



DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY

Home of the Dolphins

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Please see important information included in this newsletter about planning for our next school year.

DOGWOOD SCHOOL FEES 2024-25

Each school year, parents support their child(ren)'s formal learning experiences in a wide variety of ways. We appreciate all that you do to ensure a successful year!

Parents are periodically asked for monies to cover specific items and/or special events. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in any school activity due to the inability to pay. Please contact the Principal should you require any financial assistance.

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we anticipate the following costs:

School Supplies: Parents have the option of purchasing their child's school supplies on their own utilizing the grade supply list or for your convenience you may wish to purchase supplies as a package through "School Start", with the total cost not to exceed \$65. Payment is made directly to "School Start" and your supplies are delivered directly to your home in August. Costs for supplies vary based on grade. Kindergarten students will play a flat fee of \$55 to the school to cover the costs of all supplies.

Student Planner: Some classes from Grades 1-7 will be asked to purchase a School Planner at a cost of \$5.00. We find this to be an excellent tool for facilitating home/school communication, as well as for developing our students' organizational skills. However, using our school planner is optional as a parent may purchase their own version. Teachers will inform you in September if a planner will be needed.

Field Studies and Field Trips: Classes often enjoy educational visits to community facilities which extend and enhance the curriculum. While we use school monies or fundraise to cover the costs of such activities wherever possible, there are times when parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of the trip. If you choose to have your child not participate in a field study, a suitable program will be provided at the school.

Musical Instruments: Grade 4 students may learn to play the recorder. Students will have the option of purchasing one through our music teacher for \$10 or receiving one on loan from the school. Also, our Grade 7 students who take band either purchase or rent an instrument. Costs vary depending on the instrument.

*School Supply Fees for 2024-25 may change due to circumstances in schools.

NEW STUDENTS AND STUDENTS MOVING/NOT RETURNING NEXT YEAR

Our school is continuing to grow at a steady pace. If you know of anyone in our catchment who is planning to come to Dogwood in September, please tell them to go online and register as soon as possible to ensure there is space for their children. Also, if you or anyone you know is planning to move to another school next year, please inform the office. The more accurate our registration information is, the better we are able to plan for a smooth start-up in September.

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

From time to time, parents want to request specific placements for the upcoming school year. However, it is important to understand that the placement of students is determined through school-based professional decisions. At Dogwood we work carefully and collaboratively to determine the most suitable placement for your child based on the following criteria:

- Student intellectual, social and emotional development
- Learning styles and strengths of students
- Degree of independence
- Social compatibility
- Gender balance
- Maintaining reasonable teacher-student ratios

If you have educational concerns regarding the placement of your child, please put them in writing (letter or email) to Mrs. Berka for consideration by Friday, June 7th . It is not appropriate to request that your son/daughter be placed with a specific teacher or with particular friends.

While we understand there are varying opinions on combined grade classes, it is also not appropriate to request that your child be placed in a straight grade. It is important to understand that, even in a single grade, there is a range of strengths and abilities. Combined classes have many educational benefits. Teachers are well qualified to teach all the students in a combined class (see attachment).

With the trust and support of you at home, we are confident that all children will be placed in classes that will allow them to have a productive and rewarding school year. Your patience and understanding as we begin planning for next year is greatly appreciated.

We wish you all well for a wonderful next school year and welcome Ms. Ellis, our new Principal!

Joanne Berka
Principal

Paul Thompson
Vice Principal

attached Dogwood School Calendar 2024-25
 Combined Classes Information

DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-25

Below you will find a basic calendar for next school year including school holidays, non-instructional days (Pro D Days), and early dismissal days. We will provide you with a more detailed calendar when school resumes in September and all dates will be updated on our website.

Tuesday, September 3	First Day of School for all students (gr. 1-7 attend 10-11am)
Friday, September 20	Terry Fox Run
Friday, September 27	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Monday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- School closed
Wednesday, October 2	Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm- parent-teacher consultations
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Friday, October 25	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Thursday, November 7	Remembrance Day Assembly
Friday, November 8	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Thursday, December 19	Term 1 Communicating Student Learning- written update
Friday, December 20	Last day of school before Winter Break
December 21-January 5	Winter Break
Monday, January 6	School re-opens after Winter Break
Thursday, February 6	Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm- teacher planning/assessment
Monday, February 17	B.C. Family Day – School Closed
Friday, February 21	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Thursday, March 13	Term 2 Communicating Student Learning- Written Update
Friday, March 14	Last day of school before Spring Break
March 15-30	Spring Break/School Closure Days
Monday, March 31	School re-opens after Spring Break
Friday, April 18	Good Friday- schools closed
Monday, April 21	Easter Monday- schools closed
Friday, May 2	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Tuesday, May 6	Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm- parent-teacher consultations
Monday, May 19	Victoria Day – School Closed
Monday, May 26	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend
Thursday, June 26	Last Day of School for students Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm- teacher planning/assessment Final Summative Communicating Student Learning-written update
Friday, June 27	Administrative Day – students do not attend

* dates will be added throughout the school year and are subject to change with notice

Combined-grade classes: Learning together

Combined-grade classes consist of students in two consecutive grades grouped together in one class. They are common both locally and internationally, with “one out of every five Canadian students enrolled in a multi-grade classroom” according to at least one study. There is a good chance that Surrey children will have the experience of being in a combined-grade class during their elementary school years.

Organizing classes to best meet the needs of all students is a complex process. While practical factors such as shifting enrolment, class size and composition influence the formation of classes, the Surrey School District is committed to creating balanced classes that focus on students’ learning strengths and the needs of the whole child.

There are academic as well as social benefits to combined-grade classes. Studies indicate that children in combined classes do as well academically as children in single grades.

Research has shown that combined classes:

- allow students learn from one another,
- provide models for younger students,
- help older students see what they’ve already learned,
- provide opportunities for a greater range of learning,
- encourage students to work together,
- promote social responsibility,
- help students to become independent and
- foster a positive attitude toward school.

Students in combined classes are not held back to the level of younger students, nor are they expected to handle work beyond their ability. In every classroom, there is a wide range of skills and abilities. Children mature at different rates in various aspects of development. Teachers are aware of these individual differences and structure learning activities according to the needs of each learner.

Children learn continually; their intellectual, social and personal development does not occur in discrete steps according to grade level. Studies have found that on average, a single-grade class



includes students whose development spans five years. The developmental range in a combined class is not significantly different.

Within the combined class there will be children of both grade levels with similar levels of performance. Whether a child is gifted or needs considerable assistance, each will be challenged to excel as much in a combined class as he or she would be in a single-grade class.

Researchers have reported successful learning is less dependent on how students are grouped into classes, than on the quality of instructional practices.

For more information on the research into combined-grade classes, please visit the Surrey School District website: District Departments, Research and Evaluation Department, Research Currents and click on [Learning Together: Research into Combined and Multiage Classes](#).