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Principal  
Ms. J. Howard

Special Dates

**May 4**  
Hot Lunch Day  
(Cancelled on the 5<sup>th</sup>)

**May 5**  
Ready, Set, Learn  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Ray Shepherd Only  
Track Meet  
9:15 - 2:30 p.m.

**May 6**  
Pro-D Day  
No School

**May 10**  
Ray Shepherd vs.  
Crescent Pk.  
Track Meet  
(after school)

**May 17**  
PAC Mtg.  
8:45 a.m. - Staffroom

**May 18**  
Student Led Conferences  
Early Dismissal  
1:38 p.m.

**May 18-20**  
Art Show

**May 19**  
Parent Tea

**May 23**  
Victoria Day  
(no school)

**May 25**  
Young Entrepreneurs  
in gym

**May 28**  
May Fair

**May 30**  
Pro-D Day  
(no school)

# Ray Shepherd Elementary School



[www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd](http://www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd)

April 29, 2016

## Sports Update:

Our badminton season has wrapped up and track and field has begun! Students had a very successful badminton season and we want to thank all coaches and parent volunteers for supporting our students. Next week we have our Ray Shepherd only track meet on May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to assist, please email Mrs. Lambert at [lambert\\_g@surreyschools.ca](mailto:lambert_g@surreyschools.ca). Parents are welcome to come and cheer your child on.



## Early Dismissal/Student-Led Conferences:

We will be having an early dismissal day on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:38 pm. This is a time when students are invited to bring their parents in to showcase their work throughout the year and take their parents on a tour. Your child's classroom teacher will notify you regarding their student-led conference schedule times.

## School Supply Orders:

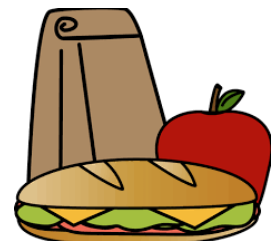


Edu-PAC school supply order forms for 2016/17 went home last week. They are due back to school by **Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit your order, if you would like to purchase school supplies through Edu-PAC, for next year. Purchasing through the school is optional and parents who wish to shop for their child's supplies are asked to use the Edu-PAC school supply lists as their shopping guide.

## Hot Lunch Change:

Our regularly scheduled hot lunch date of May 5<sup>th</sup> has been **changed to May 4<sup>th</sup>** due to a scheduling conflict with the Ray Shepherd only Track Meet.

Please ensure a lunch is sent with your child on May 5<sup>th</sup> and if they ordered hot lunch, it will come on May 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Art Show:

We will be hosting a school wide Art Show from May 18-20<sup>th</sup> to showcase the wonderful talents of our students. Halls, classrooms and the gym will be decorated with beautiful art projects that have been created by our students throughout the year. Art work will be on display during student led conferences on May 18<sup>th</sup> until 7:00 pm. It will also be open for viewing on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 am. We hope you will come and view the beautiful displays throughout the school!

## Parent Tea:

Our "Monet's Garden" parent appreciation event is scheduled for Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 - 2:30. An invitation will be going home soon to parents who have volunteered in the school. Please RSVP to classroom teachers if you are able to attend. If you, by chance, do not receive an invitation, please email our office clerk Karen Fox at [fox\\_k@surreyschools.ca](mailto:fox_k@surreyschools.ca) to confirm your attendance. We would like to thank all the sensational volunteers who have helped support our school all year!



## Young Entrepreneurs Project:

Over the past couple weeks, Div. 1, 2 and 3 have been learning how to start and manage their own companies through the Young Entrepreneur Program. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the students of this program will show off their recently acquired business skills by selling and marketing their products in the gym. They will be on display at different booths from 12:45-2:30 pm. You are invited to attend this special Young Entrepreneur Show to browse the products and maybe even buy a few. If you would like to attend with your child, please contact their classroom teacher to see when their class will be going through the display. Please show your support by coming to browse the students' hard work!

## Guests from China:

We will be having some guests from China visiting our school from May 2-5<sup>th</sup>. Students and teachers from Jihnhua Huancheng Elementary School will be coming to learn about the Canadian school system and Canada. We have student ambassadors hosting and will be holding a welcoming assembly on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 if anyone would like to attend.

## Class Placements:

Parents are welcome to provide the school with personal, educational or social information which could assist in decisions regarding class placement for September 2016. If you have information that would be important for us to consider based on the above criteria, **please submit a letter addressed to the principal by May 20th, 2016**. A request for a specific teacher or class is not appropriate. Although we consider all information provided, placement requests can not be guaranteed. Please refer to the attached Class Organization district information sheet for more information on how classes are organized.



## Clothing Bin:

Our clothing bin in the parking lot has been removed for a short time, but do not worry, it is being replaced with a new one shortly. So sorry for the inconvenience as many of you are doing spring clean up. We are hopeful it will be returned in the coming weeks.

## Library Update:

April has been a very exciting month in the library. The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success and we would like to thank all the students and parents for supporting this literacy initiative. Many new books were purchased for the library learning commons and the funds raised will help to purchase more books and fund different literacy projects. I would like to especially thank our dedicated library monitors and teachers who volunteered to work long hours to make our book fair run smoothly. In other exciting news, students are finishing up reading both the Surrey Picture Books of the Year as well as the Surrey Books of the Year. By the end of the April we will know which picture book is Ray Shepherd's favourite and by the middle of May students who have read 5 or more of the Surrey Books will be invited to the voting and pizza party. Lastly, all library books will be due to the library learning commons by June 9<sup>th</sup>. If your son or daughter currently has a lost book please help him or her to find it or send the money to have it replaced. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to come to the library learning commons.

## May Fair Update:

Raffle tickets have gone home with all students and some booklets have already been sold! Once all tickets are sold in a booklet, students should return their booklet to their classroom teacher and if they would like another booklet, teachers can provide one. There is also a conveners meeting on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:45 am. If you are a convener for the May Fair, please try to attend!

As students settle into their new classrooms, we are often asked how decisions are made regarding the organization of classes.

Placement of students is determined by the following criteria:

- student intellectual, social and emotional development
- learning styles and strengths of students
- degree of independence in student work habits
- integration of students with special needs
- separating students who do not work well together
- maintaining appropriate teacher-student ratios

As much as is possible, attempts are made to have balanced class sizes. The composition of students in a particular class as determined by these criteria may provide compelling reasons for having one class smaller and another larger.

Some small groups are deliberately kept together if they form a unique group for instructional purposes, as in the case of ESL students. Gender and social compatibility are also considered. We try to ensure that there are close to an equal number of boys and girls and that some who are positive leaders are included in each class.

We take pride in the diversity of students enrolled in our public schools. Therefore, children who exhibit learning disabilities, as well as others with vision or hearing disadvantages are included and considered in the organizational plan. While participating in regular classrooms, these children receive additional support and assistance in their learning programs from specialist teachers in regular classrooms and resource rooms. These students may also receive assistance from trained teacher assistants and/or a helping teacher.

The placement of students must be determined through school-based professional evaluations. Teachers have knowledge of the academic needs of children and therefore can best determine where individual children should be placed.

Parents are often able to provide the school with important information that can assist in the placement of students. Parents should advise the school of personal, educational or social information which could affect a child's placement. However, a request for a specific teacher or class is not appropriate.

After discussion with staff members and administration, some initial decisions regarding student placements are made in June. These early placements are subject to the realities of the number of students that appear in September. Even then, numbers can change during that first month, requiring changes in the first weeks of school. This is why principals say class assignments are temporary during the first part of September.

Children are sometimes unhappy with their placement and may need parent support to gain understanding and acceptance. Generally, our experience is children easily adjust within the first few weeks, and it is in everyone's best interest when parents help to facilitate this adjustment.

Home and school support and cooperation in explaining to children the need for the changes has shown the most positive results and encouragement for students adapting to a new classroom.

If your child has been reassigned to a new classroom grouping, please help to make the transition a positive experience.