



Bothwell Elementary School

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Ms. Leah Christensen, Principal

June 21, 2021

Just before we head into summer...
Some noteworthy news from Bothwell!

A Word from Your Principal

Year end is filled with many mixed feelings...feelings of pride about what we have learned and accomplished this year – a most demanding, challenging and turbulent year for everyone. We may experience feelings of sadness for leaving one's class, teacher and friends, feelings of gratitude for a staff member who has been a wonderful mentor and support, and perhaps feelings of joy, anticipating the summer vacation and a relaxing of Covid-related restrictions.

I am filled with all of these emotions. Bothwell has been a most gracious, positive and caring place to be, and I am proud to be part of it. I am blessed to work with a tremendously talented and dedicated staff. They care so much about each child – as individuals, and as learners. Students, I am proud to be your Principal, for you demonstrate empathy, curiosity, commitment to learning and to taking care of others each day. Thank you for a wonderful year!

When we come back together in September, we will be able to share all of our summer adventures, and look forward to building new ones together.

LOOKING AHEAD

- June 22 - Grade 7 Celebrations
- Afternoon Fieldtrip to Tynehead
- June 23 - 1:00 pm Teams Live Event – Gr. 7 Virtual Celebration
- June 23 - K-7 Communicating Student Learning Reports home for all students
- June 24 - 9:15 am School Wide Virtual Celebration Assembly
- June 24 - 1:35 pm dismissal and last day of school
- June 25 - First Day of Summer Vacation
- Aug 30 - School is open for new registrations
- Sept 7 - Welcome back! First day of school K-7
- Sept 8 - First full day of school (grades 1-6)
- Sept 20 - First full day for Kindergarten students

Please refer to the calendar on the Bothwell school website for updates or changes:

<http://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/bothwell>



PAC AGM

Wednesday, Sept. 22nd
Time TBA
(in the evening)

(Lost and) Found

Your stuff misses YOU too.



Any unclaimed items will be collected and donated Wednesday after school. Thank you.

Please remind your child to check the lost and found. We have displayed items in the hallway and will roll out any remainders Wednesday afternoon for you to check.

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National Indigenous Peoples Day

JUNE 21



June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of [First Nations](#), [Inuit](#) and [Métis](#) peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many [Indigenous peoples and communities](#) have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

Source: Government of Canada

Several staff at Bothwell, along with members of our Surrey Aboriginal Department, have worked to create a virtual gathering of Indigenous stories, crafts, recipes, language learning and dance. Adrian Bruce, our Aboriginal Child and Youth Care Worker, gathered these links into a virtual *Salh Tumuxw*, our Learning Circle in the Forest Grove at the front of Bothwell.

The link will be sent in a separate email. Please watch for it!

Class Placement for 2021-2022

On the first day of school, students will return to their previous classroom and teacher.

This allows students to check in with their previous teacher, return to a familiar place, and know where they will be on their first day. It can help calm any nerves students may be feeling on their first day back.

Students will then be placed in temporary groupings, rotating to two or three different teachers over the next week. Please plan to send basic supplies (e.g. pencil case and materials) during this first week. We appreciate this rotation can be upsetting for students as they are eager to know their teacher and who is in their class. However, ensuring we have balanced classes, positive peer connections (and not distractions), and take time to consider complex emotional, social and intellectual strengths and needs of children is worth the first several days of the school year. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Parent/guardian requests for a particular teacher or student pairing will not be part of the criteria used in balancing classes. However, please feel free to provide the school with information that can assist in the placement of your child. This information is not about a specific request; rather, it can be about your child's personal, educational or emotional needs that will assist us in helping your child have a successful year of learning and growth.

If parents/guardians wish to provide us with any information, please email Ms. Christensen, or leave a note at the office before the end of the year. Thank you.

KEEP YOUR FACE
always
→ TOWARD THE
sunshine
AND SHADOWS WILL FALL
BEHIND YOU. *walt whitman*

Year End Virtual Events

As you may know, school operations are not considered part of the province's "Four Phase Reopening Plan." While regulations are relaxing in many sectors across the province, at school, we continue to follow all Health and Safety Guidelines that we have all year. This requires that we are not permitted to have parents/guests at the school, we continue to meet virtually, we are not permitted to share food, and students in grades 4 and up are required to wear masks.



We are preparing to share two important virtual events with our parent community:

June 23rd at 1:00 pm – Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony. An invitation has been sent to our database of grade 7 parents/guardians. This event will continue to be accessible virtually for the next 6 months.

June 24th at 9:15 am – Bothwell Year End Celebration Assembly. An invitation has been sent to all parents/guardians. This event will continue to be accessible virtually for the next 6 months.

We look forward to having you join us for these important celebrations!

Sports Day Fun!

Many thanks to all our students who dressed in their team colours, ready for a fun day of games and laughter. We had an outstanding day on Friday!

Students in division 1 were fantastic leaders, encouragers and organisers throughout the entire day. Many thanks to our teachers who planned and organised a Covid-restricted and safe stations and activities. This was not an easy task. Thank you to our lunch supervisors who joined us to help with the primary students in the morning.

Points are being officially tabulated over the weekend and will be revealed to students Monday. However, the real joy was having fun, cheering one another and simply enjoying a beautiful day together.



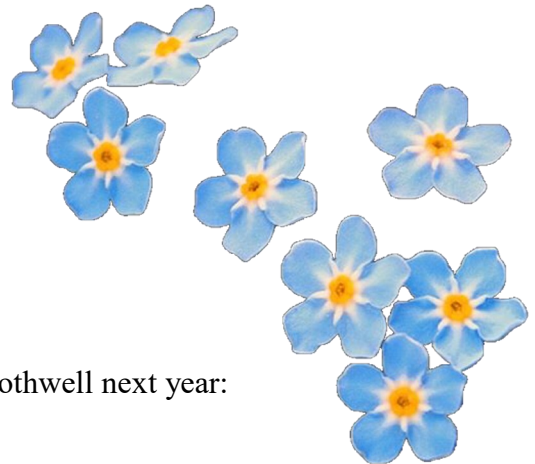


We Wish You All the Best!

Inevitably each year brings changes, and this year we wish to say some special goodbyes. Goodbye to all our Grade Seven students! We will miss you and wish you the best in high school. We shall also be saying goodbye to several students moving to other schools. We hope you carry happy memories of your time at Bothwell and all our very best wishes go with you! Goodbye and thank you to all parents and families who will be leaving the Bothwell community.

Thank you and goodbye to the following staff. Many of these staff were one year term positions at Bothwell. Wherever you go, we wish you the very best along your new adventures; perhaps we will be fortunate to have some of you return in the future:

Ms. Jordan Moore (grade 3/4 term position)
Ms. Alexis Wone (district-based Integration Support Teacher)
Ms. Joan McKellar (district-based Integration Support Teacher)
Ms. Michelle Holowaty (district-based Music)
Ms. Leanne Meyer (Counsellor covering Ms. Allison Maitland's maternity leave)
Ms. Colleen Waddell (Learning Support Teacher job share partner)
Ms. Zainab Buksh (EA, term position)
Ms. Claudia De Prot (EA, term position)
Ms. Debbie Fayese (EA)
Ms. Ashley Kovacs (EA/ABA Support Worker)
Ms. Ashley Stokes (EA, term position)
Ms. Jennefer Wilson (EA, term position)



Congratulations!

Ms. Kristen Hulstein (maternity leave – Library)

Welcome!

We wish to welcome the following new staff members joining Bothwell next year:

Ms. Melissa Cho (grade 3/4)
Ms. Mona Loyla (Integration Support Teacher)
Ms. Elena Ursu (Music and Library)

There are several positions which will be filled over the summer months. Stay tuned!



Supply lists have been posted on our school website (under the "Parents" tab). Please note that some items will be requested by your child's teacher in September following class placements. Thank you for your assistance in purchasing requested items.

September and School Opening

The district has announced that school will be 100% Face to Face in September. We are excited to return to a “near normal” opening and school year ahead. Please see below for further information and links to Ministry press releases.

For Bothwell, please note the dates and times below for our school opening:

- **Week of Aug. 30th:** The office opens for new registrations. Office hours: 8am to 3.30pm.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 7th:** Welcome back! The first day of school schedule is as follows:
 - * 9:00–10:00 am New registrations
 - * 10:00–11:00 am All students, grades 1-7, attend for one hour.
 - * 10:30–11:00 am Kindergarten students attend (outdoors with a parent)
- **Wednesday, Sept. 8th:** Full day of school for grades 1-7
Kindergarten students follow the gradual entry schedule emailed to parents.
- **Monday, Sept.20th:** First full day of Kindergarten

Please note: Classes begin at 8:35 am, and the school day ends at 2:35 pm. A full bell schedule is posted on our school website.

[B.C. gov't anticipates 'near-normal return' for students in September](#)

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Full-time in-class instruction and the elimination of cohorts are on the horizon for the 2021-22 school year as [the Ministry of Education announced Thursday an anticipated "near-normal return"](#) to school life for students, parents, teachers and staff in September with its [K-12 Recovery Plan](#).

"Our students, parents and staff have waited a long time for this moment, and we are excited to see a return to a more normal way of life in our classrooms, our schools and our communities," said Surrey Board of Education Chair Laurie Larsen. "It is because of their hard work, effort and vigilance throughout the past year that the province is able to make this announcement today, and we thank you for your dedication to the health and safety of everyone in our schools."

As the B.C. Restart Plan continues to unfold amid high vaccination rates and low school-based transmissions, the provincial government announced that students across the province can expect to learn in classrooms full time and no longer be grouped into cohorts.

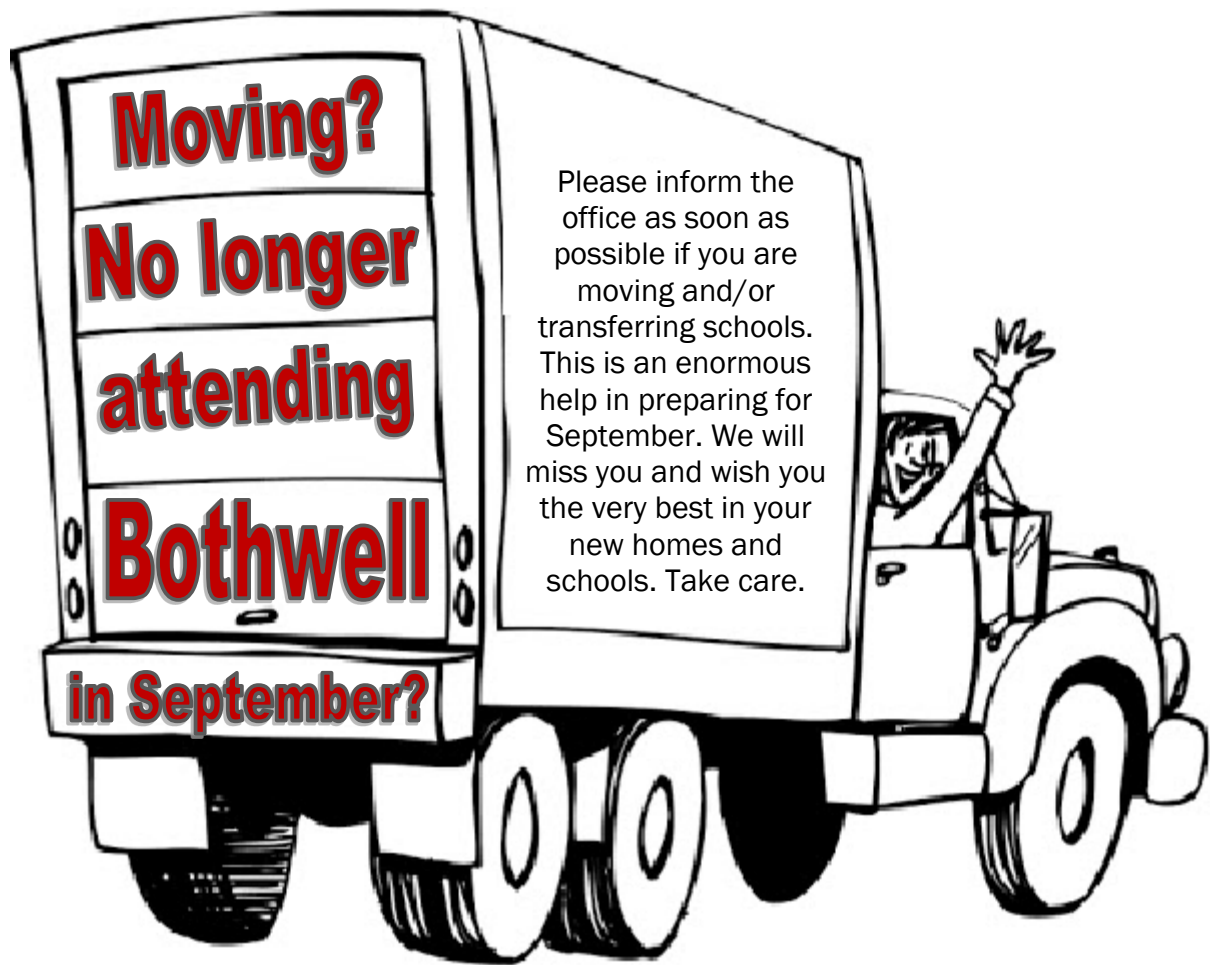
Guidance on mask usage in school settings will be determined later this summer, in alignment with broader provincial direction for the fall and winter. Students will still be required to practice frequent hand hygiene, complete [daily health checks](#) and stay home if they are feeling sick. Public health teams and school health officers will continue to monitor and track COVID-19 cases in schools and the community, and provide support and guidance with the return in the fall.

In the summer, the provincial K-12 education steering committee, the Ministry and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) will review and finalize school safety plans for the fall. The current [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) will be replaced by updated guidelines in August.

For more information, please see the following links:

[Provincial news release announcing plans for September](#)
[BCCDC Outlook for 2021-22 School Year](#)

Students will be placed in temporary grade groupings which will continue until classes are set. We will work as quickly as possible to form classes. This often takes a full week or more. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the complex process of placing students. Staff is committed to organizing classes which are balanced in terms of student strengths and needs.



Have a brilliant summer!

We'll miss you!

**See you September 7th ready for a wonderful
year of learning and exploration!**



**HAPPY
SUMMER**