



# Berkshire Park Elementary School

15372 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 1E3  
[www.surreyschools.ca/berkshirepark](http://www.surreyschools.ca/berkshirepark)

Phone: (604) 583-7305  
Fax: (604) 582-2967  
Principal: Mr. D. Lam

**NEWSLETTER #2: September 7, 2021**

## Message from Mr. Lam



Welcome back! It was wonderful to see the students come in through our doors today. I trust everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. We are looking forward to reconnecting with our school community and embarking on an exciting and meaningful school year together. There is likely a range of feelings and expectations as we start a new school year. As always, our top priority is our students' safety and well-being. Thank you for following the health and safety guidelines outlined in the previous newsletter, which is now posted on our school's web site at [www.surreyschools.ca/berkshirepark](http://www.surreyschools.ca/berkshirepark).

The beginning of a new school year is a good time to reaffirm to our community the goals and expectations of the school. Berkshire Park offers a well-rounded program in order to help meet the needs of the children. The school maintains high expectations for students in terms of academic achievement and development of good citizenship skills.

As a school, we welcome parent involvement and appreciate volunteers who give their extra time to help enhance the learning experiences of our students at Berkshire Park. Through faithful fundraising efforts, we plan to provide our students with excellent learning opportunities both in and out of the school building for this upcoming school year. The PAC are looking for new parents willing to step up and help them out. We look forward to meeting many of you next week at our Meet the Teacher Night on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. More details to follow on the format for our meeting.

## FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL:

For the remaining days of this week (Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>), students should bring their pencil box, water bottle, running shoes, a snack for recess, and a lunch. Full school supplies can be brought into the school the following week. Each day this week, students will enter and exit the building as outlined below:

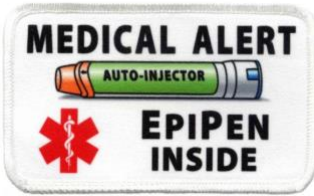
Grade 1	Room 206	Ms. Le
Grade 2	Room 202	Ms. Welch/Ms. Rakhra
Grade 3	Gym	South exterior doors off the basketball courts
Grade 4	Room 404	Ms. Rawlings
Grade 5	Room 215	Mr. Ferguson
Grade 6	Room 205	Ms. Gallello/Ms. Wilk
Grade 7	Room 201	Ms. Chen
MACC	Room 210	Mr. Allinger





## IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	First day of school (10:00-11:00)
Wednesday, Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	First full day of classes (8:30-14:30)
Thursday, Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher Night (17:30-18:30)
Friday, Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Run (a.m.)
Monday, Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Tuesday, Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Shirt Day
Wednesday, Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Day
Thursday, Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Truth & Reconciliation Day (no school)



**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:** If your child has a life-threatening medical condition, this is a reminder to inform the school and familiarize us with any emergency care or medication they may need. If medication is needed, you must complete a "Medical Alert" form (available at the office), and the prescription medication will be stored in the office.



**NO NUTS PLEASE:** there are quite a few students and a staff member that have life-threatening allergies to tree nuts. Please do not send any food items to school with your children that would include tree nuts, such as Nutella. In many classrooms, peanut butter can also be quite dangerous for some of our students. Thank you for your understanding.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND PLANNERS

If you have not yet purchased school supplies, lists are available on our school's website. We are asking parents of kindergarten students to provide **\$25** for their school supplies. We have also ordered planners for students in grade 1-7, and the cost this year is **\$5.00**. Once classes have been set, we will send instructions home on how you can pay for these items online since the district, as a whole, is moving away from cash and/or cheques.



## CLASS ORGANIZATION

Students will be kept in grade groups for the next few days, allowing the staff to review our class organization based on the number of new registrations as well as the number of students who did not return to Berkshire Park. The criteria listed below is used to guide the decisions made by the staff, including last year's teacher, this year's teacher of the grade in question, other staff members, and the principal. Your patience in this process is very much appreciated.

### 1. Academic Ability of the student:

- We try to balance the classes so that each class is made up of students of varying abilities.

### 2. Gender:

- As much as possible, classes are formed with equal numbers of boys and girls.

### 3. Social/Behavioural Characteristics:

- Students with behaviour concerns are balanced among the classes because they require extra teacher time and attention.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Please remember to phone the school at 604-583-7305 if your child is going to be absent. We have an answering line for calls made outside of school hours. This will help us save a considerable amount of time at the office each morning. We need to work together to make sure your child has arrived safely at school each morning. In addition, if you are picking up your child for an appointment during school hours, please be sure to report to the office.

## BELL SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m.	Supervision starts
8:25 a.m.	Welcome bell
8:30 a.m.	Morning classes begin
10:10 a.m.	Recess
10:25 a.m.	Return to class
11:45 p.m.	Lunch (15 minutes to eat)
12:00 noon	Lunch bell to go outside
12:30 p.m.	Afternoon classes begin
2:30 p.m.	Classes dismissed
2:45 p.m.	Supervision over



## TRAFFIC CONGESTION

We would like to encourage more families to please walk or cycle to school to help with the traffic congestion, especially with construction happening around the school. The drop off bay by the kindergarten classrooms and the drop off zone in the main parking lot will be strictly for pick-up and drop off only. Please pull forward and do not leave your cars unattended at any time out of consideration for others, and we must think of SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE. As construction moves on to 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue in October, parts of the street in front of the school will be closed off by the city. As the project progresses, we will receive updates.

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Did you know Surrey Schools do not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities? Optional student accident insurance is available through private companies of your choice. Parents and guardians have the opportunity to voluntarily purchase accident insurance through the "Insure My Kid" program. For complete plan details, please visit [insuremykids.com](http://insuremykids.com) where you can purchase the coverage and access the claims forms.



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

If daily reading begins in infancy, by the time the child is five years old, he or she has been fed roughly 900 hours of brain food! Reduce that experience to just 30 minutes a week and the child's hungry mind loses 770 hours of nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and stories. A kindergarten student who has not been read aloud to could enter school with less than 60 hours of literacy nutrition. Research has shown that children who are read to or read at home regularly, do significantly better at school than those who do not engage in a home reading practice.

## Starting fresh

### Getting back into school routines

Over the summer, children often develop different schedules; staying up later, sleeping in, eating at various times. As summer comes to a close it's time to start thinking about getting the kids back into a school routine. The following tips may be helpful as you prepare your children to go back to school

- Ease the transition into school-time hours by starting the countdown about one to two weeks before school begins. Get the kids back into their daily routine by reverting to their old bedtime, or perhaps creating a new one depending on the developmental age of your child.
- Dust the cobwebs from the alarm clock and begin getting the children up about 15 minutes earlier every couple of days until they are up at the required time for school. You know your child's habits in the morning, so guide the "wake-up" time accordingly. Some children will need more time in the morning than others.
- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Over the summer when children may be sleeping in a little later, sometimes that first meal gets lost into brunch or even lunch. Try to re-establish a regular routine of whatever is appropriate in your home for a healthy breakfast.
- For young children, about one week before school starts do a "dry run." Get the kids up early and go through a morning routine as if they had school that day. Walk the children to school for the regular start time, then spend some time at the school. The kids may want to play on the playground, or you could prepare a snack to share together on the grounds. This is a good time to reinforce routes and safety precautions they need to take when walking to and from school.
- Talk to your children about things they are looking forward to when they start back to school. You can even write up a list, or have them create a picture of an activity they will soon be able to enjoy.
- Remember that children model what they see in their parents. If parents are anxious or worried, their child can become anxious or worried as well. If parents are positive and encouraging about the start of a new school year, then their child is also likely to view it with excitement.

Please contact the administration at your school if you have any questions or concerns regarding the start of the new school year.

**School boundary information - 604-592-4272**