



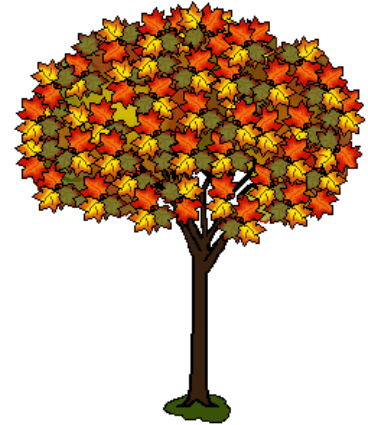
Woodland Park Elementary October 2015 Newsletter

Important Dates

Fri Oct 16	PAC Hot Lunch
Wed Oct 21	Interims issued
Thur Oct 22	Cookie Sales
Fri Oct 23	Pro D Day – no school
Mon Oct 26	Grade 6 immunizations
Fri Oct 30	PAC Hot Lunch, Wacky Photo
Tue Nov 3	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Wed Nov 11	Remembrance Day Holiday
Thur Nov 12	Pro D Day – no school
Fri Nov 13	Pro D Day – no school

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

woodlandpark@surreyschools.ca



Parking Lot Safety

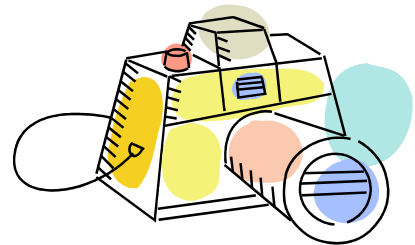
We have had a few “close calls” in our parking lot this fall. Please note:

- The parking lot is for staff parking, field trip drop offs, Surrey District delivery and emergency vehicles only (not for parents to drop-off/pick-up children)
- If you are parking on the street, be aware of no parking areas as cars are being ticketed by the city
- Please hold your child’s hand when you are walking them anywhere near traffic
- Remind students to walk on sidewalks only (not through parking lot or on drive through road)

We understand there is a traffic jam at the school during morning bell and dismissal bell. One alternative to avoiding this ‘jam’ is to come a little earlier in the morning and pick up your child a little later at the end of the day. **The drive through area is NOT for parking and waiting for your child, even if you stay in the car.**

Halloween Photo's – Friday October 30

We will be offering Halloween photos (by class) for those students who are dressed up. Pictures will be sold for \$6 each and will be ready by Wednesday November 6th.



Education is not the filling of a
pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

Pumpkin Patch Friday October 30

The school has purchased pumpkins for our Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch being held this year on Friday October 30. The kindergarten students will be escorted by the grade 7's to the forest area to select a pumpkin to take home.



Kids Plus Accident Insurance

The Surrey School District does NOT insure student accidents. You have the option to purchase accident insurance that provides protection against unexpected costs arising from accidental injuries.

The program is especially valuable for families who:

- Do not have medical or dental plans,
- Have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- Have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

You will find all relevant information and forms on our website under News & Other – **Other**

BBQ A big thank you for all who attended our annual BBQ. We hope you had the opportunity to connect with the teachers and to socialize with new and old friends. Thank you to the parents who stayed a bit later and helped with the cleanup. It was greatly appreciated as many hands make light work!

The New Curriculum

You may have heard over the past few years that the Ministry of Education has been working on a new and improved curriculum to better meet the diverse needs of our students. To ensure all teachers are well equipped to deliver the new curriculum, there will be support for the teachers to help them deliver the curriculum efficiently and effectively. This means teachers will be provided with time to be trained on and collaborate with their colleagues. A total of 2 days or 4 ½ days will be allocated for this. What this means to you is that additional non-instructional days will be added to our calendar. More specific information will be made available in early Nov. Please refer to the letter below from Superintendent, Mr. Jordan Tinney:



October 14, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may know, a new curriculum has been developed in BC. This work has been years in the making with many teachers involved in its development, and implementation is a huge task. For the past two years the curriculum has been available for teachers to use in their practice, but starting September 2016, it will be the only available curriculum in grades K-9.

On Monday, September 28th the Ministry of Education and the British Columbia Teachers Federation (BCFT), supported by provincial partners in education, announced a plan to support the implementation of the new curriculum. As part of this plan, districts have been asked to add 10 hours of non-instructional time (or two days) in this school year. The time will be provided for teachers to familiarize themselves with the new curriculum and to plan for its implementation in the coming year. As an additional part of the plan, the Ministry is also allocating \$1M to provide release time for 2000 teachers across the Province to further support implementation of the curriculum.

We needed to determine how to choose the dates for these two non-instructional days. We have looked at November 12th as a likely day that could be chosen. November 11th is Remembrance Day, and November 13th is already a non-instructional day. The placement of a single day of instruction between a statutory holiday and a long weekend certainly is not optimal for parents and students. We have met with our local teachers' association to agree on the use of those days, and we are recommending November 12th be one of the two days. We have met with the Board of Education, and at the upcoming October 22nd Board meeting a motion will be presented to approve an adjusted local calendar declaring November 12th as a non-instructional day. We apologize for the short notice to parents and our community, but in our preliminary collaboration with small groups, the consensus has been that November 12th is a logical choice. Many people have commented that parents need to know right away given that they will need to make alternate arrangements for that day. We still need to decide how to select the other day which likely will come in the spring, but that date is yet to be determined.

A final note is that this support plan will look different from district to district. Each district must create a plan with their local teachers' association, and the provincial plan allows districts to establish the dates or manner of non-instructional time. What we have presented is a Surrey solution, and we simply wanted you to have as much advance notice as possible so that you can make plans for your family.

Thank you for your understanding and we hope this letter helps shed light on our processes and the context. We are pleased that teachers have been given time to spend on the new curriculum. These days are but a small part of a much larger plan for implementation as it unfolds across BC.

Regards,
Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Communicating Student Learning

Please see letter below from the Director of Instruction, Curriculum and Innovation



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Effective and clear communication of student learning has always been an important aspect of public schooling. Traditionally, this communication took the form of a standard report card with comments and letter grades sent home three times per year. This practice has remained fairly constant for the last 70+ years. Clearly the world has changed dramatically, and many new and exciting tools are now available to us. One thing that has not changed is the goal of providing parents and students with authentic, informative communication about their child's progress and learning.

Today, our provincial curriculum is designed to engage the passions and interests of our students to better meet their personalized needs. With these changes, quality assessment practices and communication of student learning takes on increased significance. The tools we now have to communicate allow for more responsive ways to keep parents informed and involved in their child's learning. It is important to provide evidence of how well each student is learning and what area(s) require additional attention. It is also imperative that students learn to recognize and understand their own learning.

Our goal is to design a reporting system that engages students and parents in the process. It is no longer just about the three reporting periods or the report card, but more about how to authentically communicate student learning and support learners in reaching their potential.

With this goal in mind, elementary schools in Surrey have been exploring a variety of methods and formats to communicate and report student learning to parents. Presently, three options are available for teachers:

- **Traditional report card:** Some teachers will continue to use the traditional report card, either by itself or in combination with a digital portfolio.
- **Digital electronic portfolios:** This initiative involves a web-based platform called FreshGrade that provides an online portfolio for teachers and students to electronically share each child's learning in an ongoing manner throughout the school year.
- **Communicating Student Learning Template:** This innovative template includes both teacher and student assessments and reflection on each student's learning goals, achievements, and challenges.

Teachers, schools, and the district are using these reporting tools in conjunction with preparations for the new curriculum that will be fully implemented at the elementary level during the 2016-2017 school year. The new tools will help inform and develop the assessment, evaluation and communication of student learning going forward.

For more information on these new tools for communicating student learning, please talk to your school principal or your child's classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Elisa Carlson, Ed. D.
Director of Instruction, Curriculum & Innovation