



# Port Kells Elementary

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Principal:  
Mrs. Tammy Stubbings  
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August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year. We are excited about the year ahead and school start up.

Our first day back for all students is Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 1 – 7 will attend for approximately 45 minutes from 10 – 10:45 am. Kindergarten students are asked to attend from 10 - 10:30. We invite all of our families and students to meet in the gym at 10am. During this time we will have a brief assembly with introductions of staff and other important information for the day and first week. The remainder of the week for all students is a regular week and for Kindergarteners we ask that you follow the times and schedules as outlined in the Kindergarten Package that was sent out in June.

The first day back is an important day as it confirms our numbers for the year ahead and our staffing and class/Division allotments. If your child is not able to attend this day we ask that you please call the school to let us know so that your child is still counted in our numbers. If your child will not be returning to Port Kells, we also ask that you call the school to let us know. If you know of any school age children who have recently moved into our catchment please let them know they can register for our school through the Surrey School District website: [www.surreyschools.ca](http://www.surreyschools.ca)

Students will not be assigned a permanent class or teacher the first week of school. Students may spend time with one or more teachers during this time while we finalize numbers and get confirmation from the district to proceed with class placements. During this week, students will participate in a variety of tasks and activities. All schools across the district will have combined classes, we ask that you please not request a specific teacher or for your child to not be in a combined class. Our placements are determined by the school team as per district policy and our total numbers. We hope to know classes by the end of the first week, but this does often take more time, as it is not based just on our school numbers but district numbers as well for staffing.

Students will not need to bring school supplies this first day back, but will need them for the duration of the week. The teachers will let students know what to bring for the remainder of the week. School Supply lists for K-7 are posted on school website. These are the "School Start Lists". You may still order through [www.schoolstart.ca](http://www.schoolstart.ca) or use the list to purchase supplies on your own. There may be

additional supplies requested by teachers once class placements are determined. Please note that you are able to re-use supplies such as sharpeners, paint, scissors, headphones/ear-buds, etc each year and do not need to re-purchase these items if you have them at home. Our school supply lists are broken into two sections – Basic kit and Required but additional supplies. It is the items in the “required but additional section” that can typically be re-used. If you have questions about supplies please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As you may have been hearing on the news lately, they are already talking about the upcoming fall season and potential illnesses (cold/flu, COVID, and RSV). We are asking our families to be mindful of this and to continue to use the daily health check and to practice regular hygiene (hand washing, etc.). We ask that anyone who is not well or is feeling sick to please stay at home. We want to continue to ensure that our school is as safe a place as it can be, and that staff and students are healthy. We will continue to call home when a child reports that they are not feeling well, and especially if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms as outlined on the daily health check. We thank you in advance for your support with this.

We have noticed an increase in people bringing their dogs onto school grounds during the summer months. District policy is that all dogs must be on leashes while on school grounds at all times (during the school day, as well as after hours and on non-school days). If you are bringing your dogs on school grounds, please remember to clean up after them. There has been a large increase in the amount of animal waste on our school grounds last year and currently. We do not want students to step in, slip on, or track it into our school. City and Animal By-law will be doing checks throughout the school year to help us with these issues. We do ask that you also note that the school is not a place for animals/pets to play during the school day when we have students in session. We have many students who attend our school who have a fear of dogs. We want all students to feel safe during the day. Thank you in advance for your support with the above issues.

While many students are excited about the return to school we also know that some students may also have anxieties about the return. We are here to support your child through these times and to ensure that they have a successful year with us. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns or questions.

Enjoy your last week of summer break and the upcoming long weekend. We look forward to seeing your children next week.

Sincerely,

Tammy Stubbings  
Principal