



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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March 10, 2022

Good afternoon Parents and Families of Diamond Vale, Merritt Central and Merritt Secondary,

We are pleased to inform you that we are making positive progress in site readiness and restoration of damaged schools from the November 15, 2021, event.

For the school communities of Diamond Vale Elementary, Merritt Central Elementary and Merritt Secondary the return to school after Spring Break, will be delayed one day to **April 5th, 2022**. This delay is to allow teachers and staff to make final preparations to the schools and classrooms, moved into during Spring Break. We want to ensure that each school and classroom is as ready as possible for students return. This will include a final inspection of grounds, organization of furniture, equipment and resources and the opportunity for school and classroom planning.

We are thankful to all our SD staff, Onside Restoration, the Ministry of Education, NVIT, Crossroads Community Church, the Evangelical Free Church, and countless others in helping us bridge this period to allow for students to be supported and educated while repairs occur.

Merritt Central Elementary will be housed in the previous Coquihalla Middle School together as a school community from April to the end of June while restoration of their building and grounds continues.

In Princeton, our schools are fully operational and have been since January. We face the ongoing challenge of the "Boil Water Order" and thus the provision of bottled water for students and food preparation. We are hopeful that an answer to solve this is on the horizon and know that the Town of Princeton and their partners are working dedicatedly to address this issue.

We are hopeful that these changes will allow our schools and student groups to flourish in a more familiar way and are looking forward to engaging in some of our more typical school activities as the 2021/2022 school year draws to a close.

We want to thank all of you for your continued support and understanding as we have worked to navigate a situation that we hope no one ever finds themselves in again.

Our very best to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jameel Aziz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jameel Aziz
Assistant Superintendent