



Kirkbride Elementary School

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

Phone (604) 588-5711

Fax (604) 588-0577

Principal: Mr. Martin Bobik

Vice Principal: Ms. Jen Barker

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

Newsletter #1

September 20, 2021

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 had a fairly regular start up and last week children were placed 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.

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.

Please note that our breakfast program begins at 8:00 am and students who wish to receive a breakfast should come no later than 8:15 am.

In an effort to keep our hallways safe and to teach our younger, primary aged children independence and responsibility, we ask that all parents and adult caregivers drop their child(ren) off at the outside door of their classroom. We ask that you NOT come into the classrooms. Your child(ren) are capable of getting themselves ready for the school day when they enter the classroom, and not letting them do so does not foster their independence nor build their self-esteem.

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 Drop-Off/Pick-Up/Parking

Parents, please use the drop-off/pick-up area at the front of the school. Temporary stopping in this area is permitted for pick-up or drop off only. Cars must not be left unattended, or remain stationary for extended periods of time. Student pick-up or drop-off is not permitted in any of the parking lots. Parents may park in the front parking lot if you have school business or a meeting to attend to (not to walk students to their classrooms). Please find street parking if you want to walk your child to their classroom. Students are asked to walk only on the sidewalks (do not cut through parking lots) and only cross the street at the crosswalk.



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.

COVI 19 Updates

On August 24, 2021, the province announced new [K-12 COVID-19 safety guidelines](#) for 2021/22. Below we have highlighted some of the key changes, as well as what we can expect to remain the same from last year.

Vaccination:

- Vaccination is the best way to protect our communities and ourselves. Vaccination protects both those who get vaccinated and those who are not yet eligible for vaccinations, such as youth under 12 years of age. Everyone 12 and older is encouraged to walk in to any of our vaccine clinics for same-day immunization as soon as possible. Clinic locations are available at fraserhealth.ca/vax.
- Health and safety measures - such as daily health checks, hand washing and the use of masks - are in effect at schools to protect both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
- For more information on youth immunization, please review the [BCCDC Q&A document](#), or visit the [province of B.C.](#) and [BCCDC](#) web resources for more information.

Masks:

- At this time, all K to 12 staff, students in grades 4 to 12, and visitors should wear masks in all indoor areas, including at their desks and on school buses.
- Mask use for students in kindergarten to grade three is encouraged.

Daily health checks:

- Students will continue to be required to complete daily health checks, stay home when feeling sick and practice diligent hand hygiene.
- The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app can help kids and parents decide if their child should attend school based on their symptoms. Encourage parents to bookmark the [health check website](#) or download the apps for [iPhone/iPad iOS](#) or [Android devices](#).

In-classroom learning:

- Strict physical distancing and cohorting is no longer required. However, schools can continue to create space between people by spreading people out where possible, managing flow of people in common areas to prevent crowding, taking students outside as much as possible and reminding students and staff about respecting others' physical space.
- Schools should continue to apply effective prevention measures such as cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, ensuring ventilation systems are working properly and providing frequent opportunities for hand hygiene.

COVID-19 exposure at school:

As per provincial direction, public health will notify staff and students who need to take a specific action, such as self-monitoring or self-isolation, as a result of a COVID-19 exposure. The school community will be notified when appropriate, such as in the case of an outbreak, and this will be posted to our website. Public health will continue to provide contact tracing for all positive cases of COVID-19 in schools:

- If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school, public health will investigate to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school.
- If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will notify the school administrators and request information to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.

Public health may then:

- o Recommend 14-day self-isolation if necessary
- o Recommend self-monitoring for symptoms if necessary
- o Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary
- Schools will ensure students who are required to self-isolate are able to continue their educational program. Together, schools and public health officials will determine if any other actions are necessary.
- Parents, caregivers and families will be notified by public health if their child is determined to be a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person.

Resources:

For more guidance and information to support children and youth in school during COVID-19, visit fraserhealth.ca/schools. For general school health resources, please see our [Healthy Back to School Guide](#).

Additional COVID-19 school information and resources can be found on the government of B.C.'s [COVID-19 safe school web page](#) and the [BCCDC's K-12 Schools and COVID-19 web page](#).

As we prepare for the new school year together, we remain dedicated to working in close collaboration with our network of partners across all levels of the education system to keep students, teachers and our communities safe.

Staff List for 2020-2021

Div. 1	Grade 7	Ms. S. Devji	Social Development: Mr. T. Johal, Ms. K. Richardson
Div. 2	Grade 7	Ms. S. Sahota	LST: Mr. C. Bentley, Mr. J. Copley, Ms. B. Nanda,
Div. 3	Grade 6	Mrs. P. Randhawa	Ms. O. Yushchak
Div. 4	Grade 6	Mr. M. Armstrong	Counsellor: Mr. T. Lewis
Div. 5	Grade 5	Ms. T. Ayles	Music: Mr. R. Sheffield
Div. 6	Grade 4/5	Ms. S. Fedder	Library: Ms. J. Roberts
Div. 7	Grade 4	Mr. D. Chan	French: Ms. N. Sy
Div. 8	Grade 3/4	Mr. D. Athwal	Education Assistants/ ABA SW: Ms. W. Stevenson,
Div. 9	Grade 3	Ms. C. Martin	Ms. M. Lal, Ms. S. Lewis, Ms. Lakhra, Ms. S. Lad
Div. 10	Grade 2/3	Ms. A. Miller	Ms. S. Dhillon, Ms. H. Higgs, Ms. K. Nelson, Ms. J.
Div. 11	Grade 2/3	Ms. K. Greschner	Chawla; Mr. T. Pencer; Ms. N. Mann
Div. 12	Grade 2	Ms. D. Gill	IST Teachers: Mr. E. Yaniv, Ms. L. Lam
Div. 13	Grade 1/2	Ms. J. Barker/ Ms. Karaliolios	Office Clerks: Ms. N. Machado, Ms. D. Goudy
Div. 14	Grade 1	Ms. R. Stovern/ Ms. J. Roberts	Aboriginal Child Care Worker: Mr. Craig, Ms. K. Best
Div. 15	Grade K	Ms. G. Spencer	Childcare Worker: Ms. B. Kidds
Div. 16	Grade K	Ms. C. Runa	Band Teacher: Mr. D. Shaw
			School Lunch Program: Ms. D. Nermo
			Supervisory Aides: Ms. B. Hale, Ms. M. Keber, Ms. R. Kumra, Ms. G. Bagarian

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 24	Terry Fox Run - 1:00 pm
Monday, September 27	Non-Instructional Day #1 (Classes Not in Session)
Wednesday, September 29	Orange T-Shirt Day
Thursday, September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (No School)

Orange Shirt Day

Our school will be recognizing orange shirt day on Wednesday, September 29. 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 September 29. We were selling orange t-shirts for a cost of \$7. Order forms were sent home last week. Please contact the office for more information.



Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday, September 24 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.

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. Visitors coming into the school should have an appointment. This helps ensure student safety. At this time, we are asking families not to drop off lunches at school. Please make sure that your child brings a healthy lunch in the morning. Thank you.



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 the beauty is the high amounts of rain we get, especially in the fall and winter. As the summer ends 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 ends

Supervision of Students begins	8:25 am
First Bell	8:35 am
Classes begin	8:40 am
Recess	10:20 - 10:35 am
Lunch (eating)	11:55 - 12:10 pm
Lunch (playtime)	12:10 - 12:40 pm
Afternoon Instruction	12:40 - 2:40 pm
Dismissal*	2:40 pm
Supervision of Students ends	2:55 pm

[SURREYSCHOOLS.CA/SCHOOLS/KIRKBRIDE](https://www.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. Paper copies of newsletters will no longer be sent home with students. Hard copies will be available at the office for those who would like a paper copy. We encourage all families to register for email copies of our newsletters.

If you wish to subscribe, please subscribe on our homepage:

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/kirkbride/Pages/default.aspx>

You can add your email address to receive newsletters and other school communications.

We also offer online payment for field trips, sports events, and school fees.



Make online payments with
SchoolCashOnline

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ Sports Events
- ✓ Activity Fees

Register at [surreyschools.schoolcashonline.com](https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/kirkbride/Pages/default.aspx) **KEYGROUP**
School Cash Simplified

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.
