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Principal
Mrs. L. Chau

Ray Shepherd Elementary School



www.surreyschools.ca/rayshepherd October 2017

Special Dates

October 3, 17
Cross-Country
Meets at
Crescent Park
3:30 p.m.

October 5
Gr.6 Immunizations

October 9
Thanksgiving Day
Holiday

October 11
Early Dismissal
1:30 p.m.

October 12
Photo Day
Individual Student
Photos

October 20
Non-Instructional
Day

October 24
PAC Meeting
8:45 a.m.

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 to start the year and honour the heroes in our lives. Our school was able to raise \$2390.55! Way to go, Ray Shepherd! Thank you to Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Tome for organizing such a well-run event!

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 Mondays after school from 2:40-3:10, and Wednesday mornings from 8-8:30am. Thank you to Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Cyr, Mrs. Tome and Mrs. Brine who are the Cross-Country Coaches!



Walk and Roll to School Week:

October 16-October 20 is Walk and Roll to School Week. Our Gr.7 Leaders have organized fun activities to encourage students to walk or roll to school. Please encourage your family to also walk and roll to school as it is a great opportunity to promote walking, cycling and wheeling to school!

FreshGrade Reporting:

We are using the online reporting platform, FreshGrade, with all classes this year. Some teachers used it last year so it may be familiar to some parents. A consent letter and information sheet will be sent home and is attached to this newsletter. On **Wednesday, Oct. 11th** we have an **early dismissal at 1:30pm** so parents and students can meet with their teacher and access their child's portfolio. Please see the attached information form for more details.



Art & Drawing Clubs:



Intermediate Art Club for Grades 4-7 will begin Thursday Oct. 12 after school from 2:30-4:00. If you are interested in joining this club please come to a quick meeting on Thursday Oct. 5 at lunch in Ms. Clark's room. The Art Club will meet every Thursday after school from October 12- December 7 (no Art Club November 9th) and start up again in the new year. Our meeting on the 5th will be a brainstorming session to gather insight into what artistic adventures students would like to tackle. Please be aware that we will get messy often, students should bring an old shirt or smock on Art Club days.

Freestyle Fridays will be a Drawing Club offered to Grades 4-5 and Grade 6-7 on alternating lunch times. Bring a sketch book and pencil. We will explore other tools to use for drawing and listen to music while drawing, doodling and creating.

Be Nut Aware:

Just a reminder to all families that we are a nut aware school. Please be mindful when packing snacks and lunches for your child(ren) as we do have several students at school who are anaphylactic and some students and staff who have nut allergies. Thank-you.



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. A reminder also that the wheelchair accessible parking spot is reserved for people who have a wheelchair accessible tag. Thank you.



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!



Planners:

As part of the provincial student learning grant, the student planner has been reduced to \$2 for the 2017-18 school year. The remaining funds from this learning grant have been used to provide learning resources to schools.

PAC UPDATE – OCTOBER 2017:

Message from the President:

Hello parents. What a great start to the year! The Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Teacher night were a huge success and thanks to all of you who came out. A special thanks to Andrea Scoten for organizing and all our amazing parent volunteers for helping! Hawk Wear (Ray Shepherd spirit clothing) will be for sale at the



Book Fair November 22-24th. Don't miss out on a chance to support your school spirit! Look out for newsletters outlining our fall fundraisers like the Surrey Eagles Family night, Cobbs Fundraiser, and Pointsetta and Purdy's sales. We are still looking for hot lunch volunteers. Please contact



Andrea at jascoten@shaw.ca to volunteer. The time commitment is usually 2 hours every 4-5 weeks from 11-1 on a Thursday. Thanks so much for always being such a great support of our school community!

NEXT PAC MEETING – Tuesday, October 24th at 8:45 a.m. in the staffroom

Aimee McDonald
PAC President

Dates to Remember

Hot Lunch:

October 5th – Pizza

October 12th – Asian Cuisine

October 19th – Subway

October 26th - Pasta



Dear Parents/Guardians

Teachers in the Surrey School District have the option to communicate student learning through personalized digital portfolios using an online tool called *FreshGrade*. *FreshGrade* represents a new way to communicate student learning which engages our families in ways that better aligns with emerging self-service trends that provide real-time student progress, reporting, parent participation and student support for our families today. We believe that *FreshGrade* allows for more effective communication with our parents. Learning evidence may take the form of informal notes, pictures, links to video or audio, student self-assessments, which documents your child's progress in relation to the learning standards in the prescribed areas of learning.

During this school year, students will be active participants and take ownership of their learning by capturing their own evidence of learning by 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 parents 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.



NEW THIS YEAR is the integration of "Google Translate", a third-party service that will allow parents to translate wording in your child's digital portfolio to a language they may be more familiar with. The service will also allow teachers to translate messages from parents that may be in a different language. While the service does not claim to perfectly translate one language to another, we believe "Google Translate" can offer parents greater access to, and a deeper understanding of, the contents of their child's digital portfolio.

Before you access the "Google Translate" service, you need to know that unlike all other information sent to *FreshGrade* that travels within and is stored in Canada, there is a possibility that comments about learning samples sent to be translated through the "Google Translate" service may leave Canada. While in transit outside the country, information in the translation may be subject to the laws of foreign jurisdictions, including, in the United States, access under the USA Patriot Act. Please sign the reverse side of this form to confirm that you have read and you understand the potential risk in using "Google Translate".

As a general safe practice, when interacting with any online service, students should take care and avoid posting personal information or personal location that could be used to identify themselves or other persons.

In order for teachers to document student learning electronically, your consent is required. All data within *FreshGrade* resides on servers located in Vancouver B.C. at [Cogeco Pier1](#) and is encrypted while stored and in transit. 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. Since learning is a social activity and images/videos may display your child learning with others, consideration should be taken to not post or share on social media any content within your child's *FreshGrade* portfolio that may contain the name and/or likeness of other students in the class. With your consent, you will receive an email with information on how you can access your child's individual digital portfolio.

As a public institution, we are subject to the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In accordance with this Act, we must at all times protect the privacy of students under our care. The *FreshGrade* services collects registration and account information from teachers, parents and students which includes your name, user name, email address, phone number, profile picture, affiliation school and its location. *FreshGrade* also collects personal information when the student downloads the mobile application, sends an invitation and requests for others to collaborate on classroom activities. ***FreshGrade* will only offer their services to those who are confirmed as enrolled students in the Surrey School District.** Participating students will have signed parent consent forms acknowledging that their personal information will be disclosed, and securely stored and accessed in Canada.

If you choose to participate in the use of *FreshGrade*, please complete and return this form with your child. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a wonderful year of learning.

Sincerely,

Antonio Vendramin,
District Principal, Communicating Student Learning

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

Surrey School District 36 – Education Services Department 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 596-7733 Fax: (604) 595-5326 www.sd36.bc.ca



CONSENT:

I have read the attached letter from the Surrey School District and understand that when implementing the web-based service known as *FreshGrade* we will combine information about students that is collected by the School District as part of its registration processes, with class work and other content that the teacher and student add or upload to this service. I understand that the objective of *FreshGrade* is to provide a web-based/mobile tool that will enable more effective communication and collaboration between students, educators and parents about student's evidence of learning and assessment at school.

By signing this consent, I, on behalf of my child, understand and agree that:

- The School District may provide personal information about my child as described in the attached letter;
- All personal information disclosed to *FreshGrade* will be encrypted and stored on external servers located in Canada and managed by service providers engaged by the School District;
- Student personal information and evidence of learning in *FreshGrade* will be accessible to you, your child, and your child's teachers and school based administrator(s);
- The use of *FreshGrade* is governed by Surrey School District policy [5780.1](#) and [5780.2](#);
- Since learning is a social activity and images/videos may display your child learning with others, the name and/or likeness of other students in the class should not be posted or shared on social media sites; and
- Information sent through the "Google Translate" service may be subject to the laws of foreign jurisdictions, including, in the United States, access under the USA Patriot Act.

This consent will be considered valid **from the date at which it is signed until one year after the point at which your child named below is no longer a student within the School District.** If at any point you choose to withdraw consent, please contact your school directly.

I also hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the School District's Policy which governs the Use of *FreshGrade*. **This form must be returned**, signed and dated, to the student's school so that a *FreshGrade* account can be activated for the student named below.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Signature of Student (if over 13)

Print Name

Print Student Name and Grade

Print School Name

Print Teacher's Name

Parent e-mail address

Print School Name

Date Signed

Date Signed

Important points to remember as you and your child interact with their digital portfolio...

1. What does the artifact of learning communicate? What was your child (or their teacher) trying to share by posting this artifact?
2. Portfolios are not about *judgements of work*. The best conversations are those when we give feedback or asking questions that stretch thinking. That moves learning forward!
3. Who owns the learning? Who selected the evidence of learning? What role did your child play in this process? Is your child able to accurately assess their learning with evidence? In what ways is your child displaying ownership of their learning?
4. Process trumps product. Sometimes the final product of learning does not honour and reflect all the work that came before it. Comment on product, but don't forget to focus on the process of learning that led up to the actual artifact of learning.

Parents, here are some possible sentence starters to help begin and maintain conversations around what you see in your child's learning portfolio...

- Why did you choose to post _____?
- Why do you think your teacher posted _____?
- I notice how you... (*be specific, focusing more on perseverance and less on "ability", avoided phrases such as "You're so smart" "You are such a talented artist"*)
- I am so proud that you are now able to...
- I can see you tried really hard to....
- Look - now you can...
- You have improved in...
- I can see evidence of growth... You used to... but now you...
- When I compare these two pieces of work, I notice...
- When you look at these two pieces of work, what do you notice?
- I know you found this work challenging, but look at how you...
- Before you had trouble with... but now you can...
- At the beginning of the year you did not know... but now...
- I was pleased with how you did this work because...
- I can see that you are doing better at...
- Can you explain your thinking about this...?
- You've achieved your goal of _____!
- I can see evidence of growth toward your goal because...
- What I like about this work (artifact) is...
- I am impressed with this work because...
- One way at home that we can try to help you is....
- What do you like most this work?
- Do you think you need some help with...?
- What do you think you could you do differently next time?
- How else do you think you could...?
- Did _____ turn out the way you expected?
- I know _____ didn't go as you planned but I can see that...
- Tell me about...

"...For when students assemble and share portfolios, they perform acts of metacognition that deepen their ability to learn, their desire to learn, and the learning itself."

-Stiggins et al, 2006

"We have daily conversations with our children about the new things that are uploaded to their portfolio. We love this time and cherish the excitement they have showing us what they are up to and the pride they have in showing us their work."

-Surrey Parent