

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please have this translated.

June 16, 2025

Dear Families:

Student safety is always a priority and it's important that we keep you informed of any unusual situations where safety might be a concern.

Shortly before lunch today, we received a report of a possible sighting of a bear in the area near the school. Conservation Officers were contacted. In an abundance of caution, we initiated a shelter-in-place protocol, which is our response when there is potential for an outdoor safety hazard, such as a wild animal. We ended the protocol at approximately 12:30pm after visually confirming there was no bear near the school property.

While incidents between wildlife and people are rare, the safety and security of students and staff is always our priority. As a precautionary measure, please share this information about bears with your child to help them to be aware and keep safe. This includes:

- **Remaining calm**. Do not run. Slowly back away.
- Keeping away from the bear. Do not try to get closer to it and go inside if you can.
- Staying together. If you are with others, act as a group.

Additional information about what to do if you encounter a bear can be found at: <u>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-</u><u>ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife/bears</u>

Bear sightings or problems can be reported to Conservation Office Services at 1-877-952-7277. The Burnaby RCMP Non-Emergency phone number is 604-646-9999. In any emergency safety issue because of a bear, call 911 right away.

Thank you for your help in keeping our school community safe. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Anthony Yam, Principal Ecole Seaforth Elementary