



School Board Office, District No 40  
811 Ontario Street  
New Westminister, BC V3m 0J7

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

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 14, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Re: May Day 2019**

We are looking forward to the New Westminister Schools May Day Celebration on Wednesday, May 22 at Queen's Park. Over the last two years, the school district has been reviewing our current participation in the annual May Day celebration. With feedback garnered from a representative Task Force and community and staff surveys, there has been significant work in reviewing how we support May Day within our schools, its place in the context of our redesigned curriculum and how it aligns with our mission, vision and values.

In addition, a decision in November 2016 by the Supreme Court of Canada led to the restoration of class size and composition language dating back to 2002. With the return of this provincial language, it presented several challenges last year on how we deliver May Day dance instruction in our elementary schools.

This year, the May Day dance instruction for all Grade 3 and 4 students, in preparation for the May Day celebration, will now take place during non-instructional time. As a result, each elementary school has drafted an after-school schedule, beginning the week of April 8, for our students interested in participating in the May Day Celebration on May 22. This site-based schedule and permission form will be sent directly to all parents and guardians of our Grade 3 and 4 students. Each principal is working with their staff to confirm volunteer support for the after school dance instruction. Moreover, it is our hope that interested parent and community volunteers will also join staff volunteers to support our after school May Day dance instruction.

As we make this transition, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal directly with any questions and, if possible, to offer your support as a volunteer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hachlaf", written in a cursive style.

Karim Hachlaf  
Superintendent of Schools