

White Rock Elementary

Newsletter 09/16/24
Volume 1, Issue 1

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/whiterockelem>

Principal: Jas Atwal
Vice-Principal: Sally Song

September Newsletter...



Hello all,

Thank you for your patience as we worked through our class reorganization with the loss of a division. We currently have 607 students in 26 divisions. The new classes, room numbers and divisions are also listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Please keep this as your reference moving forward. Please review the information in this newsletter as it contains important information for the year.

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Thanks again,

Jas Atwal



School Hours...

SCHOOL HOURS

8:20	-	Playground Supervision Begins
8:30	-	Students may enter the building
8:35	-	Start of Morning Classes
10:15	-	Recess
10:30	-	End of Recess
11:43	-	Lunch (Play Begins)
12:08	-	Eating Entrance Bell
12:28	-	Start of afternoon classes
2:28	-	Dismissal
2:43	-	Playground Supervision ends

Office Hours (Phones)

8:00 am—3:00 pm—Monday to Friday

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Toonies for Terry (16th-20th)
- ◆ Terry Fox Run (20th)
- ◆ Orange Shirt Day (26th)
- ◆ Pro-D Day (27th)
- ◆ Truth and Reconciliation (30th)
- ◆ Meet the Teacher Night (Oct. 3rd)

2024-2025 Staff List...

WHITE ROCK ELEMENTARY STAFF

Principal - Mr. Atwal Vice Principal - Ms. Song
 Head Secretary - Ms. Foreman
 Clerks - Ms. Thompson Ms. Quesnelle (M, T)

Enrolling Divisions and Staff

Div. 1 Grade 7 FA -Mr. Benzce
 Div. 2 Grade 7 -Mr. Fryer
 Div. 3 Grade 7 -Mr. Baerg
 Div. 4 Grade 7 -Mr. Roth
 Div. 5 Grade 6 FA -Ms. Rogers-MacDonald
 Div. 6 Grade 6 -Mr. McNabb
 Div. 7 Grade 6 -Ms. Jensen
 Div. 8 Grade 5/6 -Ms. Canham/Ms. Radford
 Div. 9 Grade 5 FA -Mr. Rudd
 Div. 10 Grade 5 -Ms. McCredie
 Div. 11 Grade 4/5 -Ms. Ottewell
 Div. 12 Grade 4 FA -Ms. Cuthbertson
 Div. 13 Grade 3/4 -Ms. Smith
 Div. 14 Grade 3/4 -Ms. Horne/Ms. Vosloh
 Div. 15 Grade 3/4 -Ms. Skalinski
 Div. 16 Grade 3/4 -Mr. Swensen
 Div. 17 Grade 3 FA -Ms. Yee
 Div. 18 Grade 2 FA -Ms. McKillop
 Div. 19 Grade 2 -Ms. Duncan/Ms. Gribble
 Div. 20 Grade 2 -Ms. Tice
 Div. 21 Grade 1 FA -Ms. Bentley
 Div. 22 Grade 1 -Ms. Scheer
 Div. 23 Grade K/1 -Ms. Pooni
 Div. 24 Grade K/1 -Ms. Doull
 Div. 25 Grade K FA -Ms. Nunns
 Div. 26 Grade K -Ms. Anderson

Non-Enrolling Staff Members

Music -Mr. Withers
 Librarian -Ms. Nygaard, Ms. Soo (Fri.)
 Counsellor -Mr. Mazurkewich
 Learner Support -Ms. Markle, Ms. Forsyth,
 Learner Support -Ms. Swensen, Ms. Whiteside
 Band -Ms. Penner Speech
 Pathologist -Ms. Mathew
 Integration Support -Ms. Fredrickson, Ms. O'Flynn
 Child Care Worker -Ms. Asselin-Simao
 Aboriginal CCW -Ms. Daphne Milne

Special Ed. Assistants - Ms. Butchart, Ms. Drover,
 Ms. Cumblidge, Ms. Hubert, Ms. Knight, Ms. Kubilius,
 Ms. Lafontaine, Ms. Ahmed, Ms. Kolesnik, Ms. Wong,
 Ms. Laternus, Mr. Ozlo, Ms. Smith, Ms. Tahir

Upcoming Calendar...

Upcoming Events

Sept. 16 - 20 Toonies for Terry Collection
 Sept. 16-19 Munchalunch Ordering (ASAP)
 Sept. 19 PAC Meeting 6 pm
 Sept. 20 Terry Fox Run (1:15 pm)
 Sept. 20 **Wear Red and White for Terry Day**
 Sept. 26 **Orange Shirt Day (At School)**
 Sept. 27 **Non-Instructional Day (No School)**
 Sept. 27 Stay Safe / Babysitting Course
 Sept. 30 **Truth and Reconciliation Day (No School)**
 Oct. 3 Meet the Teacher Night 5-6 pm
 Oct. 14 **Thanksgiving Day (No School)**
 Oct. 25 **Non Instructional Day (No School)**

Staff List Continued...

Supervisory Aides

Ms. Fenton, Ms. Matola, Ms. Shore, TBA, TBA

Cutodians

Mr. Bhagirath, Ms. Moravec

Early in the year our office staff are dealing with many requests from staff, students and parents. To help minimize interruptions, please make arrangements with your child to organize early pick up, late arrival, pick up meeting areas, or play dates. We are always available for emergent situations and want to make sure we can deal with these as soon as possible.

DARBY PHOTOS
 (604) 274 0306 www.darbyphotos.com

Request today!
 #darbyphotofamily @darbyphotosbc LIKE FOLLOW SHARE

Parent Visitor Protocol

All visitors must report to the office of the school due to safety reasons. One of our office staff will be happy to assist you. You can contact your child's teacher to make an appointment if necessary. Please do not walk through the halls without a badge

Lunches/Water Bottles

Students should bring water bottles and lunches to school daily in the morning. If you need to drop off a lunch, please label the lunches and place them on the table in the lobby. Please bring special lunches like Subway or McDonalds to the Office.

Lates and Absences

Please call and let us know if your child will be late or absent. We call you if you have not called in so we can ensure the safety of your child. If we are not available to pick up the phone, please leave a message on the answering machine. This would help us at the office immensely.
(604-531-5731)

School Cash Online...

School Cash Online is an online payment program run through the School District. It is completely safe and does not cost any additional fees. We will use this online method for planners, field trips, Fine Arts fees and Kindergarten Supplies. If you need help registering or adding your child to the account please call Ms. Foreman. The fees owing will already be attached to your child's profile. Go to the following link to start an account or make payment:

<https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Planners...

Planners have arrived and have been issued to teachers.

The planners will cost \$5.

The planners will have important information

about the school and District in the front 8 pages.

Please refer to these pages for school contact information, school address and school code of contact. Please use School Cash Online for your payment.

<https://surreyschools.schoolcashionline.com/>

Not all teachers use the paper planner. Your child's teacher will indicate if they will be using one. You can always purchase one for your child if you feel it would be of benefit to them.

**Terry Fox Run and Fundraising for Cancer Research...**

Students and staff are on the run to help raise awareness about cancer! The classes will be learning about Terry Fox and participating in a run around our fields or sidewalks outside on Friday, September 20th at 1:15 pm-1:45 pm. We will fundraise by collecting "Toonies for Terry" coin and cash donations from September 16-September 20. You may also go online and make a pledge to our Terry Fox Run school pledge site at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/31798>. Our goal is to raise \$1150 for cancer research.

Parents are welcome to attend the run as participants or help as chaperones around the grounds keeping students safe.

Please let us know if you would like to help on the day of the Event. Thanks again for your support.

**Before and After School Care**

Are you looking for a fun Before and After School care program for your child? Alex House is offering a day care program at White Rock Elementary in the Fine Arts Studio before and after school (7:30-8:30 am and 2:30-5:30 pm). Please contact 604-535-0015 or visit www.alexhouse.net for more details.

Truth and Reconciliation and Federal Holiday...

Each year, The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation takes place on September 30. This day is meant to honour Canada's residential school survivors, their families and communities. The holiday publicly commemorates the history and ongoing legacy of the schools. In honour of this day, we will be holding Orange Shirt Day on Thursday, September 26th. Monday, September 30 is a Federal Holiday and schools will be closed.



Crossing Guards and Frontiersman...

Alan who has been our amazing crossing guard for us on Fir Street has fallen ill and is unable to continue his duties at this time. We are looking for one Crossing Guards / Frontiersman on Fir Street. You will receive a \$27 stipend per day from the City for your volunteer work. If you know of anyone who would be interested to help in this role please contact the office.



Drop off and Pick Up Safety Policy...

- ALWAYS HAVE YOUR CHILDREN EXIT TO THE SIDEWALK SIDE OF THE VEHICLE
- Never open the door to the interior of the street to exit out as cars may be passing
- Please drive slowly in front of the school.
- Look both ways before exiting the drop off area
- Do not double park on the street
- Do not overpass a stopped car as they may be stopped for students to cross
- Park one block down the street and walk to pick up your children
- Use the drop off and pick area in the parking lot with caution

School Closures Information...

Sometimes extreme weather conditions or other circumstances can cause class cancellations at a school, or district wide on short notice. In the event of class cancellations, the Surrey School District will post information on its web site at www.surreyschools.ca and provide updates to the following radio stations:

CKNW - 980 AM or www.cknw.com
 News 1130 AM or www.news1130.com
 CBC Radio - 690 AM or www.cbc.ca/bc

The District will do its best to communicate the status of schools by 7:00 am.

Sometimes the decision to send students home if they have care can come to us close to the entry bell. We will always keep all students who are without parents and contact you by phone for safe pick up. All students should check in to the office and should never return home on their own without contact made by the school staff. **Please discuss this safety protocol with your children.**

Inclement Weather and Change of Clothes...

The weather can be unpredictable at different times of the year. Please check the weather in the morning and ensure that your child is dressed appropriately. Please be careful when walking to school as the ground may be wet, icy and slippery. If you are dropping off or picking up your child please follow Safe Drop Off guidelines. Have a waiting spot for picking up your child. For younger children, a change of clothes in the in bag or in the classroom is recommended.

Important Forms...

Coming Home this Month:

Important forms will be coming home that will need your immediate attention.

There will be information about Media Consent, Student Information Verification, Technology, BC Fruit and Vegetable Program

All forms will need to be reviewed, updated and returned to school. **It is VERY important that all the forms are returned promptly** so we can update our records and students can participate in all educational opportunities.

PAC Meeting Information...

Mark Your Calendars:

PAC meeting TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19th at 6pm in the ART ROOM

***Babysitting available.

Volunteer Call Out:

*volunteers can be any family member, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, household members.

Please email us whiterockpac@gmail.com

What kind of time do you have to spare?

Fundraiser Lunch Volunteers: Please sign up in [Munchalunch](#).

Ways you can help

- Organize the alphabetical letters for the outside sign (can be taken home overnight).
- Change the sign- short notice request.
- Help PAC with communication posts – ex: facebook, instagram
- Attend a PAC meeting: PAC meetings are a 1 hour commitment.
- Attend an online district PAC meeting and summarize notes for PAC
- Buy "PAC snacks" for sports day or fundraiser lunches from PAC fun
- Create a PAC newsletter
- Review and improve the coin drive information for parents (February)
- Help with Babysitting /Stay Safe course 1 hour shifts
- Help distribute hot lunch (Thursdays from 11-12:30; sign up in Munchalunch
- Help with Halloween Dance and cake silent auction
- Be the Grade 7 rep /PAC contact (spring 2025. From February- June)
- Winter fundraiser (2 parents Nov-Dec)
- COIN DRIVE. Count the money collected - daytime school hours (2 parents, Spring 2025)
- YEARBOOK- Compile a school yearbook with Mountain West Studios and student leadership (January 2025 start. Work spread over 2-3 months) - ideal for 2 individuals, gr 7 parents)

We look forward to meeting you and helping to support the students this year.

PAC Hot Lunch Information - Munchalunch.com...

HOT LUNCH PAC FUNDRAISER

The PAC is excited to offer Hot Lunch once again on Thursdays each week. We have also added a once a month Hot Dog Day which will be on the last Friday of the month. The Hot Lunch Fundraiser is OPTIONAL.

Hot Lunch ordering OPENS Monday September 16 for the Fall term.

Lunch is ordered in 3 Terms (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Lunch begins on **Thursday September 26** and the last Hot Lunch for this term is **Thursday December 19**.

If you wish your child to have Hot Lunch on Thursday September 26, you must order and pay by Thursday September 19.

The PAC is going to try something new as a pilot through this Fall term. Ordering will remain open for the duration of the term. Kindly ensure payment is made immediately after placing your lunch order. If we do not receive payment one week prior (Wednesday prior at 11:59pm) to the date you have ordered, your child will not receive their lunch. We recommend placing your hot lunch order as soon as it opens for the entire term if possible.

Payment Options are through credit card or e-transfer:

*to e-transfer-choose the cheque option in Munchalunch

Send the e-transfer to whiterockpac@gmail.com (no password needed)

Please write your child's name and Munchalunch order # in the comments section

Munchalunch.com

You will need to set up an account and register your child(ren) if you have not used the platform already. You will need to use your child's teacher and division to register.

Families returning to Munchalunch, please remember to update teacher and division information.

Additional information:

Hot Lunch is a **PAC fundraiser run by volunteers**. Please let us know if you are able to help. There is a spot in Munchalunch to indicate interest in volunteering.

There are no refunds for missed Hot Lunch Days. If your child is absent you can make arrangements with their teacher, come and pick up the lunch, or arrange with another child to bring home. Or, pick up the next day. Any lunches which are not picked up will be donated to a local organization.

If you have mistakenly overpaid, PAC will refund amounts over \$5.00, otherwise PAC will use as a donation.

Thank you for supporting PAC and the Fundraising Lunch Program.

Cell Phone Policy

The Ministry and District have implemented new Cell Phone Policies for schools. All cell phones should be away in back packs or in locked teacher's cupboards through the school day unless in direct supervision of the teacher for educational reasons.

Phones may not be taken out at Recess and Lunch or used in the bathrooms. Students can definitely communicate with parents before and after school. You can always contact the office for urgent matters.

Phones should never be used to take photos or videos of other children without consent. Many parents have no media consent policies where they do not want their child to be photographed.

In addition, students should never post photos of others on social media sites without consent. Any posts where consent is given should be appropriate. We suggest you monitor your child's posts and chat group content. We have had to deal with negative comments in chat groups in the past.

Teachers have also noticed that smart watches are also becoming a distraction. If students are using the watches for gaming and chatting with others, they will be asked to put them away.

Please review this with your children. If phones are misused, they will be taken away and we will ask parents to pick up the phones at the end of the day. Thank you for your understanding.



Hallway Protocol

Please refrain from cutting from the front of the school to get to the back through the middle doors and vice versa. We want to ensure the safety of the students. Please go around the outside of the building to the back or front of the school. We will also be having an assembly soon to go over this with the students.

Class Organization

Placement of students is done with a very thoughtful approach with multiple staff members giving input. Placements can be made due to a variety of reasons including:

- Student Population and Composition
- Gender equality in classrooms
- Academic, social, emotional strengths/needs
- Behavioural considerations, friendships
- Students who work well as learning partners
- Teacher and Ministry contractual guidelines
- Previous student conflicts
- Class and group dynamics
- Compatibility with staff and leadership potential, parent program request

Combined-grade classes are created in response to class size and composition regulations. When one grade level has a higher population than another, or when we need to distribute students requiring more intensive support, we place students across different grade levels. Combined classes offer many benefits for students, such as:

- Opportunities for peer mentoring, where older students can help younger ones, fostering leadership and collaboration
- Development of greater independence and responsibility as students work at their own pace
- Exposure to a wider range of perspectives, ideas, and abilities, which promotes social and emotional growth
- Flexible learning environments that allow teachers to tailor lessons to meet the diverse needs of students across multiple grade levels
- Enhanced opportunities for personalized learning, where students of different grades can benefit from differentiated instruction

Our teachers are experts at teaching all children including combined grades. While most children are excited about being in a new class, some may feel anxious about their placement. This is natural, and in our experience, students typically adjust within the first few days. If your child is feeling uneasy, please reassure them that it's normal to feel nervous in new situations, and soon their new classroom will feel like home.