

May Newsletter 2021

Message from the Principal

We have arrived at May and have about 7 weeks left of school. I continue to thank families for their cooperation and support in keeping our school safe. We could not have come this far without the support of our community. The staff sends out sincere appreciation for the coffee and treats from PAC on May 5th-Teacher Appreciation Day. A wonderful surprise and treat!

I hope that all of the mothers in our community were celebrated this weekend. Mothers are very special people who we hold dearly in our hearts. I hope you had a happy Mother's Day and Thank you for all that you do for all of us! An especially big Happy Mother's Day to Ms. Cheema who had a healthy baby boy on May 4th. Ms. Grewal is not far behind on her way to becoming a mother too. We wish both new Mums all the best.

These next few weeks of the school year will fly by; they always seem to be gone in a blink of an eye. We have Grade 7 students getting ready for their high school experience while the new little Kindergarteners experience "Ready Set Learn" opportunities. Some of our year end traditions will look different than in past years. The Primary teachers are organizing a fun games day rather than the traditional Sports Day as we work to keep our classes in their own learning cohort. More information will be coming shortly from your child's teacher. Unfortunately Parents will not be able to observe and cheer on at this event as they have at Sports Days in the past. The Grade 7 Year End Celebrations will also look different to as we work to adhere to District COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Even though these next weeks will have different experiences, the learning will be the same and there will still be fun opportunities! Hopefully next year we will be able to experience our William Watson traditions again.

Important Dates:

May Dates:

May 14th Early Dismissal 1:30 (Not a Meet the Teacher Event)

May 20th "Opposites" Spirit Day.

May 24th Victoria Day (No school)

May 31st Non-Instructional Day (No school for students)

June Dates:

The first week of June is Bike to School Week

June 3 - Spirit Day...bring your passion to school

*Do you collect rocks, love history, or origami?? Bring something to school that shows us your passion!

June 7th Early Dismissal 1:30 (Not Meet the Teacher)

June 16th Grade 7 Year End Celebration Event

June 24th Last Day of School

Summer Begins!



Playgrounds Closed Before and After School

In order to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19, our playgrounds are closed until further notice after school. All students are to arrive just before school start time and leave school property immediately after school.

Thank you for your help with this. We work very hard all day to maintain students in cohorts, so it is key that this work is not being undone before and after school. Students will have ample time to play on the playground safely within their cohort groups when they are at school. We understand how challenging these restrictions have all been. We are almost there. Thank you for your understanding and for your help in keeping everyone safe.

New Playground News!

The new playground equipment was ordered April 30th. At this time Habitat Systems Inc. has the installation tentatively scheduled to start July 14th. Exciting times! Thank you to past and present PACs for their continued support and enthusiasm in raising funds for the new playground. Also a big thank you to parents who donated, or participated in the various fundraisers throughout the years as we worked towards this exciting moment. We are all looking forward to seeing the new playground.



**A Partnership Event Hosted by the Surrey School District 36 and
The Wishing Star Lapointe Developmental Clinic**

Save the Date: Wednesday May 19, 2021

Time : 7:00pm-8:30pm

Parenting 2.0 Workshop The Wishing Star Lapointe Developmental Clinic

Surrey School District is excited to invite members of our amazing parent community to Parenting 2.0. If you have a child that attends any of our Surrey Schools, YOU are invited!

Parenting 2.0 is a new and revolutionary approach to parenting. Based on the science of child development and their over 50 years combined experience, parenting educators Dr. Vanessa Lapointe, R. Psych., and Mr. David Loyst, MSc have developed this course to share what it takes to grow resilient children.

Come join us for an interactive learning experience to understand the needs of your child, and to reflect on your parenting and the challenges you face. Leave with tools so that you can begin the journey to becoming the parent you've always wanted to be, and with that, growing your children in the best possible way.

For parents who are unable to watch the presentation LIVE, a link to a recording of the event will be sent to all registered participants. Save the date, you will not be disappointed. See you all there!

To sign up – click [here or the link below!](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/parenting-20-brought-to-you-by-the-wishing-star-and-sd36-tickets-153364883495>

If you have any questions, email Daniel To at to_d@surreyschools.ca



Bike to School Week

We are excited to participate in Bike to School Week again alongside over 100 other schools in 14 municipalities across Metro Vancouver! We are encouraging our students to ride their bike to school each day this week. There are student contests where students can enter a short video about biking, walking, or rolling around our community for a chance to win great prizes in seven categories. Submission deadline is Sunday June, 6, 2021. Learn more and Register at bikehub.ca/BikeReels or [click here](#). Prizes include a mentorship with Vancouver Film Studios



Grade 7 Year End Celebrations

This year will look different. Since visitors are not allowed in the schoolhouse we will be live streaming the event for parents. We know having our children move from Grade 7 into high school is a milestone moment for both parents and children alike and we agonized about ways we could make it work so that parents could be a part of this exciting milestone. But the Surrey School District has strict COVID-19 health and safety protocols which is keeping our students, staff and families safe. We will be live streaming the event, as well as video recording the event for Grade 7 families. We recognize this is not the same as past years, but we have an obligation to keep working towards the safety of the children and staff. We have some fun days planned for the Grade 7 students and we know they won't be disappointed.



Additional Early Dismissals

The following one-hour early dismissal dates for this school year were approved by the Surrey School Board at its meeting on April 14, 2021:

May 14th 2021

June 7th 2021

These early dismissals provide an opportunity for school staff to review and revisit health and safety plans, discuss recommendations, and implement or adjust any COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Thank you PAC

The current PAC executive team is drawing to the end of their 2-year term. They are seeking a new executive to transition to the next 2 years. Please contact the PAC if you are interested and they can guide you and answer any questions you might have. There is a PAC meeting on May 12th. The meeting will be held outside by the school flag pole physically distanced. Let's hope for good Spring weather. More details will be coming out shortly. In the meantime you can **always stay connected with PAC at the [PAC Website](#)**

You may have seen some flowers blooming in our garden bins. PAC supported our students with a budget for plants and soil. The bins each have a theme. One bin will have Native to BC plants, another

will have flowering bulbs, there will be a bee friendly pollinator bin, Another bin will be set up for scientific experiments. The area is designed to be an outdoor learning space and already there is art on the wall inside the school where children have been out observing, sketching, and painting the flowers as they bloom. Grandma Pelzer made a generous donation of gloves, trowels and other children friendly gardening tools! We have already got them dirty. Thank you!!



COVID Mouth Rinse/Gargle Test Kit

COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle Test Kits available to symptomatic students at all schools in the Surrey School District

Effective May 6th, COVID-19 mouth rinse/gargle test kits will be available in all schools in the Surrey School District.

BC Children's Hospital and Fraser Health are making these test kits available for any student who becomes symptomatic during the school day.

As is practice, if a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student will be safely isolated, and we sincerely appreciate families collecting their child as soon as possible. A kit will be offered to the parent/guardian to take home when the child is picked up.

Instructions on how to administer the test at home are included in the kit. The sample can be dropped off at any [LifeLabs location](#) for processing. Results from these tests will be received through the same processes as tests taken at COVID-19 test centres.

Acceptance of a kit is voluntary and solely a parent's or guardian's decision. We recognize that not all parents will be able to drop off a kit at LifeLabs in a timely manner, and not all students will be amenable to a test. The test kit is optional and completely voluntary.

The availability of this test kit is yet another way that the Surrey School District is working with partners in public health to safely keep our schools open.

The health and safety of students and staff remains our first priority and we thank our staff, students and larger school community for their vigilance and commitment to our [health and safety protocols](#).

Please continue to monitor your child(ren) for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) before sending them to school each day. **If they have any symptoms, children should remain at home.**

For more information on testing, please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control Testing Information website](#).

We sincerely appreciate your continued support in keeping the William Watson Elementary community safe!

We continue to be vigilant with COVID protocols. We have been reminding all children of the importance of wearing a mask while in common areas such as the hallways and washing or sanitizing their hands. All students in Grade 4-7 should be wearing a mask at all times. The students are taking all of the new protocols in stride. The District continues to support William Watson's community safety with a day custodian who regularly disinfects high touch surfaces throughout the school and classrooms.

