



Port Kells Elementary School September Newsletter

September 8, 2023

Dear families,

First off, Welcome Back! We are so excited to see everyone after our summer break. We hope you all enjoyed some family time during the break and enjoyed the amazing weather we had. I would like to thank you all for your patience as we worked through our start-up and initial number counts. It was great to see the smiles on the students faces (as well as on the parents) and to hear the excitement of a new year this past week. This past week students have worked in different groupings on a variety of fun learning tasks while we finalized numbers and waited for approval from the district. Our students should be commended as they have done a wonderful job welcoming our new students and staff to our school, making them feel at home and part of the Port Kells family.

Every year in Surrey, increases and decreases in student enrolment impact schools and class organizations. As you may have already read or heard, our District grew to 80,000 students K – 12. We are the largest school district in the province. Our numbers at Port Kells have stayed pretty much the same as last year and this morning we received confirmation that we will be staying with 4 Divisions, and we are good to move forward with our class placements. We as a school team work together to ensure best placements for our students.

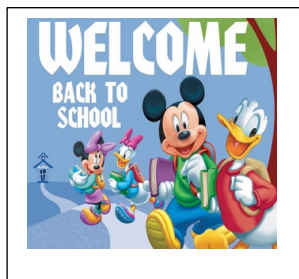
For the upcoming school year our divisions will be as follows:

Division 1	Grade 5/6/7	Mr. Barry
Division 2	Grade 3/4	Ms. Moyo and Ms. St. Jean
Division 3	Grade 2	Ms. Khan
Division 4	Grade K/1	Ms. Fujii

Our students will officially begin in their new classes on Monday. Kindergarten students will still follow the gradual entry schedule for all of next week (Sept. 11 – 15). Teachers were sharing the news with students this afternoon about class placements. Students are to line up at their assigned doors on Monday morning. Division 1 and 2 will line up at the wooden staircase for the annex, Division 3 will line up at the East end doors and ramp, and Division 4 will line up at their outside door.

This newsletter does contain a lot of information, but we wanted to make sure you had everything to get the year started. We are looking forward to a great year. We thank you for your ongoing support. Please reach out to your child's teacher or me should you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Stubbings

Staffing for the 2022-23 School Year

Div. 1	Grade 5/6/7	Mr. Barry
Div. 2	Grade 3/4	Ms. Moyo (Mon.-Thurs.) & Ms. St. Jean (Fri.)
Div. 3	Grade 2	Ms. Khan
Div. 4	Grade K/1	Ms. Fujji
	LST	Ms. Ms. Muna (Mon. – Wed.)
	IST	Ms. Ewen (Mon. – Wed.)
	Library	Ms. Thiessen (Tuesday's)
	Music	Ms. Winterhalt (Thursday's)
	Band	Mr. Melnyk
	French	Ms. Zielke
	Counsellor	Ms. Henry (Wednesday)
	SLP	Ms. Reich (Monday's)
	Indigenous CYCW	Ms. Smith (various dates)
	CCW	Ms. Gosal (Thursday's)
	IESW	Ms. Dinnell
	IESW	Ms. Moore
	IESW	Ms. Allie
	IESW	Ms. Kinna
	Head Clerk	Ms. Norris
	Custodian	Mr. Hawley
	Noon Supervisor	Ms. Catherine

Our bell schedule for the 2023 - 24 school year

(Please note our bell schedule has changed)

Welcome Bell	8:30
Morning Session	8:35
Recess	10:05 – 10:20
Lunch Playtime	11:40 – 12:00
Lunch Eating	12:00 – 12:25
Afternoon Session	12:25 – 2:27
Dismissal	2:27

Communication

At this time communication (Newsletters, Forms, District Info) sent from the school will be sent to families via MyEdBC. Please do not respond to these emails. Please be sure that your email is up to date in our system to ensure that you do receive all correspondence. Please check your emails and our school website regularly for updated and important information. If you have not already done so, please download the Surrey Schools App on your phone, as district updates and information, as well as school based info will come through the method as well.

School Supplies

Students are invited to bring their school supplies to school now that we have classes finalized. If you have not yet gotten your supplies, you can still order from School Start by going online at www.schoolstart.ca. The supply lists are available on our website under newsletters. Teachers may ask for additional supplies on top of what is on the supply list or throughout the year. If you have any questions about supplies, please talk to your child's teacher.

School Planners and Fees

We will be again having school planners available for a cost of \$5.00 per student planner. Planners will be used by all students in Grades 2 – 7. These are a great method of communication between home and school and a useful tool for students to assist with organization skills. These will be paid for through cash-online and a link will be sent out shortly. Students will be given their planners once payment is received. If your child loses his/her planner during the school year, please contact the office to purchase a new one. We do keep a limited number of extra planners on hand.

We continue to be a cashless school, and fees for planners, other required fees, fundraising, field trips, etc. can be made through school cash on-line. If you are new to our school or have not yet set up your online cash account, please be sure to do this soon. Please contact this school if you have questions about this.

Throughout the year our PAC will offer hot lunch, treat days (Popcorn, chips, etc.) as well as other fundraising events and activities. All PAC sponsored events are separate from school and Cash and cheque will be accepted for these items.

Student Attendance - Absences and Lates

Regular attendance is an important part of your child's learning. This also includes arriving to school on time. The morning routine is an important part of the day where there is a lot of information given – including school announcements, shape of day, upcoming events, etc. Missing this time can have an impact on your child's day and school.

If your child is going to be absent from school, we ask that you please call the school to let us know. We have a call home program to ensure student safety on the way to and from school and, if we are not informed of student absences, our office staff must call a student's home to inquire. Our phone system is set up to take messages after hours as well as during the day. Our school number is 604-882-2021.

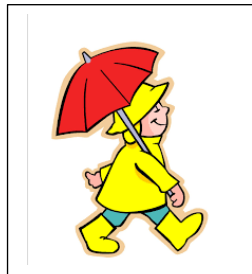
If your child is going to be late, we also ask that you call the school to let us know that you are on your way or what time your child(ren) will be arriving. Once you arrive to the school, we ask that all students check in at the office before going to class to check in.

If you are needing to pick your child up early, we also ask that you let your child's teacher know or that you call the school to inform the office. Parents are required to sign their child(ren) out for safety reasons.

Your help in these areas is greatly appreciated.

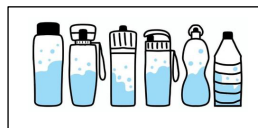
West Coast Recess and Lunch

Please remember that as the weather changes, we will have a "West Coast" or as our kiddos say a "Wet Coast" recess and lunch. Students do need a break from their classroom environment each day and will be expected to go outside and both recess and lunch regardless of the weather. We will make exceptions to this rule on days with heavy rainfall and/or extreme weather conditions. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather in proper clothing – boots, jackets, umbrellas, hats, etc. It would also be a good idea for students to keep a change of clothes at school in case they need to change as well as an extra pair of runners or inside shoes.



Water bottles

It is encouraged that students drink water throughout the day. Many of our classrooms are water only. We ask that juice boxes and pop not be sent to school. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them each day. It is best to send it to school each day filled. We do have our water bottle filling stations operational, and students are invited to fill their bottles as needed throughout the day. Please ensure that your child's name is on the bottle, we often get quite the collection of containers and water bottles in our lost and found bin.



Lunch Time Cutlery

We have had many students coming to the office requesting forks and spoons at snack and lunch time. Unfortunately, we do not have extras to provide to all students. Last year we did have a small collection for students on occasion, but due to demand we were not able to continuously provide this for the upcoming school year. Currently, we are not even able to purchase plastic forks and spoons for use at schools as they are not available. We are reminding parents to please send your child with cutlery if needed for their lunches or snacks. They are often very sad when they cannot eat their pudding due to not having spoon.

Allergy Awareness.

At Port Kells we have students and staff who have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts, nuts, and their by-products. Please help us in committing to do everything we can to protect those students and staff. Ways to help include: not sending foods that contain peanuts or other nuts (almonds, pecans, hazelnuts, walnuts, etc.); remind your child to not share his/her snack; and do not use products that may contain these items as well (hand lotions, creams, hand sanitizers, soaps, etc.). If your child has a severe or life-threatening food allergy, please notify the office to ensure that proper medical forms are completed. If your child requires an epi-pen, Fraser health recommends that it is worn or kept on the child, but if this is not possible, we ask that it be stored in the school office for safe keepings should we need to administer.

If your child currently has Medical Alert Forms on file, we ask that you please come into the school to review and update.



Scent Free School

We are a SCENT FREE school, as are all district properties and buildings. Some members of the community have scent allergies, so we ask that you not wear scented products such as perfumes, cologne, scented hair products, hand lotions, etc. On that note, please be aware of the hand-sanitizers that you may be sending to the school and ensure that these are scent free.

Health and Safety: What Happens if a student gets sick?

While our COVID protocols and procedures have changed, we are still aware that COVID still exists and is out there. This year they are worried about what they are calling “The Triple Threat” – cold/flu, RSV and COVID. We are still wanting to ensure that all students and staff remain as safe and healthy as possible. At the school we will still be focusing on hygiene practices, such as hand washing, and coughing/sneezing procedures. While we know that not all illnesses are COVID, we will still be vigilant in our schools. If a child comes to the office or the school complaining of symptoms or reporting they are sick, we will call home. At times, depending on symptoms we may also ask the student to mask up. We will continue to have masks available for any student or staff wishing to wear one, we will also continue to have hand sanitizer available in all rooms.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID, the Flu or is not feeling well, please do NOT send your child to school. Please continue to use the “Daily Health Check” as a guideline for symptoms. Symptoms can spread quickly in our classrooms and schools, and we want to keep our school as healthy as we can. We thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Terry Fox Run

We are excited to be participating once again and raising funds for this very important cause. Our run will take place on our school community this year on Friday, September 22nd. Time still to be finalized. Donations will be made online directly through the Terry Fox Organizations website. Any donation amount is appreciated. Our school goal is \$300. We will be emailing further information with donation details and times in the next coming weeks.

Picture Day – Artona Photographers

Picture Day is Monday, October 16th, 2023

Following Picture Day, you will be able to view and order pictures through Artona’s website directly. More detailed info to come home soon. If your child is absent for photo day, our retakes will be held on November 9th in the afternoon.



Other Upcoming Dates:

First Fire Drill	September 22
Non-Instructional Day (no school)	September 25
Orange Shirt Day	September 29
STAT – Truth & Reconciliation Day	October 2
STAT – Thanksgiving	October 10

Please also check our website and school calendar online for additional dates and events. We are constantly updating our school calendar.

PAC NEWS

Interested in helping but not sure how much you can do or how much time it will take out of your schedule? Come out to our first PAC meeting and see what we're all about. We want to hear from you, we do not require you to hold a position with us to come to our meetings.

Email us at portkellspac@gmail.com and we will add you to the meeting invite email. Currently our meetings are held virtually via zoom.

Don't forget to like our Facebook Page Port Kells Elementary PAC. We post lots of reminders on there.

Next meeting date: **TBD**

We can't wait to see you!

Upcoming Fundraising

Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising events. Last year we had hot lunch and Popcorn Sales, TruEarth Laundry, Global Coffee and hot chocolate, Purdy's, Vancouver Giants, A night at Jimmy MAC's and more.

Remember all funds raised through our fundraising events goes directly back to our school and our kids. Every bit helps.