

1650 – 136 Street
Surrey, B.C.
V4A 4E4
Tel: 604-531-1471
Fax: 604-541-8039

Principal
Ms. J. Howard

Special Dates

Dec. 2
Student Craft Fair
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
In the Gym

Dec. 7
Early Dismissal
1:33 pm
Conferences

Dec. 12 - 16
Lost & Found
Items on Display

Dec. 15
Christmas Concert
1:00 p.m./6:30
p.m.

Dec. 16
Cozy Christmas
Day
Wear P.J.'s

January 3
School Reopens

Academics
Athletics
Attitude
Arts

Building a
Community of
Learners –
Together

Ray Shepherd Elementary School



www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd December, 2016



Student Craft Fair:

The Ray Shepherd Kids Craft Fair will be on Friday, December 2nd from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Everyone in the Ray Shepherd community is encouraged to attend and support our student crafters. Students will be able to set up their homemade crafts at lunchtime and we look forward to some creative crafts on this special day!

Christmas Concert:



We hope that you can join us for our Christmas Concerts on Thursday, December 15th! There will be an afternoon concert at 1:00 pm and an evening concert at 6:30 pm. Ticket order information will be sent out shortly in a separate notice. Classroom teachers may also send out specific information regarding your child's performance. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with this special event!



Christmas Spirit:

* Dec. 16: Cozy Christmas Day – Come to school in your cosiest PJ's and bring your stuffy for company.



Holiday Hampers:

Family profile information for holiday hampers was distributed today. Any donations are greatly appreciated and will be welcomed by families in need. We will be accepting donations until Dec. 9th. If you have a large vehicle that could assist with delivering hampers on Tuesday, Dec. 13th at 1:00 pm, please email Ms. Howard at howard_j@surreyschools.ca. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to assist others!

Toy Donations:

We will also be accepting any new and gently used toys to donate to families in need. If you have toys, games, dolls, etc. that you would like to donate apart from the hamper donation, please bring them in by December 9th!



Me to We:



Christmas is a wonderful time for giving and the Me to We students were busy supporting local and global issues. The initiative for Christmas is for the Me to We team to raise money to support Health in Haiti. In order to raise money, students will be selling “rafiki” (friend in swahili) bracelets for \$10 at the Craft Fair. These lovely bracelets have been crafted in Masai villages by the Mamas. Students will also be selling Me to We cookies for \$2.00 each. All money raised will help to support Masai villages in Kenya as well as health projects in Haiti. If you would like to assist our Me to We team in this global endeavour, please visit the Me to We booth at the Craft Fair on Friday, Dec. 2nd!

Sports Update:

Our volleyball teams have been very busy participating in various games these past few weeks. It's been very exciting watching the kids compete against so many schools and perform so well! The season is just wrapping up and we would like to thank all the parent volunteers and coaches who helped to make this season such a success.



Traffic Reminders:

We continue to have a great deal of traffic congestion around the school. Please be mindful of the signs and **do not park in no parking areas**. It's also important to keep traffic moving in the drop off zones and please do not park in these areas. We have also been notified that there will be sewer line construction work on 136th street near the corner of 16th Avenue for approximately 3 days this week. Please remind and encourage your children to put safety first when walking to school and whenever possible, park further down the street and walk to school to avoid unnecessary congestion. Or, encourage your child to walk, scooter or ride to school so we have fewer cars and less harmful emissions. Thank you for your support with this!



Communicating Student Learning (CSL) and Early Dismissal:

Over the past several months, your child's learning has been captured, shared, and assessed through their FreshGrade portfolio. We hope that by checking this portfolio regularly and having ongoing conversations with your child regarding their learning, you have a good understanding of the progress your child is making, areas requiring further development, and ways you can support learning at home. *Research indicates that, “when parents are involved in talking about learning with their children, the children achieve more. The more parents are involved, the higher the student achievement levels.” (Ann Davies, 2001)* Learning is ongoing, so the purpose of this communication is a quick “check-in” to celebrate successes and to plan for the learning ahead.


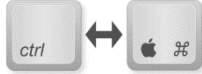
Early dismissals are planned for **1:33 pm on December 7** to facilitate learning conferences that will involve you, your child, and classroom teachers. Please use the online booking instructions to book a time. Instructions are below. You may book your appointment online beginning Dec. 2nd at 9:00 a.m. until Dec. 7th at 10:00 a.m. Prior to this conference, please take some time with your child to find, discuss, and comment on some of the artifacts in their FreshGrade portfolio.

Conferences & Instructions for booking:



There will be an **early dismissal on Wednesday, December 7th at 1:33 pm** for conferences. For information on how to book an appointment, please see instructions below. Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to meet during an available time slot on December 7th.

School Appointments - Parent Instructions (the online system will be available for booking appointments Dec. 2nd, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and will close Dec. 7th, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.)

1. Go to our school appointments website: <http://rayshepherd.schoolappointments.com/>
2. Register for an account by clicking the "REGISTER" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "Register Now" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "Add a Student" button. Click "Insert New" button to add more children.
4. Click the "date" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the "View Calendars" button. Use the "Ctrl" or "Command" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time. 

5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "Book Appointments" button to save your bookings.

Lost and Found:



Our lost and found will be on display the week of Dec. 12-16th and any items not claimed will be donated. Please come by to view lost items!

Pac News:

Hello parents! Thank you so much for your support of our fall fundraisers. Your Purdy's and Poinsettias will be available for pick up at the craft fair. Speaking of the Craft Fair on December 2nd, please come to the gym from 2-4 p.m. and bring some money to purchase our amazing children's creations! They have been working so hard on their crafts and are excited to put them on display for you. Our last PAC meeting for 2016 will be December 13th in the Teachers' Lounge at 8:45 a.m. We hope you have an amazing Christmas holiday and we wish you all a wonderful New Year!

Aimee McDonald
PAC President



Meaningful learning requires personal commitment and partnerships. The most important contributor outside the school is parents or guardians; their participation and interest are crucial to students' motivation and success.

An important part of the work parents do with their child involves the conversations they have with them daily, and interacting with their digital portfolio. Your involvement will strengthen your child's achievement in school.

Examples of parent comments:

This parent connects with their child's ideas and then poses a question to move the child's thinking and learning. The parent has offered an invitation to move the learning deeper.



"Interesting facts about polar bears. You mentioned that polar bears are becoming an endangered species. Scientists are also finding that polar bears aren't growing as big as they were in the past. They believe that global warming is the reason for this. How do you think a warmer Earth can cause Polar bears to become more endangered and smaller as a species?"

"I remember when you signed up to be an "Earth Ranger" last year on their website. You should check it out again!" What was your favourite activity you did at the workshop?"

Another parent makes a comment prizing and acknowledging their child's strengths and work ethic. They share a personal comment about how they are touched by their child's work.



"Putting your best foot forward in everything you do shows how strong, determined, and hard-working you are. I love how you are never swayed to be anything but yourself!"

These parents respond to their child's reflections, acknowledging and prizing his learning. The parents also add an observation regarding the learning demonstrated.

STUDENT:



"In six months I have improved my writing by adding more detail and describing words and my printing is better. I think my stories are more interesting for the reader. For example, you can notice how I try to pull in the reader with my first sentence, like 'I really, really want a dog!' So the reader obviously wants to find out why."

PARENT:



"You have really improved parts of your writing in six months. A strong opening is very important so your Reader wants to continue. I also see how you chose to write three short pieces and drew lines to separate each and made a new title for each write."

Suggested "conversation starters":

Acknowledge the learning:

- *"Today I noticed how you..."*

Make an observation:

- *"I noticed how you..."*

Ask a question:

- *"How did you..."*

Share a feeling or personal or home connection:

- *"Seeing your learning today reminds me of..."*

Offer a suggestion or a next step:

- *"Have you thought about..."*