



Woodland Park Elementary November 2015 Newsletter

Important Dates

Thu Nov 19	Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm
Fri Nov 20	PAC Hot Lunch – Wendy's
Thu Nov 26	Cookie Sales (\$1.00 each)
Mon Nov 30	Neufeld Order pick up day
Fri Dec 11	PAC Hot Lunch – Hot Dog/Sushi
Thu Dec 17	Cookie Sales (\$1.00 each)
Fri Dec 18	Last Day of School
Christmas Break Dec 21 – Jan 1, 2016	
Mon Jan 4	Back to School
Tue Jan 5	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Ms. E. Harrison, Principal
Ms. Wendy Rines, Vice-Principal
604-589 5957

woodlandpark@surreyschools.ca



Parking

Thanks for helping to keep our parking lot safe! We have noticed fewer cars coming in to the staff parking lot and blocking our fire lane. A sincere thanks from all of us to all of you!



Parent Feedback

Next month parents will see either the new CSL document (Communicating Student Learning) and or a digital version called Freshgrade. These are District documents and we are all learning together how to make them useful and easy to understand. We would appreciate your feedback and will share with the District.

Deck the Halls

One of our traditions at Woodland Park is to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season by having all classes participate in Deck the Halls. On December 4th (the afternoon) we play Christmas music and all students work on decorating the classroom doors and display boards down the hall ways. PAC will be providing cookies for all the classes.



Christmas Concert

Those of you who are new to WP are probably wondering if we are having a Christmas concert. As it takes an extraordinary amount of time and organization, we typically have a large production every second year. This is our “off year”. We will be having a short concert on **Thursday December 17th at 1:30 pm** in our gym. You are more than welcome to join us but please keep in mind there is limited seating as the entire school attends.



Woodland Park Elementary

Page 2

Food Bank

Our Food Bank Drive will take place during the week of December 7. We encourage all families to give a few items – dry goods and canned goods are best. There is also always a need for baby food. Our classrooms will have a friendly competition to see who can bring in the most donated food items.



New Curriculum – Teacher Training Questions and Answers

What does 10 hours of non-instructional time mean? Does this mean teachers will get two more professional development days and more time away from the classroom?

In this first year, teachers will have 10 non-instruction hours to be trained on the new curriculum and collaborate with their colleagues about how best to bring it to life for students in the classroom. It is a re-allotment of the instructional hours in the year to allow teachers this time to collaborate on the curriculum changes. Superintendents will work with their local union president to determine how those hours will be used in their district (ie full day, 4 part days, etc.)

Will school calendars need to be adjusted?

Yes, this is a re-allotment of the instructional hours in the year to allow teachers this time to collaborate on the curriculum changes. Boards will need to post their new calendar for their community, as soon as they have collaboratively planned the new schedule.

While the plan covers the next 3 years, what happens after that with this non-instructional time?

These hours are dedicated over the next three years specifically for teacher collaboration time related to the curriculum which will be fully implemented over the next three years.

How will this collaboration time for teachers benefit students?

Investing now in our teachers will translate directly to improving student learning sooner. Students will see real benefits in the classroom as teachers become familiar with the new curriculum.

Where is the \$1 million dollars for these sessions coming from?

Government is investing in teachers. The training dollars are coming from the Ministry of Education.

How will the money be spent?

The dollars will be used to support training for 2,000 teachers across the province on the new curriculum so that they can work further with teachers in their local districts. The money will cover release time and partly cover teacher travel expenses in our 44 rural districts.

How do we know for sure if the K-12 curriculum will be in place by 2017/18?

We are working towards 2016/17 as the implementation date for K-9 curriculum and 2017/18 as the implementation date for Grades 10-12. It is an aggressive timeline but we are confident with the help of all of our education partners, especially our teachers, we will reach this timeline. All is on track at this point in time.

What about additional support and resources?

There will be learning sessions at the provincial and local levels, webinars, videos and district-level teams in place so teachers can learn first-hand what is working in the classroom. There will also be instructional examples developed by the curriculum teams.

How are the 2,000 teachers selected?

Districts will work with their local union president to select teachers who will be first brought together to work with the provincial framework. These teachers will form a district network to support implementation in their district. Districts will determine the numbers of teachers based on the funding allocation they receive.

How are the 2,000 teachers being trained?

A provincial framework will guide the day these teachers will come together. They will use the provincial framework to design the 10 hours of dedicated non-instructional time. The learning sessions will in part involve a provincial webinar about the new curriculum. More details will be forthcoming about the process.

When will funding be available?

It is expected funding will be transferred to districts in October, 2015. More details will be forthcoming.

Are these 2,000 teachers out of their classroom more?

Yes, these teachers will be out of their classroom for one day of training. The funding being sent to districts from the province is intended to cover TOC costs.

What will the financial supports cover?

TOC costs will be covered for the 2,000 teachers including some travel in rural districts for teachers to attend their local learning sessions.

When will the learning sessions occur?

It is expected the learning sessions will occur as soon as possible. The provincial framework is being created now with the hope of providing the learning sessions in November/December, 2015.

When will the Provincial Framework be available?

The Provincial Framework is being worked on now as we hope to have it available in a couple of weeks.