



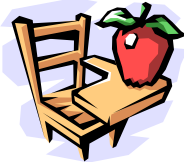
# Berkshire Park Elementary School

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Principal: Mr. D. Lam

**NEWSLETTER #6: October 1, 2021**

## Message from Mr. Lam



We are happy to announce that we raised \$1,271 for cancer research during the Terry Fox run. We will have an extended recess and something fun for the students to watch sometime next week to celebrate meeting our fundraising goals. It was nice to be able to run around the neighbourhood this year. Thank you for your financial donations and to those of you who were also able to help out physically on the day of the run. It was also wonderful to see many of you on Meet the Teacher night.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Surrey Board of Education met with Fraser Health's Medical Health Officer responsible for schools to discuss masking, vaccinations, testing and exposure notifications. At that time, the Board made a decision to expand the provincial mask mandate to include all students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Earlier today, the provincial government announced that these measures will be in place province-wide effective Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. You can see the government news release on the provincial mandate [here](#).

**This means that all staff and students (K-12) must wear a mask when inside a school or on a bus.**

Most of our younger children have already been wearing their masks to school. We recognize this will be a change for some, so we will work closely with our students on mask wearing in a positive manner and ensure all of our students continue to have access to non-medical face masks.

The Board of Education also discussed additional measures including vaccination clinics, testing, and notifications:

- **School-based Vaccine Clinics:** The Board of Education will partner with Fraser Health to examine hosting vaccine clinics in our schools for the purpose of increasing vaccination rates in our communities where rates are low. These clinics will only be available to our school communities - staff, students and their families.
- **COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle test kits:** The Board will promote the use of [take-home COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle Sample Collection kits](#) to families with children who become symptomatic while at school. This initiative will help increase access to testing and work towards preventing COVID-19 transmission in the school environment.
- **Notifications:** Families are now able to access COVID-19 exposures on the [Fraser Health website](#). Fraser Health will post the school name and date(s) of exposure on their website [here](#). Our Board will continue to work with Fraser Health to do all we can to ensure that notification processes are timely, transparent, and include information about clusters.

We would like to thank Fraser Health for their continued partnership and expertise during this pandemic, and our school community for your support.

Interim report cards should be coming home to you either on October 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, students will be dismissed early at 1:30 p.m. The purpose for this early dismissal day is for parent/teacher conferences, if needed after reading through the interim reports. The classroom teachers will provide you with more information closer to the date on how you can sign up for an appointment.

On behalf of the staff, I want to wish you all the very best Thanksgiving with your loved ones. Even though we are still dealing with this virus, we are thankful for the many blessings we experience each day. I am thankful for being part of such a fantastic learning community and for every day the children are able to enter into the school building to learn with their peers.

### Some Important Dates for 2021-2022:

#### **Non-Instructional Days**

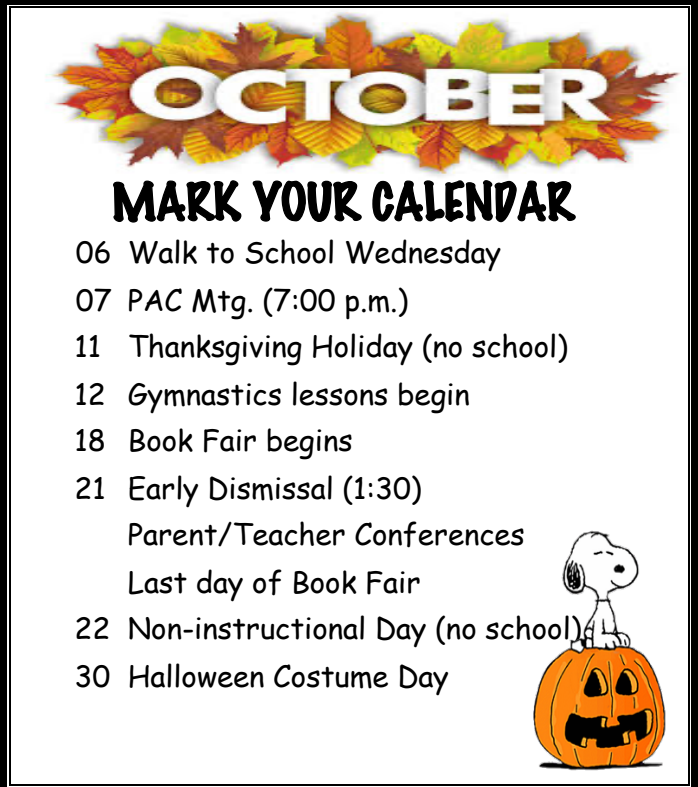
Monday, September 27, 2021  
Friday, October 22, 2021  
Friday, November 12, 2021  
Friday, February 25, 2022  
Friday, May 6, 2022  
Monday, May 30, 2022

#### **Early Dismissal Dates**

Students dismissed 1 hour early (1:30 p.m.) on:  
Thursday, October 22, 2021  
Tuesday, February 3, 2022  
Thursday, June 2, 2022  
Thursday, June 23, 2022

#### **Winter & Spring Breaks:**


Winter Break: Dec. 20 to Dec. 31, 2021  
Spring Break: March 14 to March 25, 2022



**OCTOBER**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- 06 Walk to School Wednesday
- 07 PAC Mtg. (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)
- 12 Gymnastics lessons begin
- 18 Book Fair begins
- 21 Early Dismissal (1:30)  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Last day of Book Fair
- 22 Non-instructional Day (no school)
- 30 Halloween Costume Day





### WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

On Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, we are encouraging all "Berkshire Broncs" to either walk or roll to school. This includes biking, roller blading, scooters, etc. Please make sure they have their bike helmets on. Once the students arrive on school grounds, they are to look for a student leader with a clipboard to earn a house point. The student leaders will be in two locations: at the front of the school and at the back on the basketball courts. We would like the students to be able to earn house points on the first Wednesday of the next few months simply by walking or "rolling" to school with the hope that this will become a regular habit in an attempt to cut down traffic congestion and to promote a healthy lifestyle. If students bring a bike, please provide a bike lock as well.



## PARKING LOT CLOSURE

Please note the parking lot will be closed on the first Wednesday of October, November, and December, except for staff parking. If you need to drive, please park on the side streets and walk your children in. Please do not block the driveways of private residences. The parking lot gates are also closed every day after school until the school bus has had an opportunity to enter the parking lot. We appreciate your cooperation for safety over convenience.

## GYMNASTICS, CURLING & HIP HOP

This year, we are allowed to bring in outside instructors for the children to enjoy some extra fun learning experiences. We are going to start with Delta Gymnastics coming in and providing the children 3 lessons in the gym. The instructor, together with the classroom teachers, will be going over safety protocols on how to use the equipment properly and will be following COVID health and safety precautions as well. PAC will be using some of the fundraising money to help cover the cost of these events. A letter will be coming with more information regarding this. A permission slip will also need to be signed by parents/guardians for the children to participate in the gymnastics lessons. Other activities planned are curling lessons sometime after Christmas and Hip Hop lessons in May.



## BIRTHDAY TREATS FOR CLASSROOMS

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, communal birthday treats to be shared with classmates are not allowed. This includes sharing of any kind of food for class parties or functions, unless they are individually wrapped.



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## HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES:

Halloween this year is on a Sunday. Students and staff will be dressing up in their costumes on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. This year, we are happy to be able to do our parade through the school. Each classroom teacher will be planning some fun activities for that day. Just a reminder, students may not bring replicas of weapons to school. We will also be taking class photos of the students outside.



## FIRST PAC MEETING:

The first PAC meeting is scheduled for this upcoming Thursday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over zoom on Thursday evening.



Meeting link: [zoom.us/j/99360890094?pwd=ekNESH...](https://zoom.us/j/99360890094?pwd=ekNESH...)

Meeting ID: 99360890094

Passcode: NU97J9Zk

