



Panorama Park Elementary

September 14 to September 17, 2021

Dear Panorama Park Parents and Families,

It has been so wonderful to welcome our students back to school this week! Not only did we get to meet over 48 of our brand new kindergarten children and their families, but we also welcomed back a number of students who were in our Blended Program last year, many of whom haven't attended school in person since the Spring of 2020. For those students and families who are new to Panorama Park, we would like to again extend a warm welcome to you and your families. To our returning students, welcome back. Mr. Gill and myself, our support staff and all of our teachers are so excited for a wonderful year of learning with you!

We are seeing some changes at Panorama Park this year. We have seen a drop in our student population and we are beginning the school year with 438 students. To put this in context, we began the 2020-21 school year with 470 students. With the hot housing market we had a number of families move out of the area over the summer and we are noticing that fewer families with elementary aged children have moved in. As a result, we have about 40 fewer students than expected.

Our staffing in the spring was based on our projected enrolment and we were originally approved and staffed for 21 kindergarten to grade 7 divisions. Due to the decline we learned on Friday that we will be losing a division and must organize our school into 20 divisions. This also means that we will be saying goodbye to one of our classroom teachers, who will move to a position at a new school. At this point, Ms. Amraj Brar will be moving to a new school.

This change in the organization and the loss of a classroom teacher is unfortunate and unexpected. We have had to build a new organization and create new groupings of students. This is later than in past years and we would like to thank our parents and students for their patience. We take the responsibility of organizing students into balanced groups seriously and put a lot of thought and time into creating classes. Today your child will come home with a letter. This letter will share your child's class placement for the year.

Thank you for your support.

~ Ms Dhaliwal (Principal) & Mr. Gill (Vice Principal)

What's Happening This Week



Monday, September 13

- Happy Monday!

Tuesday, September 14

- Students moved into permanent classes

Wednesday, September 15

Thursday, September 16

Friday, September 17

- Happy Friday!

Class Organizations and Combined Classes



It is natural for students to feel anxious about moving into their new classes at the beginning of the school year. Students and parents often have expectations about who will be their teacher and which friends will be in their class. Some students may feel a little disappointed that they aren't in a particular teacher's class or with a specific friend or group of students. Our classes are organized by the students' previous year's teacher(s) and they consider a number of factors when creating classes, including:

- creating a class with a balance of students with different strengths and abilities
- social groupings (putting students together or separating them into different classes)
- friendships (our teachers make best efforts to put students with at least one friend or supportive learning partner)
- teacher fit (the dynamics of their classroom, teachers' passions, style of teaching etc.)

Our experience has been that students generally settle into their new classes very quickly at the beginning of the new year and thrive in their new settings. Almost all students feel better within a day or two after moving as they make new friends and begin to feel a part of their class community. If your child is feeling anxious or upset after moving into their new class we would ask that you reassure them that change is difficult for everyone and to give it a few days. We generally do not move students into a different class once the school year has started as we often don't have room to do so and it often has a significant impact on other students and the class dynamics. If your child is feeling upset about their new class you might also share how your child is feeling with their new teacher(s) so they can monitor those students and the class dynamics with this in mind.

We often receive feedback about students in combined (sometimes referred to as "split" classes). At Panorama Park, a large number of our classes are combined classes this year. Our experience at Panorama Park has shown that students in these classes have the same learning opportunities and general outcomes as those in straight classes. In BC, our curriculum emphasizes competencies and skill development over teaching "content" and our goal is to teach students at their individual level. We know that even in a straight grade class we will have students who are below grade level, at grade level or above grade level in various areas (reading ability, numeracy skills, socialization, creative and critical thinking, etc). Because of this we find that students in combined classes are taught in the same way and

have the same opportunities as those in straight grade classes and even benefit from working with students of different ages and abilities. For more information about class organizations and combined classes, please click these links:

- [Class Organizations District Information Sheet](#)
- [Combined Classes District Information Sheet](#)

Welcome New Staff



A big welcome to the following staff members new to Panorama Park this year:

- Ms. Kaushal (intermediate teacher)
- Ms. Onions (intermediate teacher and French)
- Ms. Hamal (intermediate teacher)
- Ms. Hunter (LST)
- Ms. Wilson (IST)
- Ms. Lee (Music)
- Ms. Rangi (Back from maternity leave)
- Ms. Graig (Back from maternity leave)
- Ms. Loverock (Back from maternity leave)
- Ms. Bains (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. A. Bhandal (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. K. Bhandal (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Chopra (EA - Educational Assistant)

- Mr. Dabestani (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Deol (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Grewal (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Madan (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Sebastian (EA - Educational Assistant)
- Ms. Razzo (CYCW)
- Ms. Robertson (CYCW)

Kindergarten Gradual Entry and Supplies

A big welcome to our kindergarten students and families! Students have been placed in temporary groups and have begun the gradual entry schedule.

Our kindergarten teachers have purchased a bulk order of school supplies for students at a cost of \$40 each (\$30 & \$10 for take home crafts). You can purchase these supplies beginning September 13 through our school online payment process. Please see the information below about paying online.



School Online Payments, School Supplies and Planners

School Online Payments and Planners

We are cash less at Panorama Park and any school payments for things like planners and field trips can be done online. Our online payment process is live now. Parents have to set up an account first. For more information please go to the [Parent tab of our school website](#) and click on "Pay Fees Online". Parents can also purchase planners for \$5 using our online payment system beginning September 15, 2021.

School Supplies

Parents can also find school supply lists on the parent tab of our website. A reminder that students should not bring in school supplies until they are in permanent classes.

Panorama Park Elementary 2021-22 Bell Schedule

Panorama Park Elementary 2021-2022 Bell Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. *Welcome Bell*
 - 8:35 a.m. *Morning Session Begins*
 - 10:15 a.m. *Recess Begins (all students)*
 - 10:30 a.m. *Recess Ends*
 - 11:50 a.m. *Lunch Recess Begins*
 - 12:15 a.m *Eating Time (15 min.)*
 - 12:15 p.m. *Outside Time (25 min.)*
 - 12:30 *Transition Bell*
 - 12:35 p.m. *Afternoon Session Begins*
 - 2:35 p.m. *Dismissal*
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2021-22 School Calendar



Important Calendar Dates for 2021 – 2022



Tuesday, September 7	School Opens (10:00 - 11:00 am)
Monday, September 27	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Thursday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)
Thursday, October 7	Early Dismissal at 1:35 pm
Friday, October 8	Individual Photos
Monday, October 11	Thanksgiving (no school)
Thursday, October 21	Interim #1
Friday, October 22	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Wednesday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Thursday, November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
Friday, November 12	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Tuesday, November 16	Individual Photo Retakes
Thursday, December 2	Term #1 Formal Reports
Thursday, December 9	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	Early Dismissal at 1:35 pm
Friday, December 17	Last Day of School prior to Winter Break
December 20 to December 31	Winter Break
Monday, January 3	Back to School
Monday, February 21	Family Day (no school)
Friday, February 25	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Thursday, March 3	Term #2 Formal Reports
Thursday, March 10	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	Early Dismissal at 1:35 pm
Friday, March 11	Last Day of School prior to Spring Break
March 14 to March 25	School Closure Days/Spring Break Holidays
Monday, March 28	Back to School
Friday, April 15	Good Friday (no school)
Monday, April 18	Easter Monday (no school)
Thursday, May 5	Interim #2
Friday, May 6	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Monday, May 23	Victoria Day (no school)
Monday, May 30	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Thursday, June 23	Last Day of School
	Term #3 Reports Go Home
	Early Dismissal at 1:35 pm
Friday, June 24	Administrative Day/School Closed



COVID Reminders and Daily Health Checks

- Schools will continue to follow a strict cleaning and hand sanitizing regiment.
- A reminder that masks are mandatory for all students in grades 4 -7 and highly encouraged for younger students.
- Staff members will wear masks when indoors at all times.
- Parents are expected to do daily health checks with their children before coming to school. For more information please see the [K-12 daily health check website](#) and [mobile app](#) to help students and families make the best decisions on whether to attend school, stay home, or take other measures. Questions and answers are easy to understand and are based on current health guidelines. All content is written with the K-12 age group in mind.