

Newsletter

June 13, 2019



June 2019

Friday June 14th

Crescent Beach Fieldtrip

8:33-2:25

Tuesday June 18th

Div. 2 & 3 To Keery Park

8:33-10:15

Wednesday June 19th

Parent Appreciation Tea 1:25

Thursday June 20th

Div. 1 Campbell Valley Park

8:33-11:30

Friday June 21st

Hot Lunch – Pizza & Booster

Juice

Tuesday June 25th

Kindergarten Graduation

12:45

Wednesday June 26th

Div. 1 Keery Park

8:45-11:40

Thursday June 27th

Slide Show & Family Picnic

10:45

Early Dismissal at 1:25

Friday June 28th

Administrative Day - School

Closed

September 2019

Tuesday September 3

Schools reopen

10:00 -11:00 Grades 1-5



EAST KENSINGTON OUTDOOR LEARNING

2795 – 184th Street, Surrey, BC V3Z 9V2
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www.surreyschools.ca/schools/eastkensington

Principal: Mr. Chris Baldry
Vice Principal: Ms. Keri Stanger

We are gearing up for the last few weeks of school. It seems like the year has flown by so quickly! The children should feel pride in their academic and social growth. It is amazing how much they have learned in just one year. Together, as educators and parents, we are developing children who care about each other and the environment and who understand that anything worth learning requires effort. We encourage you to continue to spend quality time with your children this summer: read to them every day and listen to them read, talk about numbers and patterns in their environment, go on family trips to the park and the beach, ask more questions than you give answers to foster curiosity, and enjoy this time spent with your children as it goes by so fast!

Next Year

Even as we wrap up this year, we are planning for next year. Next year, we will have one kindergarten class, two grade 1-2 classes and a grade 3-5 class. Along with our current teaching staff returning (Ms. Leclerc, Ms. Leslie, Ms. Stanger, Ms. Bednarz, & Ms. MacDonald), we are excited to welcome our new teacher, Ms. Monika Stahlstrom to teach the older grades. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and passion about the outdoors. We look forward to learning with her as we continue to grow this outdoor program. We will also welcome Ms. Michelle Romanyk who will teach in LST next year.

If your child will not be returning next year, please let Ms. Neithercut in the office know as soon as possible so we can organize the classes accordingly or let parents on the waitlist know they can join us.



Logo and Spirit Wear

This spring, Melanie Watts, Hattie's mom, worked with staff and students to design our new logo. We asked the students what they valued most about our school community. They came up with common values: Being Respectful, Being Open to Learning, and Being Kind to People, Plants and Animals. We asked the students what plants they thought represented our school. They chose the **maple tree** as it grows in the center of our school grounds so it **anchors us to our place** and it **changes and grows** through the seasons like we do. The students chose the **eagle** as our school animal because eagles are intelligent, and, like us, they **set high goals** for themselves as they soar above the rest. **Thank you, Melanie**, for creating the beautiful visual representation of what staff and students value in our wonderful outdoor learning school.

Stay tuned to upcoming **spirit wear** with our new logo coming soon...



Lost and Found

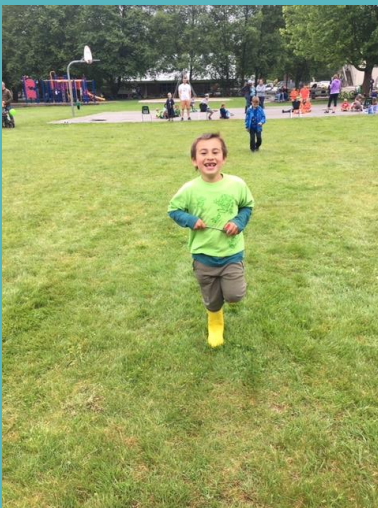
Speaking of clothing, our lost and found bin is overflowing with items. Please take a look through it and reclaim lost clothing. Any clothing still in the bin after the PAC AGM on Wednesday, June 19 will be **donated**.



Grounds Update

The Pergola is approved for use!

After many months of waiting for district approval, city permits and builders to craft a beautiful and sturdy structure, we can officially announce the completion of the Pergola (Outdoor Learning Classroom). We will host the first official use of the pergola at the PAC AGM on June 19. During the summer, we will add learning tables and benches to make the space useable in the 2019/20 school year! Yay!



Gardens

We received a garden grant to purchase six self-watering raised beds. They took some time to prepare: they have wicking material in the bottom that will pull water up from the reservoir into the soil and potentially keep plants watered for one month! We planted the beds last week with bedding plants so we can have something to harvest this year and produce to look forward to in the fall.

I will post a **summer garden sign up** for parents and their children to choose one week during the summer to maintain the gardens and partake in the garden bounty. We ask that you take only what your family could use and keep lots left for others to enjoy.

Wetland water containment system

Mr. Baldry has designed and constructed an amazing water containment system that will water the plants and the ponds in the wetland. Please ensure that your children do not climb onto the structure.

After School Play Etiquette

We are so happy that our families spend time after school with their children to enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces. We do ask that parents supervise their children to ensure that our **equipment is maintained and put away** so that we can all enjoy them the next day and to ensure that grounds maintenance do not have to work around materials left in the field. We also ask that children play at the **large loose parts area only during instructional time** for safety



Parking Lot

The school district sent a parking consultant to look at our traffic situation after school on Monday. I suggested to him that we get the word "School" printed on the road where the school zone sign is. Ecole Martha Currie, which is north on 184th street, has these signs painted on the road and I notice cars slowing down there. I also said it would be good to get Entrance and Exit signs for the parking lot. The consultant said he would look into both of these things. Remember to **enter from 28th avenue** and **exit onto 184th street**. Parents have noticed that some cars are parked quite far away from others. Please **park close to other cars** so more cars can fit in. Consider carpooling as we will have more cars here next year.

Welcome to K

We hosted our future students to the school last week in our welcome to K event. Ms. Leclerc organized some activities and stories so the children could get a sense of what kindergarten will be like and for us to get to know them. Thank you to Ms. Bednarz and Ms. Romanyk who helped supervise the children. Mr. Baldry took the new kindergarten parents on a tour of our outdoor spaces and we answered questions about school. Welcome to all the new people to our growing outdoor school community. We think it is a very special place to learn and grow.

Kindergarten Graduation

On **Tuesday, June 25 at 12:45**, we will honour our kindergarten graduates. This is a time to recognize the milestone of completing the first year of the kindergartens' academic career. **Kindergarten parents and families are welcome to attend.**



Parent Appreciation Tea followed by PAC AGM in the Pergola

On **Wednesday, June 19 at 1:25 pm**, we invite all parents and guardians to come to our parent appreciation tea. Come have some light refreshments as you mingle. We will then thank various members of our wonderful parent community. Ms. Yu will lead the children as they present songs they have prepared for this occasion.

After the tea, we invite all parents and guardians to bring a chair outside to the pergola for the **PAC AGM**. Even if you have not attended a PAC meeting, please join us and meet the people who make all the PAC magic happen. This is the opportunity to vote in next year's PAC executive.

Beach Presentations and Field trip

On Monday, we had folks from the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay give a presentation to our students about beach etiquette and what to expect on our beach field trip Friday. On Friday, we will leave our school at 8:35 am. We will meet at 12160 Beecher Street, Crescent Beach. We will leave the beach at 1:45 pm. **Please ensure your child is on time.** If you are not driving please leave a **proper booster or car seat** for your child to use. The PAC have kindly donated \$150 for Friends of Semiahmoo Bay for their expertise and their time.

Last day: Slideshow and Family Picnic

Our last day of school is Thursday, June 27. We will have a slideshow in the gym at 10:45 am followed by a family picnic on the school grounds. Please bring your own family picnic and picnic blanket or lawn chairs. This will be an informal time to say good-bye as we head off for the summer. **Dismissal is at 1:25 pm.**



PAC NEWS

Our **next Hot Lunch** is Pizza and Booster Juice on Friday June 21st for those that ordered.

Our **Annual General Meeting** is on **Wednesday June 19th at 2:30**. Bring a lawn chair and join us!

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come out. At this meeting, we will be voting in our new executive for next year! Come out and have a say in next year, get involved or just silently watch. Your involvement can be what you want it to be – as little or as much as you can do!!!

AGM
Annual General Meeting

EKOlogy

**East
Kensington
Outdoor
Learning Program**

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