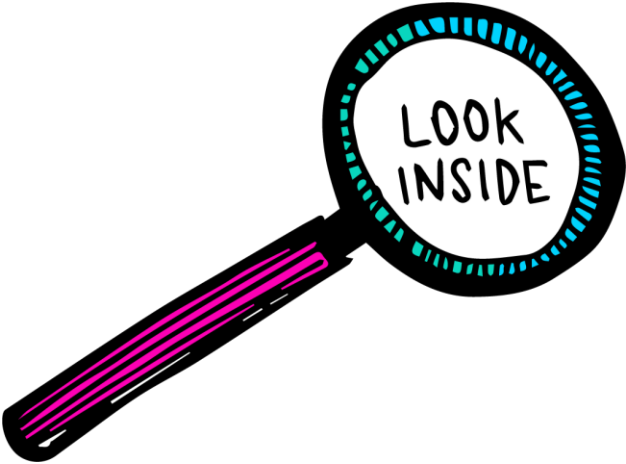




Erma Newsletter September 14, 2023

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Message from Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Volk

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end and Fall is on its way. It's so beautiful to have sunshine, crisp morning air, and leaves beginning to change colours. We had a very smooth start to the school year and are happy that our 431 students are busy learning and making new friends in their new classes. We added one new division due to our increased enrolment. The sounds of singing, laughter, and learning are ringing throughout the school!

The Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day, and Meet the Teacher night & PAC Barbeque are coming up soon. It will be so nice to see all our families at these events.

We look forward to another wonderful year at Erma with all our children, families, and community members!

"I just wish people would realize that anything's possible if you try; dreams are made possible if you try."
Terry Fox



Erma Stephenson Staff 2023-2024





THE ERMA STEPHENSON STAFF FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS:

Division 1	Mrs. Shelagh Lim	Inclusion Support Teacher-Ms. Katie Greene
Division 2	Ms. Tamara Fransen	Counsellor-Ms. Charlene Penich
Division 3	Mr. Darian Yee	Speech/Language-Mrs. Cathy Moore
Division 4-MACC	Mr. Adam Scott	
Division 5-IF 6	Ms. Angel McMahon	Childcare Worker-Ms. Ashley Reiter
Division 6	Mrs. Cheryl Gill	
Division 7	Ms. Dia Cooper	IESW* Ms. Carolyn Partington
Division 8	Mr. Mark Vilio	IESW Ms. Hani Khambaty
Division 9	Mrs. Adele Northrup	
Division 10	Ms. Lara Howett/Ms. Demaere	IESW Ms. Taryn Addison
Division 11	Mrs. Kara Kwasny	IESW Ms. Shirley Chow
Division 12	Mrs. Serena Looi	IESW Ms. Tracy Zhen
Division 13	Mrs. Nancy Chalmers	IESW Ms. Josephine Le
Division 14	Ms. Patricia Watson	IESW Ms. Audrey Doyle
Division 15	TBA	IESW Ms. Emma Coyle
Division 16	Mrs. Sheila Moreau	IESW Ms. Martha Chen
Division 17	Mrs. Ashley O'Brien	IESW Ms. Olivia Waring-Jones
Division 18	Mrs. Selina Harradine	
Division 19	Mrs. Kim Povey	Head Clerk-Ms. Leanne Sherwood
Learner Support	Mrs. Kathy Watson	Records Clerk-Ms. Lisa Hamelin
Learner Support	Ms. Brandi Greggain	Head Caretaker-Mr. Mark Santilian
Learner Support	Mrs. Sandra Clark	
Intermediate Prep	Mrs. Allison Volk	Supervisor-Ms. Saima Hassan
Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. Kim Sturn	Supervisor-Mr. James Guo
Music	Mr. Joseph Cheng	Supervisor- Ms. Khalida Hameed
Band	Mr. Joseph Cheng	Supervisor- Ms. Jenny Choi

*IESW=Inclusive Education Support Worker

Highlighted names are new to Erma Stephenson this year!



Meet The Teacher and PAC BBQ September 21

Meet The Teacher 5:00-6:00

PAC Barbeque 5:00-7:00

Look for an email with ordering details over the weekend. The PAC is updating our lunch ordering system and will send out an email through your hot lunch account about ordering food for the Barbeque. All of the food for the Barbeque is pre-order only and all orders are due Monday, September 18th at 11:59pm.

Terry Fox Run Friday, September 22



YOU RAN FOR US. NOW WE RUN WITH YOU.

TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN AT ERMA STEPHENSON

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 1:00-2:00

*On Friday, September 22, Erma Stephenson Elementary is proud to host a **Terry Fox School Run** and continue the legacy of one of Canada's greatest heroes!*

Our Terry Fox run/walk will start with a warm-up at 12:50 on the grass field by our gym, followed by the run from 1:00-2:00 on the track at Erma Stephenson Park and around the perimeter of our school. We will be having the run, rain or shine (just like Terry did), so please have your children dressed for the weather.

Parents are invited to join in and participate in our Terry Fox Run! We are also looking for parent volunteers to help supervise the run route and to assist at the stamp station (stamp students' hands as they complete each lap). If you would like to volunteer between 12:45-2:05 on Fri. Sept. 22, please come to our school library at 12:45 (next to our school office). Parents of kindergarten students who would like to join us, please come at 12:40 directly to your child's classroom, to join in the warm-up, and help supervise the kindergarteners as they participate by doing one lap of the route.

Our school is collecting donations for the Terry Fox Foundation, which funds cancer research. Our goal is for everyone to try to donate a "Toonie for Terry". Last year our school community raised over \$2900! We are encouraging online donations to this important cause at [Erma Stephenson Terry Fox Donation Page](#)

Money or cheque donations (made payable to The Terry Fox Foundation) can also be brought by your child into the school during the week of September 15 – 22. Your child will bring home a pledge sheet on Sept. 15 which could be used to help gather donations from relatives and family friends. Our "Try Like Terry" challenge is for our school to try to fundraise \$1500 for the Terry Fox Foundation. If we reach this goal, we will earn an extra recess one afternoon! Thank you for any donations to help find a cure for cancer!

Students can get involved too by creating their personal fundraising page and share their link with friends and family. Students can go to terryfoxschoolrun.org find our school name, and click "Set Up A Student Page."

Thank you for supporting our school in the fight against cancer and continuing Terry's legacy! Together, we can all make a difference! TERRYFOX SCHOOLRUN.ORG

Orange Shirt Day: September 29th



We will recognize September 29th as Orange Shirt Day at school. We encourage everyone to wear something orange as a way of bringing attention to this important issue.

[Additional Orange Shirt Information](#)

Years ago, the Canadian government believed that Aboriginal children should dress and speak and act like all the other children. In order to make this happen, Aboriginal children were taken from their families and sent to live in schools where they could only speak English (or French), and where they had to dress and act like all other Canadian children. Children missed their families and forgot how to speak their language. Today, we know this was wrong, and we wear orange to remember those children, and to remind us that it is okay to keep our traditions.

Orange Shirt Day was created during the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration Project in Williams Lake, BC, in May 2013. As part of the project, former student, Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, told the story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl, which prompted the realization that many survivors have similar stories. As a result, Orange Shirt Day is gaining visibility as an influential movement helping to educate our students and communities on the history of Canadian Residential Schools.

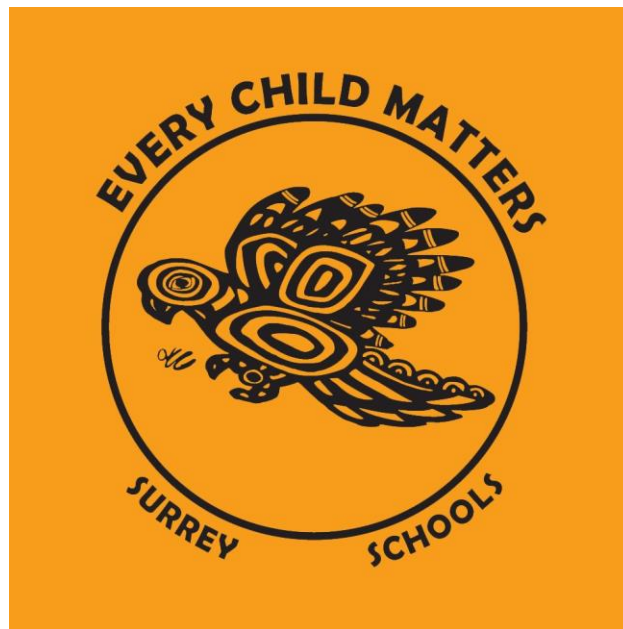
Our work in advancing reconciliation is helping to build a stronger and healthier Canada.

If you would like to order an orange shirt the link is [here](#)

*****Deadline: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (11:59 PM PDT)***



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation-Saturday, September 30th
(School Closed, Monday October 2)



"The Surrey Board of Education is committed to highlighting the importance of this day and encouraging all staff and students to take the time to educate, reflect and engage in conversations about truth, reconciliation and the actions that each of us can be taking."

Creating a national day of recognition was one of 94 recommendations given by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Action 80 called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Indigenous people, to establish a statutory holiday "*to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.*"

Surrey Schools recognizes the importance of this date and the opportunity it provides for our staff, students and families to reflect on the unmarked graves of children discovered at the sites of former residential schools across Canada, and the lasting impact these schools have had on Indigenous communities.

Our district is committed to educating students and our community about the importance of how residential schools created intergenerational trauma that deeply affects Indigenous Peoples today. We know that each of our 131 schools will find their own unique way to show support to mark this important date.

We continue to show gratitude to members of our Aboriginal Education Council, and the Elders, Leaders and families from the Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo and other Coast Salish Peoples, as well as our Indigenous staff, students and their families who continuously share their voice and their stories with our staff and students and provide their counsel in relation to our programs and services.

Erma Stephenson Spirit Wear







We are excited to offer newly designed Erma Stephenson Spirit Wear this year available in youth and adult sizes. Our logo was designed by Coast Salish Artist Stuart Pagaduan.

[Order Spirit Wear Here](#) *Deadline: Thursday, October 5, 2023 (11:59 PM PDT)





Reminders for Parents



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS:

* **DAILY HEALTH CHECK FOR YOUR CHILDREN**- please do not send your child to school if they have any illness symptoms. If your child becomes ill while at school, we will phone for you to pick them up. [District Daily Health Check Info Click Here](#)

* **DROPPING OFF ITEMS**- please try not to drop off items for children during the school day - this includes lunch. Please help your children be prepared with all necessary items before they leave for school.

* **AVOID LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY PICK UPS**-students need to arrive at school on time by 8:30 and stay at school all day until 2:30 dismissal. It is important students attend school full days to have a positive impact on their learning. We need to keep accurate attendance and it's more difficult if students are coming and going during the day. If there is a necessary reason to be late or leave early, please inform the office in advance.

STUDENT ABSENCES - If your child is going to be absent from school, we would appreciate it if you would phone before school to let us know. You can call any time and leave a message. We have a call home program to ensure student safety on the way to school and, if we are not informed of student absences, our secretaries must spend a great deal of time calling student homes. Your help with this would be much appreciated. **The school phone number is 604-583-5419.**

* **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**- students will be spending a great deal of time outdoors again this year. They will be going out for recess and lunch in most weather so please be sure to dress them and send them with appropriate clothing such as coats, boots, hats, gloves, etc. It is also a good idea to send an extra set of clothes for our younger students that can be kept in their classroom in case they get wet/muddy.

* **PARENTS/VISITORS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**- We request there are no parents on the school grounds during the school day for safety reasons.

* **UPDATING PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION** - If your child is ill or if there is a school closure or emergency situation, it is important to have up to date contact information for your children. **If you have any changes to your contact information, please email it to ermastephenson@surreyschools.ca** or call the office to update.

Please Help the Environment!



Guidelines for Lunches and Snacks

Please try to provide litter-free lunches and snacks as much as possible. Students do not take their wrappers, containers, etc. outside at recess. They can unwrap their snack before they go outside. We are hoping this will help keep our playground litter-free!

Guidelines for Drinks

Students are asked to bring a reusable drink container to school (NO juice boxes, pop cans, etc. (Please send a filled, reusable water bottle instead. We are trying to help keep single-use containers out of the landfills. We do not have any recycling available for drink containers. The bottle-filling stations are open for students to refill their water bottle during the school day.

Code of Conduct



VISION

TO COLLECTIVELY STRENGTHEN WORK AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT ARE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE, CELEBRATE DIVERSITY OF COMMUNITY, AND STRIVE TO ENSURE BELONGING FOR EVERYONE.

COMMITMENT

SURREY SCHOOLS IS COMMITTED TO RACIAL EQUITY AND PROVIDING A RESPECTFUL AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT THAT IS FREE OF RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, AND OPPRESSION FOR ALL STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES.

Please take some time to review the Code of Conduct with you child. We all want Erma Stephenson to be a respectful place for learning, friendship and fun for our entire community,

[Code of Conduct](#)

PAC NEWS



Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a group that includes ALL parents with children attending Erma Stephenson. The PAC Executive are the parents who have committed to providing direction and leadership so that special events, fundraising and support for the school can occur. We welcome all parents to attend PAC meetings to have a say in how funds are spent and to help out wherever you can. Many hands make light work!

Thank you to our PAC Executive who have volunteered for the upcoming school year:

The PAC Executive for the 2023/2024 school year:

Co-Presidents: Ivy Yeo and Elena Han

Vice President: Sandy Shi

Treasurer: Jenny Ji

Secretary: Brandi Osborne

The next PAC meeting is Monday, October 16th. Meeting time, location and agenda coming soon!

The PAC currently is asking for feedback on lunch preferences. The survey was sent out earlier in the week. If you would like to provide input please click [here](#). The survey is open until Monday at noon.

SFAF (Student and Family Assistance Fund)

Financial support available to help make school more affordable for families that need it most.

In late August, 2022 the provincial government announced [one-time funding to school districts in B.C.](#) to support students and their families who are feeling challenged with the rising costs of living.

Our school district still has some funds available from this [provincial SFAF funding](#) which can be used to help with school supplies, clothing costs, and fees/costs associated with school activities.

Please reach out to Mrs. Hill if your family needs any financial support for clothing, school-based supplies or activities.

hill_h@surreyschools.ca

2023/24 Calendar



- **September**
- **21 - Meet the Teacher night and PAC Barbeque**
- **22 - Terry Fox Run**
- **25 - Non-Instructional Day - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS**
- **26 - Individual Photos**
- **29 - PAC Lunch Day and Orange Shirt Day**
- **October**
- **2 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (School Closed)**
- **6 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **9 - Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)**
- **11 - Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm**

- **13 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **16 - PAC Meeting - Time TBA**
- **20 - Non-Instructional Day - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS**
- **24 - Individual Photo Retakes**
- **27 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **31 - Halloween**
- **November**
- **3 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **9 - Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:45 am**
- **10 - Non-Instructional Day - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS**
- **13 - School Closed for Remembrance Day**
- **17 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **24 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **December**
- **1 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **8 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **14 - Communicating Student Learning - Term One**
- **15 - PAC Lunch Day**
- **22 - PAC Lunch Day and Last Day Before Winter Break (Dec. 23 - Jan. 7)**

*Other important dates can also be found [here](#)

Erma Stephenson School Calendar 2023-2024

EVENTS	2023-24
First Day of School!	Tuesday, September 5
Meet the Teacher Night & PAC Barbeque	Thursday, September 21
Terry Fox Run	Friday, September 22
Non-Instructional Day - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Monday, September 25
Individual Photos	Tuesday, September 26
Orange Shirt Day	Friday, September 29
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, October 2
Thanksgiving Day – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, October 9
Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm	Wednesday, October 11
PAC Meeting – Time TBA	Monday, October 16
Non-Instructional Day - SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Friday, October 20
Individual Photo Retakes	Tuesday, October 24
Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:45 am	Thursday, November 9
Non-instructional Day – SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Friday, November 10
Remembrance Day – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, November 13
Communicating Student Learning – Term 1	Thursday, December 14
Last Day Before Winter Break	Friday, December 22
Winter Break	December 23 – January 7
School Reopens After Winter Break	Monday, January 8
PAC Meeting – Time TBA	Monday, January 22
Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm	Tuesday, February 6
Family Day – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, February 19
Non-Instructional Day – SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Friday, February 23
Pink Shirt Day	Wednesday, February 28
PAC Meeting – Time TBA	Monday, March 11
Communicating Student Learning – Term 2	Thursday, March 14
Last Day Before Spring Break	Friday, March 15
Spring Break (incl. Good Friday and Easter Monday)	March 16-April 1
Easter Monday – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, April 1
School Reopens After Spring Break	Tuesday , April 2
Ready, Set, Learn	Tuesday, April 30
Non-Instructional Day – SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Friday, May 3
Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm, Student-led Conferences	Thursday, May 9
Victoria Day – SCHOOL CLOSED	Monday, May 20
Welcome to Kindergarten @ 3:00 pm	Thursday, May 23
Non-Instructional Day – SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION	Monday, May 27
Sports Day	Friday, June 7
Sports Day Alternate (if cancelled due to heavy rain)	Friday, June 14
Grade 7 Celebration @ 9:00 am	Friday, June 21
Year End Assembly Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm Communicating Student Learning – Term 3	Thursday, June 27
Administrative Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Friday, June 28

Dates are subject to change with sufficient notice.

PAC LUNCH DATES (up until Winter Break)

SEPTEMBER 29

OCTOBER 6, 13, 27

NOVEMBER 3, 17, 24

DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22