

OCEAN CLIFF ELEMENTARY



On September 6th, 1990, **Ocean Cliff Elementary School** opened its doors to become the 67th elementary school in the Surrey School District.

For the next 25 years, five dedicated and wonderful principals:

Mr. Wayne Morris (1990 – 2000),
Mrs. Mary Ann Stibbs (2000 – 2006),
Mrs. Karen McFarlane (2006 – 2010),
Mr. Tim Rourke (2010 – 2012) and
Mrs. Tammy Hartmann (2012 – present) helped shaped Ocean Cliff to become a beloved school to all who attended it.

As Ocean Cliff celebrates 25 years of learning, we express thanks and gratitude to many hard-working teachers and staff, and devoted parents for giving our children the unconditional love and support they need to be the best that they can be.

Thank you for celebrating this special day with us!



School 'open for business'



Glen Widing photo

Kindergarten students at Ocean Cliff elementary school received balloons to mark their first day of classes Thursday morning. Students in other grades received balloons in the afternoon.

By Scott David Harrison
Ocean Cliff Elementary is alive and well.

Ocean Cliff, the newest addition in a growing list of schools governed by the Surrey School Board, had been the subject of nasty rumors this past week. Suggestions had surfaced that the brand new house of learning needed a further extension to Thursday's delayed opening because the school, let alone the chalk boards, were not ready for students.

But principal Wayne Morris put all those concerns to rest Thursday, saying the pencils were sharpened and the new school was open for business.

"Everyone is in session," Morris said from the school's office. "All 306 of them."

Although doors are open, Morris admitted there is still plenty of work to be done before Ocean Cliff is working at 100 per cent capacity. In addition to a much needed landscaping job, some classrooms are still getting the final touches.

Despite the hectic time, Morris said Day 1 for Ocean Cliff Elementary "was actually very smooth."

Meanwhile, life at Semiahmoo Secondary continues despite the pounding of hammers.

Semiahmoo, built on the old White Rock Junior Secondary site, is also undergoing some growing pains.

The school used the first week to introduce students to the curriculum. Classes for 1,700 students officially begin on Monday.

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12550 – 20th Ave, Surrey, BC Canada V4A 1Y6

Ocean Cliff is a family oriented school focused on a community that prides itself on **'being and doing your best'**. When I arrived here in August 2012 and met Sheena - the head secretary - she leaned over and said, **"You've landed in paradise!"** It didn't take me long to realize she was right.

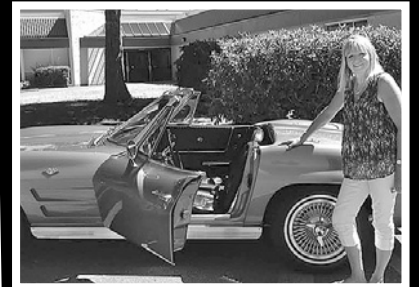
From the students who strive for excellence, to the highly involved parents who advocate for their school community, **Ocean Cliff** is a school committed to excellence, innovation, and philanthropy. Our school has a long history of giving back to its community, which is reflected in the many activities that raise awareness and funds for students and causes that may require extra support - both locally, and globally. Teachers and parents go out of their way to make families (new and old!) feel welcome and involved. The annual **'Fun Fair'** is only one example of a school event that creates a strong sense of community that defines our school.

Our school has a long history of academic excellence. Student learning looks different than it did 25 years ago. Some have not changed though. Strong academics continue to be

a focus as we regularly have students competing in Math competitions - earning perfect scores - which began in 1990, as students continue to 'do their best'. Equally important are the Arts curriculum. We continue to have school-wide productions and our annual **'Talent Show'** provides many students the opportunity to showcase talents that often go unnoticed. We have a strong belief that all students can and deserve to achieve success.

Perhaps the greatest strength OC has, is its teaching staff. Teachers are the head learners at the school. Our teachers are professionals committed to innovation and best practice. We are continually learning about, and reflecting on, ways to engage students as we strive to keep up with the ever changing world around us. Our school is a vibrant place to work and learn and I am proud to be a part of a school community committed to keeping students at the center of what we do.

Goodbye, Sheena and Hello, Kathy!



Sheena was OC's Head Secretary for 13 years. We thank her for her dedication and hard work, and wish her all the best in her retirement.



Kathy Eastgate will be taking over for Sheena. We wish her the best in her new role.



Mrs. Tammy Hartmann and OC students on the first day of school, Sept. 8th, 2015

Reflections from **Mr. Wayne Morris**, Principal 1990-2000

Ocean Cliff opened in September of 1990, a year earlier than originally planned. Due to extreme overcrowding in neighbouring schools, the School District was able to fast track construction by using the existing architectural plans for the newly opened South Meridian School. However, when September arrived, the school opening had to be delayed two days while washrooms were completed. After the delay, and with an unfinished office area and grounds, the doors were opened to greet an enthusiastic group of teachers, parents and students. The opening enrolment was 350 which was above projection. There was an initial staff of 21 with 14 divisions K - 7. Enrolment continued to grow and reached a peak of 465 in the 1997-98 school year. Four portables were on site at various times during these years.

There are far too many wonderful memories of these years to attempt to list. However, any such list would include:

- Staff and student developed motto “**Do Your Best**” ...do your best at your school work and do your best at being a good citizen
- Parent group initiatives to create the playground, enhance the computer lab and painting the mural
- Musical presentations by the primary and intermediate choirs, including the whole school production of the Musical, “**Oliver**”
- Outstanding student participation in all extra-curricular sports teams, track and field events and indoor track meets
- Monthly and year end assemblies to celebrate student successes including those great “do your best” chants by grade 7 leaders

These memories are the result of a wonderful group of students, teachers and parents who created a most positive school culture. It is great to see that this culture remains, has been enhanced and continues to grow!



Mary Ann Stibbs
Principal 2000-2006



Karen McFarlane
Principal 2006-2010

IN MEMORIAM

Tim Rourke Principal 2010-2012



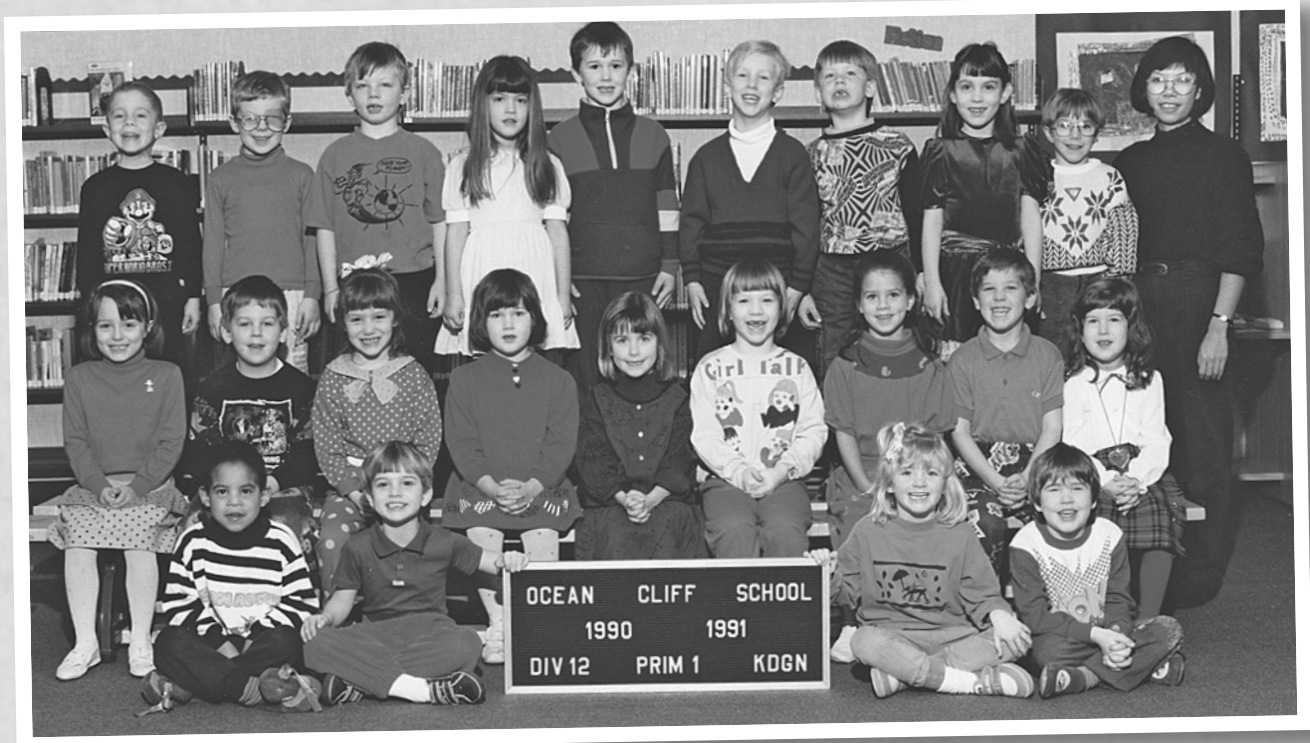
Tim Rourke's dream of becoming a school principal was realized in July 2010 when he became the principal of Ocean Cliff Elementary. Head Secretary, Sheena Brewer, recalls how Tim overflowed with enthusiasm and excitement when he first arrived as the new principal. He worked tirelessly and at times got a bit bogged down with the paperwork or other office related minutiae and then he would drop everything and say, “**I need to be with the kids, I'm off to read them a story**”. Tim was happiest when he was out of the office and connecting with the students. He loved them all. He loved playing sports with them, reading to them, teaching them, making music with them, skiing with them, playing floor hockey, or even demonstrating scary explosive science experiments for them! It was always about the kids and making them all feel valued, cared for and safe.

Tim was so very humble about his great gifts and many talents. Tim was always an empathetic, compassionate listener and a strong support to many in the Surrey School District. Tim's three year struggle with sarcoma came to a peaceful end on January 21, 2013. He was 46.



Picture of Wayne Morris - City of Surrey Archives, Nigel Matthews and Joan Webster photograph, CT017.01

Mrs. Helen Johnson's first kindergarten class



The first admin staff and teachers at **Ocean Cliff** 1990 – 1991



Front row, sitting from left to right: Maureen Johnson (secretary), Irene Koeman (secretary), Jennifer McArthur, Wayne Morris (principal), Bruce Murdoch, Annie Gibson, Erma Kirshner. Second row, left to right: Bruce Fryer, Linda MacDonald, Sydney Peters, Janet Brewster, Sandra Kraft, Chris Hall, Helen Johnson. Third row (back), left to right: Yvette Beckett, Brian Veach, Donna Pauluk, Melanie Kuzminski, Sid Prysunka, Jan Fairburn

Reflections from teachers

Ocean Cliff...a new school is born! In the summer of 1981, I used to often walk past the 20th Avenue forest and nursery (site of the future Ocean Cliff Elementary). This wooded area afforded a beautiful environment for contemplation...hopes and dreams! Fast forward to 1989 as these very trees were felled and the ground was laid in anticipation of a new elementary school to relieve the bulging Crescent Park Elementary's population of 900+ students! As a teacher at Crescent Park, I knew how important this new school was and how much it would mean to the Ocean Park community! Six teachers from Crescent Park needed to make the change from one of Surrey's 'heritage' schools to the new 'upstart' and I was to be one of those six. I once again walked the area, this time dodging pegs and string...the outlines of classrooms, a library, a gymnasium and more. I envisioned a community of learners and my own classroom. Which set of pegs and string outlined my room, I wondered? Over the following year, the building took shape and grew into the fine structure we all know so well. My classroom was a wonderful west-facing one! It looked out onto the remainder of the forest I once walked. A few years later, that view changed. Trees came down and lovely homes were built. More and more children poured into the school. At its peak, the Multipurpose Room was used as a classroom and we had 6 portables on the grounds surrounding the main school!

But a school is more than grounds and a building. What made Ocean Cliff an extraordinary school in those early days was the community of devoted staff, responsive parents, and interested students led by a knowing principal, Wayne Morris. It is a principal's dream to open a new school and Wayne took the responsibility very much to heart, building a school community that was the most effective and joyous I've experienced in my teaching career!

I spent 22 of my 34 teaching years in the halls of Ocean Cliff. Abounding growth...many stories...countless memories! Although I am now retired, thoughts of the children, the colleagues, the parents, the drama program, the sports activities, the Secret Garden, the learning, and the school culture are fresh in my mind. These days, I walk along 20th Avenue and reminisce. Professionally speaking, my heart will always belong to this school. From the first day it opened its doors to this celebratory day of 25 years, Ocean Cliff Elementary is 'wonderful'...full of wonder! A place for hopes and dreams!

Mrs. Chris Hall 1990-2012

I was fortunate to join Ocean Cliff School in its opening year. Our principal, Wayne Morris, helmed an amazing staff through wonderful times, and he encouraged the boys and girls with the slogan, Do your best. With that in mind, I developed the Peer Tutoring program, where the Grade Sevens helped primary students with Reading, Writing, and Math skills. Throughout the years, I loved observing the positive interactions between the older and younger students. My L.S.T. position also enabled me to celebrate individual students' successes, no matter how large or small, attained through their own efforts and the support of their parents. Ocean Cliff students are great to coach so I enjoyed sharing my keen interest in volleyball then in badminton. All of this made it difficult to leave until I finally retired last year. I will fondly remember the children and community of Ocean Cliff.

Mrs. Margaret Ronse 1990-2014

The 2014/15 school year was my first as a member of the Ocean Cliff community. I feel privileged to work alongside colleagues who care deeply about our school and have a passion for teaching and learning. I have found the commitment to education shown by students and families at Ocean Cliff to be inspiring. Parents at Ocean Cliff are incredibly supportive of the school and contribute greatly towards making Ocean Cliff an amazing place to learn. This is an exciting time in our schools with a transformed curriculum, improved reporting practices, and a wealth of new research that has advanced our understanding of how students best learn. I look forward to working and learning alongside students, families, and fellow staff through this time of change and progress.

Mr. Chris Bobrownik 2014-Present

When I first moved with my young family to the South Surrey/White Rock area, I noticed a new school being built behind our cul de sac. Climbing over the large dirt piles in front of the unfinished school building, I asked the principal, Wayne Morris, to interview me for the half time Kindergarten job. Even though I had 12 years of primary teaching experience at that time, I was not on his shortlist as I had not taught Kindergarten before. However, he agreed to interview me and subsequently offered me the job. Thus began my 25 years of a long, happy, rewarding and fulfilling experience at Ocean Cliff. Over the years, Ocean Cliff has undergone many changes with new principals, new teachers and staff, and of course, new students and their families. We have had multiple portables on site and at our largest, housed over 450 students! However, one thing has not changed over the years and that is the pride and sense of community that exists at Ocean Cliff. I believe that those who passed through our school have fond memories of school musicals, concerts, assemblies (especially those featuring Mr. Morris' monthly birthday doughnuts!), fun fairs, Science and Writing fairs, talent shows, Sports Day, the list goes on and on.

A particularly fond memory of mine is being involved with the various sports teams over the years which included the cross country, track and field, and girls' basketball teams. Coaching the Grade 6 and 7 girls' basketball team with me was Debbie Rimmer, a former parent at the school. I remember how Deb and I would begin each season with our new team, many who had never played organized team basketball before, and exchange glances, wondering how we would manage. However, without fail, we would both marvel at how far the girls progressed in their skills during the season, culminating in many first and second place finishes at the playday! French braids and doughnuts!

Ocean Cliff will always hold a special place in my heart and it has been a real privilege to be part of the Ocean Cliff community for 25 years.

Mrs. Helen Johnson 1990-2015

Ocean Cliff was an exceptional place to work for the majority of my 33 year teaching career. The administration, staff, parents, and in particular the students were outstanding and collectively created a highly recognized and sought after school for its excellence in academics, athletics, and fine arts.

As a Cross Country and Track & Field coach, I was most impressed with the high number of participants as well as the level of dedication and sportsmanship displayed by our students. There was a very noticeable sea of red and black OC jerseys for each event and we consistently completed the meets with many top place finishes. More importantly our students were most supportive of each other and quick to offer congratulations or a kind word to their competition.

Ocean Cliff's motto was "Do your best" and that's what our students did.

Thanks for the memories Ocean Cliff!

Mrs. Jennifer McArthur 1990-2012

Assemblies were held weekly and usually on a Friday morning. Wayne had a system in place where if music was playing while the students were either entering or leaving the gym there was to be no talking.

Although this idea was sound it wasn't always adhered to, especially when year after year the assembly "song" remained the same, Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All". After a time it became a bit of a running gag amongst staff members and we often tried to convince Wayne to choose another song to record and play on these occasions. This core group of long time staff members would joke around and try to come up with alternatives. However, no other song was good enough and so it remained, Whitney Houston singing her song about believing in and depending on yourself and most importantly the lyrics stating that children are our future and that they will lead the way. In retrospect Wayne was correct in keeping this signature song for the assemblies as this message was one he firmly believed in and one he instilled in all the students he worked with during his time as Ocean Cliff's principal.

Mrs. Kathleen Higgs 1992-2011

DID YOU KNOW?

At the age of 14, Mrs. Jennifer McArthur represented Canada swim team in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany. She competed in the 200m Butterfly and 400m Individual Medley. Coincidentally, alongside with Jennifer in Munich was Leslie Cliff, Mr. Ronald Cliff's daughter. Leslie was 17. She competed in the 400m Individual Medley and won the Silver Medal.



The History of **Ocean Cliff Elementary**



Site before Ocean Cliff Elementary with a headhouse and the manager's house.

In the early years, Mr. Ronald L. Cliff and his family owned some 77 acres of land around Ocean Park, including land where Ocean Cliff Elementary and Ocean Wind Drive are now. In the area there were seven commercial greenhouses. The nursery was called Healthcliff Greenhouses and provided orchids, lilies, carnations, roses, poinsettias and tomatoes to garden centers in Vancouver and neighboring areas. Mr. Cliff intimated that the nursery was very unprofitable given the small size of the business and therefore, his inability to negotiate for better prices. But because of the greenhouses, he got the city to agree to bring a natural gas line to Ocean Park in 1957 to replace the burning coal which was used to heat the greenhouses. Of course local residents in Ocean Park also benefited from the gas access.

On the land where Ocean Cliff Elementary now stands there was a headhouse, a service area for the central temperature-control equipment, working and storage room. There was also a one-bedroom house for the manager. Behind the woods, Mr. Cliff first learned how to drive when he was 11 years old! His father had bought for him and his brother, a 1927 Chevrolet for \$25, and the boys turned it into a truck and learned how to drive.

The Cliff family sold the land to developers in the 1980's for new housing subdivisions. Ocean Cliff Elementary School was built about the same time.



Mr. Fred Wickens, manager of Healthcliff Greenhouses from 1979-1981, lived in a one-bedroom house where Ocean Cliff Elementary School now stands.

He had 27 chickens living in his laundry room. Mr. Wickens said he loved having fresh eggs for breakfast everyday!

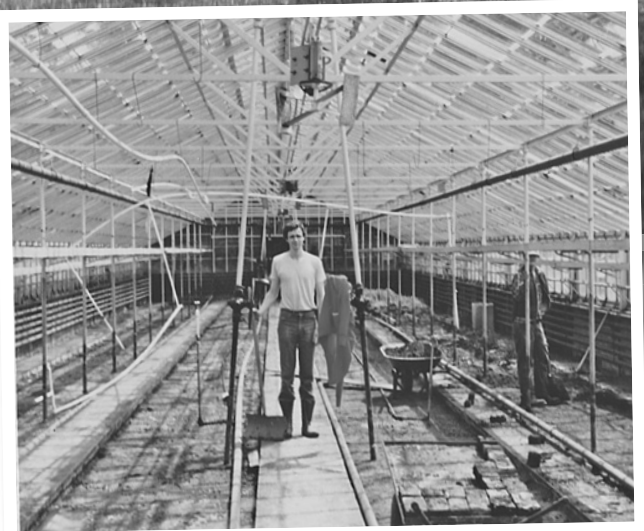
Photos courtesy of Mr. Fred Wickens



20th Avenue's dirt path looking south over the greenhouses, now Ocean Wind Drive.



Greenhouse crew under beech nut trees in 1991. Ocean Cliff School would be in front of the trees.



Interior of one of the greenhouses. Ted Field, now a Global BC News reporter, used to work at Heathcliff Greenhouses.



One of the remaining beech nut trees now at 1979 Ocean Wind Drive.



The Cliff's summer mansion on Ocean Park Drive. Mr. Cliff's father bought the summer home from the Mayor of New Westminster for his wife as a wedding present.

FUN MATH

After WWII, Mr. Cliff's father purchased land around Ocean Park for \$50 an acre. Some 40 years later, Mr. Cliff sold the land for \$100,000 per acre, how much profit did Mr. Cliff make if he sold all 77 acres?

Ocean Cliff Elementary 1990



The unprecedented growth in South Surrey in the 1980's demanded the school district to build new schools to relieve the overcrowding problems at existing schools. On August 31, 1989 Surrey School Board awarded Country West Construction Ltd. the contract to build a new elementary school on 20th Avenue. Country West Construction's bid was \$3, 047, 000. The cost of a new elementary school construction today would be \$12-\$15 million, according to the School District.

After gathering suggestions from the students and the community, the School Naming Committee selected 'Ocean Cliff'. The school name subsequently was approved by the school Board on February 8, 1990.



Linda MacDonald,
Helen Johnson,
Jan Fairbank,
Janet Brewster

DID YOU KNOW?

20th Avenue used to be called "Stokes" and before that, "Matthiesen". In 1957 a municipal ordinance was passed to change street names to numbers.

First Nation Semiahmoo people originally occupied the Ocean Park area for spiritual renewal and named the area "Kwomais" which literally means place of vision, because of its high bluffs and unobstructed views to the ocean and islands.

The name "Surrey" was the brainchild of the first local municipal clerk, HJ Brewer. He noted that Surrey was right across the Fraser River from New Westminster, and stated: "Due to the geographic similarity of this district to that of County Surrey in England, in relation to Westminster, I suggest it be named Surrey, British Columbia."



L to R: Mrs. Marilyn Zerr,
Mrs. Margaret Ronse



L to R: Mrs. Jennifer McArthur, Mrs. Chris Hall,
Mrs. Ellen Sorley-Cook

We LOVE Ocean Cliff!



We LOVE Ocean Cliff!

There are so many things we students love about Ocean Cliff! Here are some of the reasons why...

Fun Fair

Track & Field

PAC & Parent Volunteers

No Bullies

Strong Community

Bake Sale

New Playground

Great Teachers

Talent Show

Good Friends

Hot Lunch

Field Trips

Sports Day



We love a good **performance!**



The performing Arts have always been important at Ocean Cliff. Below is a list of productions since 1990.

May 2015	Epic Adventures in a Rinky Dink Art Museum
December 2013	Rock and Roll Santa
January 2013	The Missing Choir of Soda Springs
January 2012	Dastardly Deeds at Yoursin Mine
May 2011	The Nightingale
January 2011	Lagooned
January 2010	Hollywood Hillbillies
April 2009	The Wizard of Oz
January 2009	Commedia Delight
January 2008	The Cow Tippers
March 2007	Oliver Twist
January 2007	Shoestring Theatre
January 2006	The Medici Code
March 2005	RATS!
January 2005	The Missing Choir of Soda Springs
December 2003	It's a Wonderful Life!
March 2003	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
December 2002	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
May 2002	Dastardly Deeds at Yoursin Mine
May 2001	Commedia Delight
May 2000	A Midsummer Night's Midterm
May 1999	Sherlock Holmes
May 1998	Lagooned
May 1997	It's Bigfoot! and The Paper Bag Bandit Strikes Again
December 1997	Christmas in December
December 1996	A Fairytale Christmas
December 1995	Santa Knows Best
December 1994	Slapshot Santa
December 1990	Oliver!



Memorable Events in 1990...

- Ocean Cliff Elementary School opened its doors to become the 67th elementary school in the Surrey School District.
- Canadian, Richard Taylor (Alberta), won the Nobel Prize in Physics for verifying the Quark Theory. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The first World Ice Hockey tournament for women was held in Ottawa, Canada.
- Edmonton Oilers won the Stanley Cup in beating Boston Bruins, 4 games to 1, after trading Wayne Gretzky.
- Canada's Finance Minister Michael Wilson got the 7% Goods and Services Tax bill through first reading in the Commons, and we still hate it!
- George Cohon, founder of McDonald's Canada, opened the first McDonald's in Pushkin Square, Moscow. (At the time it was the largest in the world.)
- The Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction was awarded to Nino Ricci for Lives of the Saints.
- The "Simpsons" premiered on Fox-TV.
- Computer scientist, Tim Berners-Lee, publishes a formal proposal for the World Wide Web.
- Microsoft released Windows 3.0, the first version to be pre-installed on hard drives by PC-compatible manufacturers; previously Windows 1.0 or later 2.x were on diskettes. We are now on Windows 10.
- Nelson Mandela released after 27 years of imprisonment in South Africa. He visited Canada that same year where he was awarded honorary citizenship.
- East Germany and West Germany merged to become Germany.
- Space probe Voyager 1 took photographs of the entire solar system.

Congratulations **Ocean Cliff!**

"Reaching a 25th Anniversary takes a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment. The teachers, staff, parents and students of Ocean Cliff Elementary have shown that working together, it can be done! May you celebrate many more years together, providing a positive learning environment for generations to come. Congratulations and Best Wishes."

Gordon Hogg MLA, Surrey-White Rock

"The Ocean Cliff playground & school yard was one of the most important reasons our family searched for a home in this community. Our children played in school yard, climbed the trees and the loved the fabulous playground. It is the happy sounds of children and families playing that is the music we need to hear in our community every day. Congratulations to everyone who participated to rebuild the playground and to 25 plus more years of Ocean Cliff community spirit! Together we can make things happen!"

Susie Brown and family...Vern, Benja and Tlell

"Ocean Cliff is having its 25th anniversary this year. As a student of Ocean Cliff for 5 years, I have benefitted from the best teachers, students and PAC there is. We should give a big thanks to them all. This is definitely the best school I have gone to, and I bet future students will think so too."

Thomas McGovern OC Alumni 2015

"Ocean Park Safeway is proud to be a part of this community for over 25 years. We wish all Ocean Cliff students much success now and always. Congratulations on your 25th anniversary."

Kelly Rurka Store Manager, Ocean Park Safeway

"The influence that my elementary school teachers gave me taught me valuable lessons that I still carry with me today. When my mother became ill the help and support I received from the teachers and staff at Ocean Cliff helped me through the difficult time and showed me true kindness."

Natalie Taylor OC Alumni 2011

"Ocean Park Panago sends our best wishes and congratulations to Ocean Cliff students and families on your 25th anniversary. We love watching you grow. "

Harman Doel Franchisee, Ocean Park Panago

"I started at Ocean Cliff when I was in grade 4 and it was hard to be new at the school but my teacher and my friends made it easy. My teachers helped me be a better student and I like that my mom always helped at the school. My favourite things at Ocean Cliff were the sports teams, the Sun Run, and Intensive French with Mme Maclean. As I leave Ocean Cliff, I will hold on to fond memories and wish all junior classmates best wishes on the 25th Anniversary."

Luke Miller OC Alumni 2015

"It is hard to believe that the doors to Ocean Cliff first opened 25 years ago. I have such fond memories of attending Ocean Cliff as a child when the school first opened and now the memories continue as a teacher here at Ocean Cliff. I feel very lucky to be a part of Ocean Cliff's past and future."

Mrs. Ottenbreit (Megan Phillipps-Wolley) 3rd & 4th grade teacher

"We love school because we like our friends and teachers. Happy Anniversary, OC!"

Alexander & Christopher Lifvenborg 5th & 4th graders

"Joe MacDonald attended Ocean Cliff Elementary graduating from Grade 7 in 1995. Joe is severely handicapped with cerebral palsy. He had a great school experience with great support from not only his teachers and principal but also his fellow students. Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary!"

Don MacDonald Parent

"Congratulations Ocean Cliff on your 25th Anniversary! I am thankful to have shared some of those years from 1993 to 1999. Some of my memories have waned a bit now, 15 years later, but I do know we had the best basketball team ever! Go Ocean Cliff!"

Kyle Henderson OC Alumni 1999

"I came to this school five years ago with my two children. It has been a place where they have developed as young people and continue to do so. Even though this school and its faculty are great, what has really made the difference are the parents. Behind every great student stands amazing parents and grandparents, and I thank all of you and Ocean Cliff for making this such a marvellous transition for me and my kids."

Natalie Broomfield Parent

"We moved into the area because of Ocean Cliff's great reputation. Our daughters love this school. Congratulations Ocean Cliff!"

Marcia Morris PAC VP 2015-2016

"Although I have taught for 25 years in many different schools throughout the Surrey School District, this is my first year at Ocean Cliff. I look forward to a great year working collaboratively with teachers, staff and parents in a welcoming, harmonious environment with the child at the centre. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity."

12 Mrs. Brenda Innes 3rd grade teacher