

# COAST MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY

Principal: Mrs. Amber Flanagan

Website: [www.surreyschools.ca/schools/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/coastmeridian)

## **Upcoming Dates:**

Monday, January 11 – Kindergarten Registration (on-line only)

Monday, February 15 – Family Day – school closed

Friday, February 19 – Professional Day – school closed

Wednesday, February 24 – Pink Shirt Day

March 15 – 19 – Spring Break

March 22 – 26 – School Closure Week

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We had a great start to our first week of school in 2021 and students are settling into their classes. For those who had children move to a different classroom in January, we want to thank you for helping your children understand and accept the change. We know the conversations you had with your child about these changes helped with the successful transition.

We said farewell to Ms. Nichol who started her maternity leave in January. We would like to welcome Ms. Tokawa who is starting on January 11 as a Learning Support Teacher.

## **Health & Safety:**

### **Masks**

We have many students choosing to wear masks throughout the day both inside and outside the school. Classroom teachers will continue to remind students who have them to wear them, particularly if it is a family request. Currently, our Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education do not recommend masks for elementary school students. In a recent interview Dr. Henry stated that it is challenging for young children to wear a mask all day particularly when they are sitting at a desk or table all day. Wearing a mask can also increase touching of the face and can increase the need for close adult contact when young children need help putting a mask on or off. For those students wearing masks, staff will remind them of proper mask usage. There are requirements to wear masks in schools when in common areas and our staff has made a commitment to make mask wearing part of their daily work both in and out of the classroom. We are asking you to speak with your child about wearing a mask outside of the classroom as part of our attempt to develop a culture of mask wearing across our school.

### **Before and After School**

As we have many families and caregivers dropping off and picking up students from school, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of social distancing (2m distance) and mask wearing during pick up and drop off times. We encourage parents and caregivers not to congregate on the school grounds after school.

### **Birthday's**

Children's birthdays are an important event that many families celebrate. In the past, this may have included bringing food or non-food items to share with the class. This year we are not able to accommodate this in the classroom or on our school grounds after school, as we are not able to 'share' items. Thank you for understanding.

## **Dress for the Weather**

With the wet and colder days here, we are asking that all children be dressed in a warm winter coat and boots (plus mittens and a toque if the temperatures drop). We will play outside for recess and lunch rain or shine, as fresh air is so important, especially right now.



It is a good idea to send extra clothes for your child in a large Ziploc bag that will be kept in the classroom in case they get wet at recess or lunch.

Please be very careful when walking on the blacktop around our school as the frost and icy conditions arrive. Our custodian and district staff salt the grounds when frost appears, but there may be areas that are still quite slippery.

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Registration for Kindergarten begins on Monday, January 11, 2021. Children who will turn five years old before January 1, 2022 are eligible to begin school in September 2021. To help support social distancing in our schools, we are now offering a new online registration system for parents. To register online, please go to our school website. Click under the Parent heading/School Registration to find the link that takes you to the registration page. The form is fillable online and you must upload the documents we require:

- proof of birth date (birth certificate or passport)
- proof of guardianship (as shown on child's birth certificate or other appropriate legal documentation such as landed immigrant document or guardianship order)
- proof of Citizenship for both the child and parent (Canadian Birth Certificate, Citizenship Card, Passport, PR Card, etc.)
- Proof of Residence of parent/guardian in BC:
  - Three pieces of identification showing the address of residence (purchase or rental agreement utility bill, driver's license, etc.)
  - One of the three pieces above must be government issued in order to complete the registration process (BC driver's license, BC Services Card, BCID or BC Care Card of parent/legal guardian)

Your registration form and uploaded documents will be sent directly to our office staff at Coast Meridian Elementary.

## **Stay Connected with our School Website and School Link App**

Our school website is: [www.surreyschools.ca/schools/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/coastmeridian)

The website is full of information about the school, upcoming events, newsletters and reminders. Please remember to sign up on the email list on the website and you will automatically receive newsletters and other important notices through your e-mail.



Another great way keep informed is to sign up for the free app called School Link. This app provides news, announcements, alerts, school closure reminders, urgent notifications, contact information and featured stories from the District and any schools that you choose. The app keeps you up to date with information from the schools that are important to you.