@cbe.ab.ca).

Olympic Heights School site

Grades 1-4	9:10 – 3:40
Kindergarten – AM	9:10 – 11:50
Kindergarten – PM	12:57 – 3:40

Jennie Elliot School site

Grades 1-4	8:20 – 2:45
Kindergarten – PM	12:00 – 2:45

**As our school's transportation will be tied to West Ridge Middle School, when we move to our new building in January, the times will be as follows:**

<b>Grades 1-4</b>	<b>8:15 – 2:50</b>
<b>Kindergarten - AM</b>	<b>8:15 – 10:55</b>
<b>Kindergarten – PM</b>	<b>12:08 – 2:50</b>

We recognize this may be a transition for some families and appreciate your understanding and support as we work with our middle school partnership (West Ridge) and help support our young learners in optimizing their capacities early in the day.

#### **Student Planner Art Contest**

Thank you to all of the students who entered the Student Planner Art Contest. We had a great deal of enthusiasm as we met with all of the next year's Dr. Roberta Bondar students at Olympic Heights, Jennie Elliott and Wildwood schools. We had approximately 60 submissions and will announce the winners in our next Principals' Update.

#### **School Council Introduction and Establishment Workshop**

Please join us on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 – 9:45 at Olympic Heights School as we work with the Alberta School Councils' Association to establish our School Council.

Laine Mulholland  
Principal

Bonnie Caldwell  
Assistant Principal