



Bothwell Elementary School

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Ms. Leah Christensen, Principal

September 1, 2021

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Countdown to the first day of school...Tuesday, September 7th!

I hope you had many opportunities to be with loved ones over the summer break and are feeling ready for the start of the new school year. Given our cooler, damp weather of late, you would not know our province weathered such extreme heat and wildfires for most of the season. In amidst the challenges, I hope you and your family were able to get outdoors, spend time together, be healthy and create some wonderful memories.



Staff at Bothwell are preparing to welcome your child/children back on September 7th. We look forward to getting the year to a fantastic start in just a few days! I wanted to send some communication prior to school start up as you may have many questions about what to expect this year. There will be continued safety protocols to help curb the spread of the Covid19 virus, which will be outlined below. Equally important is our school's, our district's and our province's commitment to provide a safe, caring and engaging environment for your child/children. This takes in all aspects of your child's emotional and physical health.

I hope this information will be helpful as we prepare to open our doors next week for the 2021-2022 school year. We can't wait to fill the halls and classrooms with all of the energy and enthusiasm your children bring!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms. L. Christensen
Principal

September 7th Opening Day Schedule

- 10:00–11:00 am Students in **Grades 1-7** attend for 1 hour only
** Students will be in Grade groups until classroom organization is completed over the next week or so. Please see the map at the front of the school for which room your child reports to.
- 10:30–11:00 am **Kindergarten** students attend with a parent/guardian for 1/2 hour only
** Please gather outside the Kindergarten area near Ms. Rizzardo and Ms. Anderson's Classroom doors (west side of front wing of school).

September 8th – 11th Schedule

Kindergarten gradual entry; please follow the schedule emailed to you.

Full Days for **Grades 1-7** ** Students will experience different groupings and teachers this week. They will continue to enter and leave the school to the same room on first day (opening day) until class placements are confirmed.

A Note About Class Placement

On the first day of school, students will return to their grade groups classroom.

This allows students to check in with their previous teacher, return to a familiar place, and know where they will be on their first day. It can help calm any nerves students may be feeling on their first day back.

Students will then be placed in temporary groupings, rotating to two or three different teachers over the first week.

Please plan to send basic supplies (e.g. pencil case and materials) during this first week. We appreciate this rotation can be upsetting for students as they are eager to know their teacher and who is in their class. However, ensuring we have balanced classes, positive peer connections (and not distractions), and take time to consider complex emotional, social and intellectual strengths and needs of children is worth the first several days of the school year. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Parent/guardian requests for a particular teacher or student pairing will not be part of the criteria used in balancing classes. If you have information about your child's personal, educational or emotional needs that you have not already communicated, please speak to or email Ms. Christensen this week.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Bothwell Bell Schedule

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- 8:30 am Welcome bell
 - 8:35 am Classes in session
 - 10:20 am Recess
 - 10:35 am Classes in session
 - 11:50 am Lunch protocol begins
(handwashing, supervision in place)
 - 12:35 pm Classes in session
 - 2:35 pm Dismissal bell
 - 2:50 pm Outdoor Supervision ends**

**All students are to leave the grounds unless directly supervised by a parent/guardian

Dressing for the Outdoors

We will continue to spend our recess and lunch time, as well as classroom learning time outdoors in all kinds of weather – rain and shine! If you haven't already, please prepare to send outdoor clothing that will ensure your child stays warm and dry. Living in a temperate rainforest means we receive a lot of rain. Let's get outside and enjoy it!

Rain gear includes raincoats with a hood, rain pants, waterproof boots, and warm socks. It is also helpful if your child has a change of footwear and socks in their classroom.



Grades 1-7 Supply lists are posted on the school website. Please note some additional items may be requested once your child has been placed in their class.

Kindergarten supplies are purchased by the classroom teacher. Cost will be confirmed (\$40-45).

PAC AGM

Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at 7.30pm is our PAC AGM. Further information on whether the meeting will be virtual or face to face. We will be able to resume with fundraising this year, and have all sorts of updates to discuss and share. Hope to see you there!



LOOKING AHEAD

- Aug. 30th School re-opened for new registrations (8.30am – 3pm)
- Sept. 7th Welcome back! First day of school K-7
- Sept. 8th First full day of school (grades 1-7)
- Sept. 20th First full day for Kindergarten students
- Sept. 22nd Virtual PAC AGM (7.30pm)
- Sept. 27th Non-instructional Day (**School is closed**)
- Sept. 29th Orange Shirt Day - Remembrance and Action
- Sept. 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (**School is closed**)



Covid-19 Safety – What to Expect in School

The BC government released the updated Provincial Covid-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 last week. You can find this information on the district website. To help summarise some of the key information, please read below:

What will continue in September:

- **Masks are required** for all K-12 staff, students grades 4-12, and visitors when indoors;
- Masks for students in grades K-3 are encouraged when indoors;
- Daily Health check for all staff and students;
- Staying home when not well;
- Daily attendance and sign in for staff and visitors;
- Effective hand hygiene.

What has been approved for **September:

- Extra-curricular activities, including sports;
- Gathering and events (e.g. assemblies with reduced capacity);
- Visitors with approval and by appointment;
- Community program use;
- PAC fundraising and hot lunch (with specific requirements).

What will no longer be in place for September:

- Learning cohorts; (This allows for classes and groups to freely mix, both indoors and outdoors.)
- Physical distancing of 2 metres, but still allowing adequate space in seating arrangements;
- Surrey Blended Learning.

**** We anticipate slowly returning to many of these activities, with the guidance of Fraser Health and District Health and Safety protocols. Additional regional and local health orders may also arise throughout the year. Further information will be communicated in the weeks to follow.**

Optional Student Accident Insurance

Every year schools receive requests for financial assistance from parents facing medical, dental or other expenses after a student is injured at school. The school district does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property, or during school activities including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parents/guardians are responsible for any costs not covered by the Medical Services Plan (MSP) or their employer's health care plan.

We encourage all parents to consider student accident insurance to protect against unexpected surprises in the event of an accident or injury. For convenience Surrey Schools has made available information on two student accident programs, that provide families the opportunity to voluntarily purchase private accident insurance for as little at \$13 for a year. The two programs are through Insure My Kids and Study Insured Student Accident. Both companies offer online purchase and have provided access to applications, claims forms and full plan information. Please visit insuremykids.com or [studyinsuredstudentaccident](https://studyinsuredstudentaccident.com) for further details.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30th

For the past several years, we have recognised Orange Shirt Day on September 30th as a time to learn about, remember and honour all those impacted by the negative legacy of Residential Schools in Canada. This tradition will continue at Bothwell and more information regarding assemblies and events will follow.

In addition to this, please note that September 30th has been designated as a statutory holiday for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Schools will be closed this day.

We are all needed to be part of this process. Our curriculum now has many opportunities to reflect and learn about the injustices of the past, and how this has impacted our present and the future. As Justice Murray Sinclair, the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission wrote,

Reconciliation is not an Indigenous problem; it is for all of Canada. Reconciliation is about our responsibility to the future.

