New Westminster Schools

School Board Office, District No 40
811 Ontario Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 0J7

604 517 6240
info@sd40.bc.ca
newwestschools.ca

Dear Neighbour:

We are writing to announce that construction of our new elementary school, located next to Fraser River Middle School on the southwest corner of Queens Avenue and Eighth Street, is currently underway.

This project represents a significant investment by the provincial government in our local community, designed to expand learning spaces for students in New Westminster. Once completed, the new facility will feature modern classrooms, dedicated kindergarten spaces, a full-sized gymnasium, and multi-purpose amenities to support our growing neighbourhood for generations to come.

We recognize that major construction projects bring temporary disruptions to the surrounding area. As work begins on site, residents can anticipate the usual construction-related impacts, including:

- Increased heavy vehicle traffic and equipment movement around the perimeter.
- Daytime construction noise during permitted working hours.
- Temporary, localized traffic modifications or pedestrian route adjustments.

Please be assured that New Westminster Schools is fully committed to being a good neighbour. We are working closely with the City of New Westminster and our contracted construction teams to implement strict mitigation strategies. Every effort will be made to manage noise, respect local traffic flow, and minimize disruptions for residents throughout the building process.

We invite all residents to join us for an upcoming public information session and open house on **Monday, September 14, to be held in the Fraser River Middle School Learning Commons from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** This drop-in session is an opportunity for the district to showcase project details, present artist renderings, and let the community meet representatives from the district and our design team.

Please also note that the Simcoe Park tennis courts, which will serve as a construction staging area, are closed to the public for the duration of the project, beginning October 2026. The tennis courts will be renewed as part of the Simcoe Park revitalization once the school building is complete (tentatively by summer 2028).

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The Simcoe Elementary site is highly constrained, and the new school will occupy nearly all of the available district-owned property. As a result, there is insufficient space on-site for construction staging, material storage, and equipment. Using the adjacent tennis courts is the most practical and cost-effective solution and minimizes disruption to the surrounding neighbourhood compared with alternative options. This temporary measure will help support a safer, more efficient construction process while reducing overall disruption to the community.

In addition, the FRMS parking lot will be permanently closed. To help mitigate staff parking needs and to reduce the likelihood of staff resorting to street-side parking, the district will be seeking alternative arrangements.

For ongoing updates, construction timelines, mitigation details, and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the project website at:

- https://newwestschools.ca/newschool

Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any urgent concerns or questions regarding site operations, please reach out to us at info@sd40.bc.ca.