

September 24, 2014

Dear Strong Start Families,

Welcome back to another great year at Eagle Harbour and Hollyburn **StrongStart!** We are looking forward to working together in the new school year as we continue to support the growth and development of our youngest learners in our community.

StrongStart is a British Columbia Ministry of Education early learning program. **StrongStart** early learning programs provide school-based early learning services for adults and their young children, aged birth to five, at no cost to families. Both children and adults can benefit from **StrongStart** BC early learning programs – children have access to high-quality learning environments and benefit from social interactions while the adults who accompany them learn new ways to support learning, both at the program and at home.

StrongStart in the West Vancouver School District provides a wonderful opportunity for social-emotional and language-literacy development, two key developmental areas in early learning for children under five years of age. To ensure this opportunity is available for all our students the program is delivered in the English language, and therefore is a wonderful opportunity for language growth for both children and parents. English is the spoken language during **StrongStart** instructional time; we therefore encourage all families to use this time as an opportunity to learn in a structured and supported environment. If families need language supports, these are available and will be arranged.

StrongStart registration forms **must be** filled out prior to a child attending the program. Registration forms are available at both our **StrongStart** sites and on-line at www.sd45.bc.ca on the school webpage (select Eagle Harbour Montessori or Hollyburn Elementary, then click on the **StrongStart** tab). Please note that families may not attend **StrongStart** until the registration forms are submitted, the emergency information provided on these forms must be processed prior to participation.

Due to safety/fire regulations we do have physical limits on classroom space, therefore we must adhere to the specific school based sign in policies. All British Columbia **StrongStart** Ministry of Education programs are drop in programs, which operate on ‘first come-sign in basis’. Please note that at both of our West Vancouver **StrongStart** sites, we have created the following schedules to ensure the safest learning environments for our children.

BC Ministry of Education StrongStart Program	Days & Hours of Operation	Capacity & Sign in procedures
Eagle Harbour StrongStart 5575 Marine Drive <i>ECE Facilitator:</i> Ms. Deanna Hilder	Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 11:30 am	Sign in sheet is located in classroom at 8:30 am. Classroom capacity: • 25 people (children & adults)
Hollyburn StrongStart 1329 Duchess Avenue	Monday/Wednesday/Friday • Preschool (3-5 year olds) 12:00 – 3:00 pm	Sign in sheet is posted on the outside classroom door at 11:15 am . Classroom capacity:

ECE Facilitator(s): Mrs. Kelly Botz Mrs. Areli Lerma (assistant)	Tuesday/Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toddler (under 3 years old) 12:00 – 3:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M/W/F – 30 people (15 children - 1 adult/child) T/Th – 36 people (18 children -1 adult/child)
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As you may know sometimes our StrongStart classrooms reach maximum attendance capacity, therefore our school district has been working closely with our West Vancouver Child & Family Hub to create alternative drop in programs in our community. The following list is a brief summary of the early learning public programs that might be of interest to your family:

West Vancouver Child & Family Hub	Days & Hours of Operation	Capacity & Sign in procedures
Storyhouse Family Drop-In West Vancouver Memorial Library, 1950 Marine Drive ECE facilitator(s): Deanna Hilder/Heather Fraser	Mondays (beginning Sept.29) 12:45-2:45 pm	Classroom capacity: 35 people (children & adults) Free/No drop in fee
WVML Story Time West Vancouver Memorial Library, 1950 Marine Drive	Daily sessions, times vary please visit www.westvanlibrary.ca Free/No drop in fee	
West Vancouver Family Place West Vancouver Community Center, 2121 Marine Drive	Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Classroom capacity: 50 people (children & adults) \$5.00/drop in fee Snack provided

A new addition to our community early learning programs in West Vancouver is the **Properties Family Hub** located in the British Properties (on the grounds of Chartwell Elementary, in the portable). This new Family Hub offers a variety of programs *for all ages at no cost or low cost* to families participating. For a complete program schedule, please visit www.sd45.bc.ca. The following table outlines the programs that may of interest to families with young children:

Properties Family Hub	Days & Hours of Operation	Capacity & Sign-in procedures
West Vancouver Family Place	Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-11:30 am	Classroom capacity: 50 people (children & adults) \$5.00/drop in fee Snack provided
Women's Communications Group (parent-child language program)	Monday & Wednesday 9:00-11:30 am	Free (Participants must have PR card)
Mother Goose Inspirations (Early literacy program for 0-2 year olds and their parents)	Friday (first 3 Fridays of each month) 12:30-2:45 pm	Free/no drop in fee
IPALS program	Friday (last Friday of each month) 12:30-2:45pm	Free/no drop in fee

Please feel free to contact me sshortall@sd45.bc.ca directly with any questions you may have. Again, welcome to **StrongStart** and thank you for your interest in our early learning programs in the West Vancouver School District.

Sincerely,

S.L. Shortall

Sandra-Lynn Shortall
District Principal – Early Learning

c.c. Dave Eberwein, Assistant Superintendent – West Vancouver School District
Craig Cantlie, Principal – Eagle Harbour Montessori
Valerie Stevenson, Vice Principal – Eagle Harbour Montessori
Tara Zielinski, Principal – Hollyburn Elementary
Deanna Hilder, Early Learning Facilitator – Eagle Harbour StrongStart
Kelly Botz, Areli Early Learning Facilitator(s) – Hollyburn StrongStart
Laura Lee Kent, Coordinator – West Vancouver Child & Family Hub
Shannon Ozirny, Head of Youth Services – West Vancouver Memorial Library
Leya Eguchi, Coordinator, Seniors & Family Programs – Hollyburn Family Services