



Woodland Park Elementary Newsletter

September 2014

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Message from the Principal

Once again, Welcome back to Woodland Park. We are now settled into our classes and routines and looking forward to another fabulous year. We enjoy working in partnership with our parents as we know you play an integral role in the education of your son/daughter.

Important Dates

Oct 9	BBQ & Meet & Greet
Oct 10	Terry Fox Run
Oct 13	Thanksgiving – no school
Oct 24	Pro-D Day – no school
Oct 30	Individual Photos
Oct 31	Wacky Photo Day

We ask that you make a designated "homework area" and "homework time" for your son/daughter. Children thrive on consistency of expectations. At times I believe we lose sight of what is important and let involvement in "activities" take precedence over homework. This can send the message that academic pursuits are not of value. There will be many times when no homework is assigned. I would like to suggest that students use this time for silent reading or "family reading" time for younger children. As adults, it is important that we MODEL the behaviours we want to encourage.

I am sure you are all anxious to meet the teachers and our opportunity will come soon! October 9 is our Family BBQ and Meet and Greet event. As mentioned in the brief letter I sent home on the first day, forms will be coming home next week for you to put your orders in for dinner. The event will run from 4:30 -6:30 pm.

Water Bottles

This year we are trying to make the most of our instructional time and minimize class disruptions. Many of our students keep bottled water on their desks all day thus, finding the need to use the washrooms more frequently than necessary. This does cause minor disruptions throughout the day to all students as there is a constant coming and going to the washrooms.

We recognize hydration is important however, water fountains are available in all hallways. I would like to encourage students to limit their drinking to recess and lunches and make use of the water fountains rather than bring bottled water to school. Thank you for your assistance.





Healthy Lunches

WP is a school that promotes healthy lifestyles. We encourage physical activity, quiet/down time and eating a healthy balanced diet. Help us help your children make good choices by having students become involved in selecting healthy foods, low in sugar, for their lunches.

For our new parents, we also offer a “Fruit and Veggie” program whereby students are provided, free of charge, healthy snacks once per month. Students are exposed to fruits and vegetables that they may otherwise not try.

Fall Sports



The Surrey Elementary Schools Athletic Association has announced that due to the late start of the year, the Soccer and Cross Country Season has been cancelled for the 2014-2015 school year.

Halloween October 31

Once again we will be having a Wacky Picture Day on October 31 for those students wearing their Halloween Costumes. Pictures are available for purchase (\$6) and will be ready the following Wednesday – order forms will be going home in the next few weeks.



Wacky Picture Day will be the only school wide Halloween activity; however, individual classroom activities will continue as usual.



Bricks for Kids will be offered again at Woodland Park, starting Friday Oct 10. Their programs are designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, construction, and amusement parks. Specially designed project kits and theme-based models provide the building blocks for the Bricks 4 Kidz approach to educational play. Brochures with registration information will be going home next week. You must register online directly through their website www.bricks4kidz.com

School Zone Safety Notice

For the safety of all school children and their parents, we are conducting scheduled educational and enforcement patrols at all Surrey Elementary Schools.

Please consider the safety of everyone's children, not just your own, when visiting your schools.

The simple courtesy of respecting the posted signage and directions from the Commissionaires and volunteers will reduce unnecessary accidents.

Your understanding and compliance with the rules will also re-enforce the benefits of safety before convenience to your children and other parents.



A General Guide to School Traffic Safety

There are over 150 schools in the City of Surrey, with each one generating high volumes of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles each morning and afternoon. A key objective of the City's Transportation Strategic Plan is to improve community safety, health and quality of life—all of which can be affected by the activities associated with trips to and from school.

School traffic safety is influenced by many things which can either minimize or exacerbate congestion during the peak pick-up and drop-off periods. The decision to walk, cycle or drive to school can be influenced by many factors, including the amount of traffic in the area, the width of roads, the provision of sidewalks, the types of pedestrian crossings, the amount of street parking available, the provision and type of bike parking facilities, and the on-site pick-up/drop-off facilities. Education of parents and students raises safety awareness and influences better choices and behaviours during school travel, and quite often enforcement is also required to encourage these proper choices. The three E's of safety—engineering, education, and enforcement—require the combined efforts and cooperation of parents, students, schools, the school district, the City, and the RCMP.

How can I help improve safety around schools?

The City's Safe and Active Schools Program is aimed at enhancing safety around schools by improving signage, implementing new road crossings, and constructing traffic calming measures and sidewalks, as well as working directly with schools to encourage more walking and cycling to school. We are doing many projects, but we need your support to maximize their benefit. Activities that you can do to help improve safety include:

- Encourage students to walk or cycle to school, or get picked up or dropped off a short distance away from school.
- Create walking groups of several families, in which parents alternate the responsibility of walking the children to school.
- Determine and discuss the safest route to walk or bicycle.
- Wear brightly coloured clothing to be visible to drivers.
- Observe proper practice when crossing streets.
- Obey the "No Stopping", "No Parking", and "Drop-off & Pick-up Only" signage.
- Respect the School Areas and Reduced Speed School Zones.
- Be alert and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all intersections and crosswalks.



Did you know?

School Areas and Zones

School Areas and Reduced Speed School Zones are considered for streets adjacent to school properties. School areas start as you pass a school area sign prior to the school property and end as you pass the back of the school area sign facing the opposite direction. Drivers should expect higher student pedestrian volumes and congestion within the school area, and should be alert for these potential conflicts and adjust their speed as required, even outside of school arrival and dismissal times.

Reduced speed (30 km/h) school zones are commonly used adjacent to elementary schools and are identified with a black and white speed tab placed under the school area sign. A reduced speed zone is in effect from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days. Travelling at the reduced speed allows the driver to stop quicker for unexpected occurrences that may happen adjacent to the school.



School Calendar 2014 – 2015

September 22, 2014	First Day of School
October 13, 2014	Thanksgiving Day – no school
October 24, 2014	Non-instructional day – no school
November 10, 2014	Non-instructional day – no school****
November 11, 2014	Remembrance Day – no school
December 19, 2014	Schools Close for winter break
December 22 , 2014 – January 2, 2015	Winter Break
January 5, 2015	Schools reopen after winter break
February 9, 2015	Family Day – no school
February 20, 2015	Non-instructional day – no school****
March 6, 2015	Schools close for spring break
March 9 – March 13, 2015	School closure days
March 16 – March 20, 2015	Spring break
March 23, 2015	Schools reopen after spring break
April 3, 2015	Good Friday – no school
April 6, 2015	Easter Monday – no school
May 1, 2015	Non-instructional day – no school
May 18, 2015	Victoria Day – no school
May 25, 2015	Non-instructional day – no school
June 25, 2015	Last of School for students
June 26, 2015	Administrative Day – no school