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Principal
Ms. J. Howard

Special Dates

May 4
Ray Shepherd
Track Meet
South Surrey Track

May 8
Edu-PAC Orders Due

May 13
Early Dismissal 1:37
Student Led
Conferences

May 18
Victoria Day Holiday
No School

May 19
PAC Mtg.
8:45 a.m. - Staffroom

May 25
Non Instructional Day
No School

May 27
District Track Meet

May 28
Parent Tea
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Academics
Athletics
Attitude
Arts

**Building a Community
of Learners – Together**

Ray Shepherd Elementary School



www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd May 1, 2015

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 4th. If you are able to assist, please let your classroom teacher know. 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 13th at 1:37 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 2015/16 will be going home this week. They are due back to school by **Friday, May 8th**. 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.

Mural Project:

Our mural project will be finished this week. It's wonderful to see our front foyer transformed into a beautiful scenic entry. We would like to thank Jason Craft for his vision and creativity. Please stop by anytime to view our new mural.



Me to We:

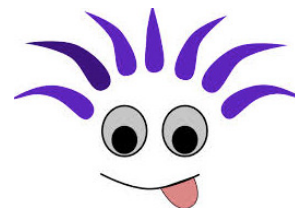


Our Me to We team has raised over \$1500 this year to support alternative income in Nicaragua. Students voted on how best to use this money within Nicaragua and chose to support two small businesses, purchase school supplies and purchase chicks for families. They also were able to use some of the fundraising to purchase four goats in India. These donations will equip families with the skills and resources to generate their own income and lift themselves out of poverty. It is wonderful to see the students of Ray Shepherd be agents of change to support social issues around the world! Way to go Me to We Team!

Special Days:

Div. 6 is working hard to raise the "fun factor" here at Ray Shepherd! They are organizing spirit days and encouraging students to dress up and celebrate some school spirit. Please mark these dates on your calendar and start planning your outfit and crazy hair:

- * May 8th: Favourite Character Day
- * May 22nd Crazy Hair Day
- * June 5th Beach Day



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 2015. 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 22nd, 2015**. 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:

It was wonderful to see all the donations come in for the DDA fundraiser. Thank you to the PAC and parent volunteers who assisted with this event. We now have a clothing bin in our parking lot that will help us collect donations year round with money raised going towards the school. Please feel free to drop off old clothing and other items in the bin anytime!

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.