

1650 – 136 Street
Surrey, B.C. V4A 4E4
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Ray Shepherd Elementary School

www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd October 1, 2016

Principal
Ms. J. Howard

Special Dates

October 4, 11, 18

Cross-Country
Meet at
Crescent Park
3:30 p.m.

October 10
Thanksgiving Day
Holiday

October 12
Fresh Grade
Portfolio Meetings
Early Dismissal
1:33 p.m.

October 13
Photo Day
Individual Student
Photos

October 21
Non-Instructional
Day

October 25
PAC Meeting

Academics
Athletics
Attitude
Arts

Building a Community
of Learners – Together

Ray Shepherd Welcome Back BBQ:

We would like to thank everyone for attending our welcome back BBQ and meet the teacher evening! It was wonderful to see so many parents touring our school. A special thanks to all the parent volunteers who assisted with the BBQ!



Terry Fox Run:

Thank you to everyone who helped volunteer or participate in our Terry Fox Run! It was a wonderful way start the year and honour the heroes in our lives. Our school was able to raise \$2167.15! Way to go Ray Shepherd!

Cross country Update:

The cross country season has begun and we've had a wonderful turnout for the first meet! Our students showed great effort and ran hard! Thank you to all the parent drivers who helped out. A reminder that practices are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45-3:15 and meets are on Tuesdays.



FreshGrade Reporting:

We are using a new online reporting platform called FreshGrade with all classes this year. Some teachers used it last year so it may be familiar to some parents. A short parent information session will be held on **Wednesday, Oct. 5th at 6:00** to outline what FreshGrade is, it's links to assessment and what the portfolio will look like. A consent letter and information sheet will be sent home today and is attached to this newsletter. On **Wednesday, Oct. 12th we have an early dismissal of 1:33 pm** so parents and students can meet with their teacher and access their child's portfolio for the first time. Please see the attached information form for more details.



Nut Allergies:

Please be aware that we have students and staff with nut allergies. Please refrain from sending any food products containing nuts. Your assistance with this is much appreciated!



Traffic Safety:

Please help us keep our students safe by refraining from parking in our designated drop off area and in the bus zone in our parking lot. Please pull ahead and keep the flow moving. Please see attached information on tips for traffic safety.



Notices Home:

A number of notices have been sent home that need your consent or review before being returned to school. These include media coverage, name/photo publication, parent driver forms, internet based tools access, student verification and others specific to the classroom. Please review these notices and return them as soon as possible. **Please review the student verification form carefully** and make any changes/updates before returning it to the school. Please return this form **even if no changes are necessary**. Thank you!



Homework Help at Home!

Type in the address below and your son or daughter will have access to many online resources. There are databases, videos, ebooks and much, much more. Use the username and password to access it all.

Our Ray Shepherd Library Learning Commons also has a website which is listed below. Check out the website for the latest information on what is happening in the library as well as find links to great online resources.

Our Library Webpage: <http://rayshepherdlc.weebly.com/>

Username: sd36bc
Password: sd36bc

A screenshot of the Surrey Schools website. At the top left is the Surrey Schools logo with the tagline "LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING". Below the logo is the URL "SURREYSCHOOLS.CA/STUDENTSERVICES/HOMEWORKHELP". There are three main navigation buttons: "School Library" with a book icon, "Digital Resources" with a laptop and various digital icons, and "eBooks" with a red shield icon containing a white book. At the bottom of the page is the slogan "Read ★ Play ★ Learn" in a stylized font.

Surrey Schools
LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

SURREYSCHOOLS.CA/STUDENTSERVICES/HOMEWORKHELP

School Library Digital Resources eBooks

Read ★ Play ★ Learn

PAC UPDATE - OCTOBER 2016:

Message from the President:

Hello parents! Thank you so much for being such an amazing part of Ray Shepherd Elementary School! Our first community event, the Meet the Teacher BBQ was a huge success. We had a record number of families come out to get to know each other and become more acquainted with the school and our amazing staff! It was a beautiful evening. We would like to thank Andrea Scoten for organizing the event and her lovely husband for helping with the barbequing, Jenny Messenger for the amazing decorating, Nicole Hall for donating the hamburgers and Sharon Anderson who did all the shopping. We had a lot of parent volunteers who came to help with the serving and clean up and it was greatly appreciated! Our next PAC meeting has been changed to October 25th at 8:45 am in the staff room. Thank you so much for your support and being a part of this amazing community!



Aimee McDonald
PAC President

NEXT PAC MEETING - Tuesday, October 25th at 8:45 a.m. in the staffroom

Dates to Remember

Oct. 6th Hot Lunch - Soup 'N Sandwich



Oct. 13th Hot Lunch - Hot Dogs

Oct. 20th Hot Lunch - Asian



Oct. 27th Hot Lunch - Subway



Meaningful learning requires personal commitment and partnerships. The most important contributor outside the school is parents or guardians; their participation and interest are crucial to students' motivation and success.

Parents and guardians set a very important example. Work with your child. Support and praise your child. Talk often with your child's teacher. Your involvement will strengthen your child's achievement in school.

- praising your child's early and on-going attempts to write and spell and to encourage them to greater literacy as they grow older
 - reading to and with your child
 - taking time to discuss school experiences with your child
 - providing a variety of reading, writing and artistic materials at home
 - taking your child to the library, the museum, and cultural events
 - modeling good reading and writing habits
 - pointing out spelling patterns and unusual word features
 - encouraging a homework routine and providing a quiet location
 - modeling the value of attendance, punctuality, and perseverance
 - celebrating success by praising your child for his/her accomplishments
 - asking your child's teacher(s) for ways you can help
 - stressing the importance and relevance of literacy and mathematics in everyday life and as paths to many careers. (For example, take your child shopping and compare prices, open a bank account, read and prepare a recipe, write a record of a trip which includes a journal and estimating times and distances)
 - giving more responsibility as your child matures
 - above all, give your child the most important form of support - your time
-

School parking and traffic safety

The Surrey School District makes student safety a priority in school buildings and on school grounds, including parking lots.

It is always a challenge for schools to balance the need for a convenient and intuitive traffic flow and parking pattern with the need to respect neighbours' driveways, neighbourhood traffic, city bylaws—and the most important consideration—student safety.

The challenge is considerable when you are trying to accommodate a sudden rush of often hundreds of cars onto a one-block, or even half-block, street frontage.

Considerable planning is put into each school's specific traffic and parking circumstances; however student safety is the most important consideration, even if it causes some inconvenience to drivers.

Therefore, it is important for the safety of your child and other students that parents and others who drop off or pick up students at school obey all posted signage and follow established traffic flow patterns.

Many schools in the district have one-way driveways, restricted turn lanes and designated pick-up and drop-off areas designed to keep everyone safe. Failing to observe the rules puts students as well as motorists at risk. With pick-up and drop-off zones in particular, it's imperative that drivers obey posted signs. It's inappropriate and dangerous to misuse these areas for even a few seconds.

Some schools also have rules aimed at reducing harm to the environment, such as requiring motorists to turn off their vehicles while parked.

Motorists who don't respect the rules can expect a visit from a staff member, volunteer or student reminding them to comply.

Tips for drivers

- Drive only part way—or don't drive at all! Most students are usually well within walking distance of their school, so arrange a "walking school bus" with other parents. It's healthier and green!
- Think 30! A 30 km/h speed limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in school zones.
- Stop for school buses when their lights are flashing – it's the law.
- Children who are driven to school should exit the vehicle on the side closest to the curb or sidewalk.
- Use caution when a vehicle in front of you stops as the driver may be yielding to a pedestrian crossing the street.
- Always yield to pedestrians.

Tips for students

- Walk, don't run across the street.
- Before crossing the street, wait at the curb and make sure all vehicles have stopped. Look left and right, then over your shoulder for vehicles that may be turning.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing at a crosswalk – it's the best way to ensure they see you.
- Don't jaywalk. Drivers don't expect to see pedestrians away from intersections and crosswalks, so pedestrians are even less likely to be seen.
- Don't wear headphones, talk on the phone, text or use handheld devices when crossing a street.





Ray Shepherd

Elementary School

1650-136 Street, Surrey, B.C. V4A 4E4

School District #36 (Surrey)

Ph: (604) 531-1471 * Fax: (604) 541-8039

October 3, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past year, the reporting options for teachers have been shifting. A new reporting platform was introduced by some classroom teachers last year, called FreshGrade. This year, all teachers at our school will be reporting student progress through this online reporting method. We would like to invite you to an information session on this new reporting platform on **Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00 pm** in the gym. At this information session, we will outline what FreshGrade is, it's links to research in assessment, what your child's portfolio will look like and what you can do to support this reporting process.

Prior to **October 12th**, we would like you and your child to sign up for a meeting time with your classroom teacher so you may be introduced to your child's digital portfolio for the first time on our **early dismissal day of October 12th**. Information on how to set up and get access to your child's FreshGrade account will be emailed to you on **Monday, October 10th** and will be posted on our school website. If you have not signed up to receive school emails, please do so before this date. **FreshGrade will go live on October 11th**. Throughout the year, evidence of learning will be posted by the classroom teacher so you can be a part of your child's learning journey in a timely manner. You can then comment on their learning within their portfolio and establish goals for further learning in collaboration with your child. You will have access to iPads and laptops here at the school to view your child's portfolio, however we would **strongly encourage you to bring your own electronic device (phone or ipad)**. Please sign up for a meeting time by signing up on the form posted outside your child's classroom, or contact the classroom teacher directly via phone or email. Conferences will begin at 1:45 pm.

Once you have learned how to access your child's portfolio, their classroom teacher will provide you with ongoing and continuous feedback on your child's learning throughout the year. FreshGrade will replace paper reports for your child, however he/she will receive a printable summary report at the end of the school year. We hope that by checking this portfolio regularly, you will have a good understanding of the progress your child is making, areas requiring further development, and ways you can support learning at home.

If you are unable to attend either the information session on **October 5th** or the portfolio sharing session on **October 12th**, please contact your classroom teacher so you can make alternate arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Ms. J. Howard
Principal



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October 2016

This year, teachers have the option to communicate student learning using an online tool called *FreshGrade* to create personalized digital portfolios. Learning evidence may take the form of informal notes, pictures, links to video or audio, and student self-assessments, and informs you about your child's progress in relation to the learning standards in the prescribed areas of learning.

During this school year our focus will be on determining where *your* child is in relation to curriculum learning standards, what their next steps are, and how we can help them get there. Students will be active participants and take ownership of their learning by capturing their own evidence of learning or choosing artifacts in collaboration with teachers. Student self-assessment and reflections on their learning will be a significant part of their portfolios. Most important is that you, as parents, will receive information in a timely manner so you can celebrate your child's learning, stretch their thinking by asking good questions, provide support and communicate with your child's teacher when it is most needed.

In order for teachers to document student learning electronically, your consent is required. All data within *FreshGrade* resides on servers located within Canada. Accounts are password protected and only you, your child, your child's teacher(s), and anyone else you grant access to can view the portfolio. With your consent, you will receive an email with information on how you can access your child's individual digital portfolio. In this portfolio, you will view information regarding:

- ✓ Evidence of your child's growth over time in relation to learning standards
- ✓ Concrete changes in abilities, skills, behaviours, attitudes, and understanding
- ✓ Ways your child can be supported at home and school
- ✓ Celebrations of learning

Please complete and return this form with your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a wonderful year of learning.

Sincerely,
Ray Shepherd Staff

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Student (if over 13)

Print Name

Print Student Name and Grade

Date

Date

Print School Name

Print Teacher's Name

*** Please provide email addresses of parents/guardians you wish to have access to your child's FreshGrade account.**

Email: _____ **Email:** _____



PEP
Parents Empowering Partnerships

SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY

Conversation *cafe*

PRESENTED BY:
SURREY SAFE SCHOOLS

current trends and concerns:

DRUGS MENTAL HEALTH

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: Semiahmoo Secondary
1785 148th Street, Surrey

coffee, tea & treats will be provided

Parents, caregivers and community members are invited to attend an informal evening of coffee, tea and conversation to learn more about concerning issues affecting our youth.

School district staff and community agencies will be in attendance to answer questions and provide information on the services and supports available for Surrey youth and their families.

Join the Conversation!

learn about:

SUPPORT & SERVICES
available to
YOUTH IN SURREY

RSVP

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