



Kirkbride Elementary School

12150 – 92nd Avenue, Surrey B.C., V3V 1G2

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Principal: Mr. Martin Bobik

Vice Principal: Ms. Rhonda Aldus

School website: www.surreyschools.ca/schools/kirkbride

Newsletter #1

September 10, 2018

Mission Statement: The staff of Kirkbride Elementary School is committed to fostering positive, supportive relationships between students, parents and school personnel.

Principal's Message:

Welcome back to all of our new and returning students and their families! The staff at Kirkbride are very excited about the new school year.

We have a fairly regular start up and tomorrow children will be in their classes for the year. All of the classes were carefully created, so that the needs of your children are met and optimal learning can occur. We ask that parents help us make this transition as smooth as possible by keeping a positive attitude and promoting a sense of enthusiasm for the upcoming year. We are mirrors to the children and they are very receptive to our feelings. Thank you for your cooperation.

I would like to introduce you to our new staff members:

- Ms. Rhonda Aldus - New Vice Principal and Grade 2/3 Teacher
- Ms. Preeth Grewal - LST Teacher
- Ms. Angela Gomez - LST Teacher
- Ms. Candice Stewart - Early Learning Teacher
- Ms. Harneet Gill - CCW
- Mr. Rahul Minhas - CCW in Social Development
- Ms. Zoey Erwin - EA
- And welcome back to Ms. Sandhu who was on maternity leave.

As we all know, open, honest dialogue and communication is essential to successful and positive school climate. I will make every attempt to be available to hear your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. Rumors and assumptions do not foster a community of good will, therefore please feel free to contact us directly rather than picking up messages second hand.

I look forward to meeting you at the Meet the Teacher evening on September 27, beginning at 6 pm, and speaking with each of you throughout the year. Your voice is important. If you are new to our school community or if you haven't had the opportunity to become too involved, please consider joining the PAC - Parent Advisory Council. A strong, active PAC is an important part of a successful learning community. They are instrumental in fund raising, bringing awareness of parent/community issues to the school, as well as helping set direction and giving valuable input for our School Growth Plan and its goals.

Class Organization

Teachers worked very hard on classroom organizations. The placement of students was determined through school-based professional decisions. The teachers at Kirkbride work carefully and collaboratively to determine the most suitable placement for your child based on the following criteria:

- Ministry & District Policy
- Teacher & School-Based Team recommendations
- Student intellectual, social and emotional development
- Learning styles and strengths of students
- Degree of independence
- Integration of students with special needs
- Social compatibility
- Gender balance
- Class and group dynamics

Because of the effort and collaboration that teachers put into class organization, students were placed in their permanent classrooms at the end of this week. During the transitional time, teachers are working closely with one another, doing assessments and providing many appropriate and valuable learning opportunities for the students.

Student Illness/or Away from School



If your child will be away from school due to illness or for other reasons, please call the school at 604-588-5711. You can leave a message 24 hours a day on our answering machine.

Staff List for 2018-2019

Div 1	Grade 7	Ms. S. Devji	Social Development: Mr. T. Johal, Mr. R. Minhas
Div. 2	Grade 6/7	Ms. S. Sahota	LST: Mr. C. Bentley, Mr. J. Copley, Ms. Dhaliwal,
Div. 3	Grade 6	Mrs. P. Randhawa	Ms. P. Grewal and Ms. A. Gomez
Div. 4	Grade 6	Mr. M. Armstrong	Counsellor: Ms. K. Sinclair
Div. 5	Grade 5/6	Ms. S. Fedder	Music: Mr. R. Sheffield
Div. 6	Grade 5	Mr. D. Chan	Library: Ms. J. Roberts
Div. 7	Grade 4	Mr. D. Bauman	French: Ms. N. Sy
Div. 8	Grade 4	Mr. D. Athwal	Education Assistants/ ABA SW: Ms. W. Stevenson,
Div. 9	Grade 3	Ms. K. Greschner	Ms. A. Himmelright, Ms. M. Lal, Ms. S. Lewis,
Div. 10	Grade 3	Ms. A. Miller	Ms. J. Motz, Ms. S. Dhillon, Ms. H. Higgs, Ms. Z. Erwin
Div. 11	Grade 2/3	Ms. R. Aldus	Ms. R. Beauchesne, Ms. J. Morrison, Ms. K. Nelson,
Div. 12	Grade 2	Ms. D. Gill	Ms. J. Chawla
Div. 13	Grade 2	Ms. M. Panah	Office Clerks: Ms. N. Machado, Ms. A. Negraeff
Div. 14	Grade 1	Ms. Y. Govorchin	Aboriginal Child Care Worker: Mr. P. Williams
Div. 15	Grade 1	Ms. M. Sandhu	Childcare Worker: Ms. H. Gill
Div. 16	Grade K	Ms. G. Spencer	Band Teacher: Mr. D. Shaw
Div. 17	Grade K	Ms. C. Runa	School Lunch Program: Ms. L. Ferrier
Div. 18	Grade K	Mrs. R. Stovern/J. Roberts	
			Supervisory Aides: Ms. B. Hale, Ms. S. Atkar, Ms. M. Keber, Ms. D. Mann, Ms. R. Kumra

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 24	Non-Instructional Day #1 (Classes Not in Session)
Thursday, September 27	Meet the Teacher - 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Friday, September 28	Orange Shirt Day
Friday, September 28	Terry Fox Run - 1:00 pm

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt day is held annually around the 29th of September. As this is a Saturday, our school will be recognizing orange shirt day on Friday, September 28th, 2018. Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis' story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Our school will be encouraging everyone to wear orange on the 29th. We will be selling orange t-shirts for a cost of \$6. Order forms were sent home this week. Please contact the office for more information.



Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. Further information will be sent out.



Consent Package

At the beginning of each year, there are a number of forms to fill out. This year, in order to reduce the number of times we ask you to respond, we are summarizing as much information as possible into one document. This will include Student Verification information, going home for lunch and more. Please watch for this package soon and return it to school as soon as possible.

Medical Alerts



At the beginning of each year parents are responsible for notifying the school and/or updating the medical alert forms of any life-threatening condition their child has (for example: severe allergies particularly to bee stings, and nuts, asthma and diabetes, etc.) These forms are available in the office; they need to be updated annually. Please inform the office of these concerns as soon as possible.

Meet the Teacher

We are hosting our Open House on **Thursday, September 27th**, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The Open House is an opportunity for family members to come into the school, see your child's classroom and meet the teacher. Just a reminder, this is not an interview or reporting opportunity.



Student Planners (Agendas)

Students from grade 1-7 will be getting student planners. The planners contain important information about school and district policy. We encourage you to read over this information with your child(ren). Please send \$5.00 for the cost of the planner. Thank you.

Scent Aware

We would like to encourage all students and visitors of Kirkbride Elementary to refrain from wearing scented products to school as we have students and staff members with sensitivities and allergies to these products.



Allergy Aware



Several Kirkbride students have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts, nuts and their by-products. Please refrain from sending foods to school that contain peanuts, nuts and/or their by-products. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we endeavor to make our school a safe environment for all students. Please inform the school immediately if your child has a severe life-threatening allergy.

School Visitors

All visitors, including parents, to the school or school grounds during the day must report and sign in at the office and receive a visitor's badge. This helps ensure student safety. If you are bringing your child lunch, please leave it at the table by the main entrance labeled with your child's name and division. Please do not bring lunches directly to the classrooms.



Keeping Our Community Safe

We are all responsible for keeping our community safe. Sometimes our school grounds are used by community members that do not respect that children play here each day. If you notice any suspicious activity it is recommended that you call the RCMP non-emergency number at (604) 599-0502 or 911 for emergency situations. Thank you for your help in keeping our area safe for our students.

Dress for the Weather

We live in a beautiful part of the world. One of the things that contributes to its beauty is the high amounts of rain we get, especially in the fall and winter. As the summer comes to a close and the weather starts to change, please make sure your child is dressed for the weather, as they will be going outside. You may want to leave a change of clothes, shoes and/or socks at school for those particularly wet days.

Bell Schedule



Supervision of Students begins	8:23 am
First Bell	8:35 am
Classes begin	8:38 am
Recess	10:20 - 10:35 am
Lunch (playtime)	11:45 - 12:00 pm
Lunch (eating)	12:00 - 12:30 pm
Afternoon Instruction	12:30 - 2:30 pm
Dismissal*	2:30 pm
Supervision of Students ends	2:45 pm

SURREYSCHOOLS.CA/SCHOOLS/KIRKBRIDE is our website. Please check it out.

We have Calendar dates and announcements as well as some helpful links for parents.

On the website you will also find our newsletters. If you wish to subscribe, please follow the EMAIL LIST link and add your email address to receive the newsletter. We also offer online payment for field trips, sports events, and school fee.



Optional Student Accident Insurance

Did you know that the Surrey School District does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities? You are responsible for these expenses as a parent or guardian.

Your DPAC and the School District provides the opportunity to voluntarily purchase private accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Ltd.

Plan features:

- Provides coverage **365 days a year**, 24 hours a day, in or out of school.
- Covers expenses that are limited or **not** insured under MSP, private or group insurance plans; for example, private tutors, lump sum payment for fractures and dislocations, counselling and much more.
- Covers injury related **Dental** (including future expenses).
- Covers injury related **Eyeglasses** (repair or replace).
- **Low** annual premiums from \$14.50 per student for the Basic Plan (discounts available for families with 3 or more children).

For more information, or to apply on-line, visit: www.kidsplus.ca.



Additions

Class Organization
Combined classes
Allergy-Aware schools

As students settle into their new classrooms, we are often asked how decisions are made regarding the organization of classes.

Placement of students is determined by the following criteria:

- student intellectual, social and emotional development
- learning styles and strengths of students
- degree of independence in student work habits
- integration of students with special needs
- separating students who do not work well together
- maintaining appropriate teacher-student ratios

As much as is possible, attempts are made to have balanced class sizes. The composition of students in a particular class as determined by these criteria may provide compelling reasons for having one class smaller and another larger.

Some small groups are deliberately kept together if they form a unique group for instructional purposes, as in the case of ESL students. Gender and social compatibility are also considered. We try to ensure that there are close to an equal number of boys and girls and that some who are positive leaders are included in each class.

We take pride in the diversity of students enrolled in our public schools. Therefore, children who exhibit learning disabilities, as well as others with vision or hearing disadvantages are included and considered in the organizational plan. While participating in regular classrooms, these children receive additional support and assistance in their learning programs from specialist teachers in regular classrooms and resource rooms. These students may also receive assistance from trained teacher assistants and/or a helping teacher.

The placement of students must be determined through school-based professional evaluations. Teachers have knowledge of the academic needs of children and therefore can best determine where individual children should be placed.

Parents are often able to provide the school with important information that can assist in the placement of students. Parents should advise the school of personal, educational or social information which could affect a child's placement. However, a request for a specific teacher or class is not appropriate.

After discussion with staff members and administration, some initial decisions regarding student placements are made in June. These early placements are subject to the realities of the number of students that appear in September. Even then, numbers can change during that first month, requiring changes in the first weeks of school. This is why principals say class assignments are temporary during the first part of September.

Children are sometimes unhappy with their placement and may need parent support to gain understanding and acceptance. Generally, our experience is children easily adjust within the first few weeks, and it is in everyone's best interest when parents help to facilitate this adjustment.

Home and school support and cooperation in explaining to children the need for the changes has shown the most positive results and encouragement for students adapting to a new classroom.

If your child has been reassigned to a new classroom grouping, please help to make the transition a positive experience.

Combined-grade classes: Learning together

Combined-grade classes consist of students in two consecutive grades grouped together in one class. They are common both locally and internationally, with “one out of every five Canadian students enrolled in a multi-grade classroom” according to at least one study. There is a good chance that Surrey children will have the experience of being in a combined-grade class during their elementary school years.

Organizing classes to best meet the needs of all students is a complex process. While practical factors such as shifting enrolment, class size and composition influence the formation of classes, the Surrey School District is committed to creating balanced classes that focus on students’ learning strengths and the needs of the whole child.

There are academic as well as social benefits to combined-grade classes. Studies indicate that children in combined classes do as well academically as children in single grades.

Research has shown that combined classes:

- allow students learn from one another,
- provide models for younger students,
- help older students see what they’ve already learned,
- provide opportunities for a greater range of learning,
- encourage students to work together,
- promote social responsibility,
- help students to become independent and
- foster a positive attitude toward school.

Students in combined classes are not held back to the level of younger students, nor are they expected to handle work beyond their ability. In every classroom, there is a wide range of skills and abilities. Children mature at different rates in various aspects of development. Teachers are aware of these individual differences and structure learning activities according to the needs of each learner.

Children learn continually; their intellectual, social and personal development does not occur in discrete steps according to grade level. Studies have found that on average, a single-grade class



includes students whose development spans five years. The developmental range in a combined class is not significantly different.

Within the combined class there will be children of both grade levels with similar levels of performance. Whether a child is gifted or needs considerable assistance, each will be challenged to excel as much in a combined class as he or she would be in a single-grade class.

Researchers have reported successful learning is less dependent on how students are grouped into classes, than on the quality of instructional practices.

For more information on the research into combined-grade classes, please visit the Surrey School District website: District Departments, Research and Evaluation Department, Research Currents and click on [Learning Together: Research into Combined and Multiage Classes](#).

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. Reactions are often rapid, and may occur within seconds of exposure to even the smallest amounts of the allergen. Immediate medical treatment is required when a reaction occurs.



The Surrey School District strives to keep schools safe for all students and staff. Where there is a student with a life-threatening allergy, school staff, students and parents work together to make the school 'allergy-aware' and prepare a plan to reduce the risk of student exposure to the allergen.

Factors such as the age of a student, organization and layout of the school, and properties of the allergen are considered in deciding upon the most appropriate action. Ideally, this is achieved without depriving allergic students of normal interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other students and staff in the school. Information about the plan is provided to all staff, students and parents as necessary.

In order to reduce the risk for allergic students, all students and staff are asked to wash their hands before and after eating. Schools may also ask parents to avoid sending specific food/beverage products to school in their child's lunch or snack if there is an anaphylactic student in their child's classroom. Alternative ideas for lunches and snacks can be obtained from public health facilities.

The success of an 'allergy-aware' school and the safety of our students are dependent upon the support and assistance of all staff, students and parents to limit the risk of exposure. Cooperation and understanding of life-threatening allergies is greatly appreciated.
