

Principal's Message

Hello families!

I can't believe that it is October already and that I have been at Dogwood for over a month. It really is starting to feel like "home" and Ms. Strilive and I feel very welcomed by the children and their families. Thank you.

Your children are now fully immersed in the year's learning activities—I see math problems being solved, interesting books being read, science concepts being discussed, and so much more. I have taught a literacy lesson in all the classrooms, and we have talked about Dogwood being like a big, magical umbrella... one where everyone is welcome to come under—no matter your size, race, culture, gender, abilities, etc. The students are practicing inclusion all over the school—in their classrooms, in the hallways, and on the playground.

Speaking of the playground, we are trying out some new "rules" to increase the sense of community between students of different ages. All Grade 1-7 students may play on the playgrounds to the south of the building. Primary classes are allowed to play on the north end of the grass field and intermediate classes can play on the south end of the field. Our Kindergarteners, who are still learning about school, are asked to only play on the "rainbow" playground. So far, we are seeing many happy faces running around the school at recess and lunch.

Perhaps you can ask your children what inclusion means... and brainstorm ways they can help others feel like they belong here at Dogwood.

Have a wonderful October!

Ms. Diana Ellis





Autumn Clothing

Fall months bring Fall weather and here on the west coast that means cool temperatures and lots of rain. Don't forget to send your children ready to play outside. At Dogwood we will go out in the cold and in the drizzle. Only hard rain will keep us from getting some fresh air and exercise! Layers of clothes, a raincoat, and a change of shoes would be good clothing choices right now.



Individual School Photos

Artona Studios will be coming to Dogwood on Thursday, October 24th to take individual photos. They will be back on Friday, November 15th for any needed retakes. Please visit www.artona.com to find more information on how to prepare for photo day.



Halloween

Thursday October 31st we will be celebrating Halloween at Dogwood. We will have a costume parade, a monster mash dance, and much more. Children are encouraged to wear costumes on that day; however, please remember that no pretend weapons are allowed at school. (That means all little Jedis are required to leave their light sabers at home! 😊)

Gratitude



This month the students of Dogwood will be talking about gratitude. In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. We challenge you to spend some time with your family brainstorming people, places, and things for which you are grateful.



Upcoming Dates

Oct 11-12	Yom Kippur
Oct 14	Thanksgiving
Oct 24	Individual Photo Day
Oct 25	Pro-D Day
Oct 28	Drop Everything and Read
Oct 30	Spirit Assembly (time TBA)
Oct 31	Halloween Festivities
Nov 1	Diwali
Nov 7	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 8	Indigenous Verteran's Day
Nov 8	Pro D Day
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 15	Photo Retake Day
Nov 19	Grade 6 Immunizations
Nov 20	National Education Support Professionals Day
Nov 27	Spirit Assembly
Dec 2	Deck the Doors
Dec 10	Human Rights Day
Dec 16-20	Various Spirit Days (TBA)
Dec 19	Term 1 Reports Home
Dec 20	Spirit Assembly
Dec 20	Last Day Before Winter Break