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Principal  
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# Ray Shepherd Elementary School



[www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd](http://www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd) May, 2017

## Special Dates

May 5

**Non-Instructional Day**

School Not in Session

May 9

**Elections in the Gym**

May 16

**PAC Mtg.**

8:45 a.m.

Staffroom

**Mad Hatter**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Gym

May 17

**Special Ed.**

**Track Meet**

South Surrey

Athletic Park

May 22

**Victoria Day**

School Not in Session

May 24

**Crescent Park**

**Invitational Track Meet**

**School Panorama Photo**

May 26

**Welcome to K**

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

May 29

**Non-Instructional Day**

School Not in Session

May 29-June 2

**Bike to School Week**

May 31

**District Track Meet**

Bear Creek Park

June 1

**Parent Tea**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Library

**Academics**

**Athletics**

**Attitude**

**Arts**

**Building a Community  
of Learners – Together**

## 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. We look forward to our last event of track and field this month!



## School Supply Orders:



Edu-PAC school supply order forms for 2017/18 went home last week. They are due back to school by **Wednesday, May 10<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.

## Parent Tea:

Our parent appreciation event is scheduled for Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. 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!



## Class Placements:

Teachers take considerable time and effort to develop class organizations that are best for student learning. They consider student intellectual/social/emotional development, integration of special needs, separating students who don't work well, maintaining appropriate teacher-student ratios and various other considerations. It is a very thoughtful process and teachers have the knowledge and experience to best determine where individual children should be placed. If you have information that would be important for us to consider, please submit a letter addressed to the principal by **May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**. A request for a specific teacher or class is not appropriate. Although we consider all information provided, placement requests cannot be guaranteed. Please see attached district information sheet for more information on how classes are organized.



## Library Update:

April was a very exciting month in the library learning commons. 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 school 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. The grade 2/3 girl's and parent's book club finished with our last reading selection, "Inside Out and Back Again". This has been a wonderful family book club and we will continue to have it again next year. Thank you to all the parents who supported their daughters with this activity. 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 May we will know which picture book and novel are Ray Shepherd's favourite. Lastly, all library books will be due to the library learning commons by June 15<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.



## PAC News:

Our PAC is very excited to announce that they will be hosting an internet safety evening for parents on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This event **will** help parents to pro-actively understand the enabling power of digital technology and mobile communications, but also share ways to help mitigate a son or daughter from engaging in high risk/un-desirable online behaviour. Please see attached flyer to register.



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.

# **“Home Of The White Hatter”**

## **Internet/Social Media Safety and Digital Literacy Education 101 For Parents**

Helping Parents To Pro-Actively Understand The Enabling Power Of Digital Technology and Mobile Communications, But Also Sharing Ways To Help Mitigate A Son or Daughter From Engaging In High Risk/Un-Desirable Online Behaviour

### **Topic: Internet Safety For Parents**

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Ray Shepherd Gymnasium

Registration: Please email Karen Fox at [fox\\_k@surreyschools.ca](mailto:fox_k@surreyschools.ca) if you would like to attend.

This **award winning** Social Media/Internet Safety and Digital Literacy 101 presentation, will provide important information that parents need to know to help to keep their children safer, increase their privacy and protect their on-line digital footprint. Some topics discussed in this presentation include:

- \* Parental risk management
- \* Why parents need to be good role models
- \* When to be concerned when your child is on-line
- \* The four step process to Internet safety that all parents should know
- \* Hardware/Software monitoring/protection issues
- \* Internet Chat abbreviations and acronyms all parents should be aware of

For more information on this presentation, please view their website at:

<http://www.personalprotectionsystems.ca/internet/internet-safety-parents.html>

- \* This event is made possible by the Ray Shepherd and Ocean Cliff PAC.
- \* Please Note: This is an event for parents only. No child minding will be provided.