



# Bothwell Elementary School

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Ms. Leah Christensen, Principal

October 4, 2021

# NEWSLETTER

## A Word from Your Principal

As the first month of school draws to a close, it is a good time to pause and realise what a fantastic start we have had to this year. Students are settled into their classes, making new friends, and growing into comfortable routines that support learning. We have already rehearsed several school-wide safety drills, come together for two assemblies, started student leadership, learned about the importance of reconciliation and our role in it, jumped in lots of puddles, spent time with big and little buddies, marvelled at the beautiful Douglas Fir in our groves, created amazing art displays for our hallways, gained increased fitness in gym and outdoors, read some fascinating and entertaining books, and launched into engaging learning opportunities each day in class.

In this newsletter we are excited to share many upcoming events and happenings at Bothwell. While we are not yet able to fully open our doors and invite you inside, we look forward to continuing to communicate evidence of learning, either through Freshgrade or through CSL reports, student conferences, and always welcome time to meet in person by appointment. Students are excited to return to some of the activities that have been on hold for over 18 months, and I hope their stories of joy and wonder make it home to be shared with you.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Here's to another incredible month of growing together.

Ms. L. Christensen

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Oct. 8 Terry Fox Community Run (1.30 pm)
- Oct. 11 Thanksgiving Monday – School is closed
- Oct. 12 Fire Drill #3
- Oct. 18 Fire Drill #4
- Oct. 20/21 The Pumpkin Patch Comes to Bothwell  
*(notices will be sent home this week)*
- Oct. 22 Non-Instructional Day – School is closed
- Oct. 29 Gr. 7 Pizza Lunch Fundraiser (#1 of 2)
- Nov. 2 Gr. 6/7 Routine Vaccinations (Fraser Health RNs at Bothwell)
- Nov. 5 Primary and Intermediate “Bothwell GROWS” Monthly Assemblies
- Nov. 10 Remembrance Day Assemblies
- Nov. 11 Remembrance Day – School is Closed
- Nov. 12 Non-Instructional Day – School is Closed
- Nov. 19 Gr. 7 Pizza Lunch Fundraiser (#2 of 2)
- Nov. 23 PAC Fundraiser – Chipotle Guildford
- Nov. 25 1.35 pm Early Dismissal – Student Conferences
- Dec. 3 Primary and Intermediate “Bothwell GROWS” Monthly Assemblies
- Dec. 10 CSL Reports go home
- Dec. 17 Last day of school before Winter Break

*Please refer to the calendar on the Bothwell school website for updates or changes:*

<http://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/bothwell>



## CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR BOTHWELL PAC

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD | 5-9PM**  
10355 152 ST UNIT 1005, SURREY, BC, V3R 7C1

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **F432VE3**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

## *Thank You for Coming to our Outdoor "Meet the Teacher Ice Cream Social"*

It was delightful to see so many last Tuesday! The school grounds felt alive with conversation and laughter, and brought the feeling of community like we've not felt in some time. We look forward to this becoming an annual tradition!



## **Terry Fox Fundraising and Community Run - Rain or Shine**

A permission form went home last week for our community Terry Fox Run happening Friday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. We encourage families to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation online, using the link below:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/BothwellElementary>



## **Return to Separate Primary and Intermediate Lunch**

Last year, due to Covid19, most schools in Surrey divided the 45 minute lunch into separate times for primary and intermediate students to be outside and play. This was very successful and provided students with additional space and opportunities that don't happen when the school yard is full.

Given we have over 120 more students outdoors at lunch time, the field and playground is very busy. There is increased risk for injury and conflict. For these reasons, starting Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>, we will return to separate outdoor times for primary and intermediate as follows:

11.50 am Primary students go outdoors, rain and shine (divisions 8-13)

Intermediate students wash and eat (divisions 1-7)

12.10 pm Primary students return inside to wash and eat with their lunch monitors

Intermediate students go outdoors, rain and shine

12.35 pm Class resumes

## **Monthly Assemblies Return Face to Face**

We are once again able to safely meet in the gym for separate primary and intermediate assemblies. Our Orange Shirt Day/Truth and Reconciliation assembly was powerful as we learned about the Residential school system of the past, the damage it has done to generations of Indigenous people, and listened to stories of both sadness and strength in the present.

On the first Friday of every month, we will gather as primary and intermediate communities to celebrate student growth, learning and achievement. This time also allows us to explore emergent themes that are part of our school culture. This month, we celebrated Terry Fox and his legacy.

At this time, we are not inviting parents to join us. We hope this may change if Covid transmission rates decline.



PAC Online Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser for the Holidays Returns!

PAC plans to organise this popular fundraiser this year. 25% of all sales are returned to PAC to put towards various initiatives. Stay tuned for details.

Thank you, PAC, for getting fundraising initiatives off the ground!

## Updates on OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning

You may have seen some plans for our three year OPAL project when you came to our Meet the Teacher Ice Cream Social. Our first priority is to get our Forest Grove (*Salh Tumuxw* Learning Circle) back into safe order. We are working with the district to source bark mulch and to re-position the log benches for seating.

We have an active Committee focussed on all aspects of OPAL:

- Gardens
- Grants
- Expansion of Learning Classrooms

We are excited to pilot some of these new ideas and are happy to provide updates at PAC meetings. Hope to see you there!



## Supporting OPAL Requires We Dress for All Weather

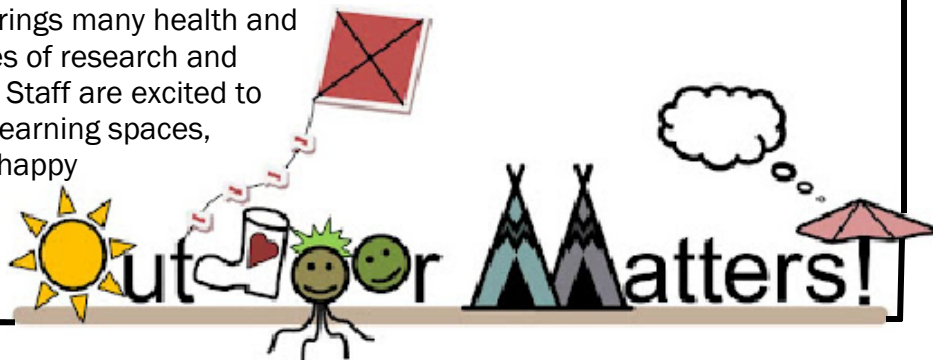
At our Monthly Assembly on Friday, we reminded all students, K-7, that we value getting outside to learn and play every day. This means that all staff and students need to be prepared for the rainy, cooler weather upon us. Please ensure your child has the following each day at school:

- Rain coat with a hood;
- Rain boots
- Rain pants (or a "muddy buddy")
- Inside shoes
- Extra socks

\*\* Umbrellas are optional as they can be difficult when it is blustery

Learning in our natural environment brings many health and educational benefits. We have decades of research and experience to support this knowledge. Staff are excited to explore the expansion of our outdoor learning spaces, and when warm and dry, children are happy and engaged outdoors.

Thank you for your support!





### **PAC Hot Lunches and Gr. 7 Pizza Lunch Fundraisers Get the Green Light**

We are happy to welcome back PAC hot lunch fundraising opportunities. There are health and safety guidelines which we discussed at the PAC AGM.

Grade 7 Pizza lunch fundraisers are also a fine Bothwell tradition. Back in the spring of 2020, there were two outstanding Pizza Lunches that were not fulfilled due to school closure due to Covid19. Ms. Blewett has kept the records of those students who have paid, and we will send new forms out to all other students this week.

The two Grade 7 Pizza Lunch Fundraisers are on October 29<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## *Students Rock Leadership at Bothwell*

Our grade 5, 6, and 7 students are eager to give back in the form of volunteer leadership opportunities. We invite students in grades 5, 6, 7 to a leadership meeting this week. Some of the responsibilities include the following:

- Lunch Monitors (gr. 6/7)
- Announcement and MC Club (gr. 5/6)
- Good Earth Club (recycling) (gr. 6/7)
- Serving Our School (various needs such as organising the gym equipment to taking care of our technology carts) (gr. 6/7)
- Spirit Days (gr. 6/7)
- School Beautification (posters and displays) (gr. 5/6)



The current guidelines allow for sports to resume. The first upper intermediate team sports will be Volleyball. Permission forms will be sent home later this month for any students interested in joining the team.

## **A Safe and Calm End to the Day**

Your cooperation in helping to alleviate traffic congestion is noticeable. This was particularly evident the day of the Federal Election. Our pick up was calm as many people parked down the block and walked. Thank you!

Bylaws and "No Parking" signs are in place to keep your children safe. Thank you for honouring them. This brings a much safer and calm end to the school day.