



Coast Meridian Elementary

8222-168A Street
Surrey, BC, V4N 4T8 / 604-574-6036
Principal: Mrs. Amber Flanagan
www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian

September 7, 2021

Dear Parents:

Welcome all returning families, and on behalf of our school community, I extend a special welcome to the children and families who are new to our school and to our Kindergarten students who are entering school for the first time. We know this is another year of uncertainty in our schools but we will do all we can to provide a safe learning environment for your children.

Students in Grades 1 – 7 attended classes in their temporary homeroom today. For the remainder of the week students will start and end the day in their temporary homerooms. When the exact student numbers are finalized, we will assign children to their respective permanent classroom teachers. Although we would like all students to be in their permanent classes as soon as possible, we need to wait until numbers and staffing are firm before making final placements. Until that time, Kindergarten students will be working in groups (outlined in your Kindergarten letter) and Grade 1-7 students will work in grade groups with various teachers. This allows the students to get to know all of the teachers at their grade level, and the teachers to learn more about the students, which will help us with class placement decisions.

Please be assured that when we form classes we will do so in a very thoughtful manner. We try our best to balance student ability levels, as well as peer relationships. *Be advised, however, that we cannot reasonably place every child in a class with his/her best friend.* Please help us remind the children that school is about academic learning, as well as developing the skills needed to work successfully with all kinds of people.

As we are a small school, most of our classes will be combined grades. Parents often have questions or concerns regarding their child being in a combined class. Please read the information sheet on the back of this newsletter that highlights some important details regarding combined classes. You may also wish to check out a thoughtful blog post written by Chris Wejr on combined classes.

<http://chriswejr.com/2012/09/09/will-my-child-be-ok-in-a-split-class/>

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Grade 1-7 Students: Will attend a FULL DAY of classes. Each morning until permanent classes are made, students will be dropped off and picked up at the same classroom they were in on Tuesday.

Kindergarten Students: Will follow the Gradual Entry Schedule that was e-mailed out.

BELL SCHEDULE

First Bell:	8:25 am
Classes Start:	8:30 am
Recess:	10:10 – 10:25 am
Lunch:	11:45 am (15 min. eating time, followed by outside play time)
Classes Resume:	12:30 pm
Classes Dismissed:	2:30 pm

WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE AFTER THE STARTING BELL

Pupils are asked to be at the school by 8:25 am. At this time a bell will ring to indicate to the students that they should enter their classroom. The morning session will commence at 8:30 am. Students arriving after 8:30 am must report to the office to obtain a “Welcome Slip” before they will be admitted to their class. Please make a habit of getting your children to school on time as learning starts right away in classrooms and arriving late can often make it more challenging for students to transition into the day. School is over at 2:30 pm and students are dismissed from their outside door. Please ensure to pick them up promptly at the end of the day.

We must speak to a parent/guardian whenever a child is absent to ensure he/she is safe. We have voicemail at the school and the messages are checked every morning. If you know your child will be absent, you can call throughout the night and leave a voicemail message.

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome the following staff to Coast Meridian:

Ms. Bruna Grigoletto (Head Secretary)
Ms. Sheryl Broad (Office Clerk)
Ms. Betty Dai (Classroom Teacher)
Ms. Mandeep Nijjar (Classroom Teacher)
Ms. Sonia Sehra (Classroom Teacher)
Ms. Soiban Pataky (Band Teacher)
Ms. Shivali Singh (Child Care Worker)
Ms. Suzanne Anderson (EA)
Ms. Gurmeet Khosa (Supervision Aid)

FAREWELL

We would like to wish a fond farewell to Mrs. Joan Neidig, our Head Secretary. Mrs. Neidig has been at Coast Meridian since it opened in 2001. She will be greatly missed by the staff and the community. We wish Mrs. Neidig well in her retirement.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Coast Meridian school planners will be used in Grades 1 to 7. In the past, students, parents, and teachers have found them to be a valuable communication tool. Please take time to review the planner as it contains information about the school, including the Code of Conduct, and the school calendar. Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner each night for information, homework, and comments from the teacher. Thank you PAC for purchasing the Planners this year!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For the first week of school students should bring a pencil box with writing and colouring items only. Please leave all other supplies at home until students are in permanent classes.

For those families who ordered, the Creative Pack supplies have arrived and will be distributed this week. Kindergarten parents will receive information about supplies from the teachers. Should you require a supply list for your grade 1-7 child, please drop by the office or look on the school website. Your child's teacher will let you know if any extra supplies are required now or during the year.

LUNCH BREAKS

Most students stay on the school grounds during lunch. Students are allowed to go home for lunch but only if they have written parental permission. If your child is planning to go home for lunch for one day only, please send along a note to his/her teacher to confirm this. If your child will be going home for lunch daily, there is a permission form that needs to be completed at the office, and the child would still be required to sign in and out from the office each day.

PARKING AND DROP OFF

If possible, we encourage all students to walk to school. The lower parking lot in front of the school is for staff parking, busses and truck deliveries only. **Please do NOT use the lower lot as a drive through area for dropping students off.** The street parking directly in front of the school is a drop off/pick up zone and has a 15-minute maximum parking. The upper parking lot is for parent parking, and student drop off. Students are encouraged to use the upper parking lot entrance to access the school. **PLEASE, DO NOT STOP TO DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD OR ACROSS ANY OF THE SCHOOL AND NEIGHBOURS DRIVEWAYS.**

Your children will enter and exit their classroom from the classroom outside entrance/exit doors. If you are planning to enter the school for any reason, please wear a mask and register at the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge before going to your location in the school.

RECESS & LUNCH SUPERVISION

During the recess break, teachers supervise our school grounds. During the lunch break paid Supervisory Aides supervise students. Our playground supervisors have walkie-talkies that can be used in emergency situations. Our supervisors will approach adults on the playground, if they do not have a visitor badge.

Overall, we would like to thank parents for their co-operation with adhering to these security expectations and procedures.

ON-LINE SCHOOL COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Website: Please visit our school website often as we add upcoming announcements and newsletters on a regular basis. Our school newsletters will be sent home via e-mail only (no paper copies after this one). To sign up and receive the school newsletters, please follow these directions:

1. Visit www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian
2. Find 'E-Mail List' at the bottom of the page.
3. Enter your e-mail address, check the "Terms and Conditions" box and hit 'submit'.
4. Check your e-mail (inbox or junk mail) to verify your sign up.
5. Please click on the 'click here' link, which will take you to the Surrey Schools Website confirming your subscription.
6. You will now receive an email whenever a newsletter is uploaded.

School Cash OnLine: We ask that you pay for your child's school fees and field trips using our School Cash OnLine system. Once registered you will receive automatic notifications about upcoming school fees and activities. You may choose to pay for these fees using your credit card, through an electronic transfer or by loading *myWallet* with money to use throughout the school year. The link to sign up can be found under the *Parent Tab* on our website: www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian

School Link App: The Surrey School District has an app which alerts you whenever the school website is updated.

1. Go to the App Store and search for Schoollink. Download the Free App.
2. Click 'Add School' and find Coast Meridian Elementary and click 'Add this School'. Multiple schools can be added should you have students in high school or other Surrey schools.
3. Check off the alerts you want to receive.
4. You will now receive notification whenever the website is updated.

UPCOMING DATES:

Sept. 8	Full day of classes for Grade 1-7, these students attend from 8:25 am - 2:30 pm
Sept 20	K's Attend Full Time
Sept 22	Individual Photo Day
Sept 24	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 27	Pro D. Day: students not in session
Sept. 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day: Students not in session

The full school year calendar is attached to this newsletter.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

Coast Meridian has many students with life threatening allergies to nuts. We try to make our school safe for these students by making sure they are not accidentally exposed to any products containing nuts. We ask for your cooperation in reducing the risk for these students and encourage parents not to send foods made with or containing peanuts and nuts to school. Please remind your children to eat only the food you send from home, rather than trading or sharing lunch items. Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after they eat. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation in this very serious matter. We would also like to remind you that Coast Meridian is a scent-free environment.

THE OFFICE

Mrs. Grigoletto & Mrs. Broad are our office clerks. They are more than happy to answer any questions you may have, so please don't be shy to call or drop in to ask your questions. The school phone number is **604-574-6036**. Mrs. Flanagan, our school principal is available to answer questions, respond to concerns, talk about your child's education or help facilitate problem solving.

COAST PAC

Our PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is made up of parents of students from our school. This year's council is eager to begin a new year and have planned many events. Please watch for their first newsletter, which will outline how you can be a part of the Coast Meridian PAC.

COVID PROTOCOLS

Thank you to all our families for your support last year as we practiced new ways of ensuring safety for students and staff. As we begin this year, there are some Health and Safety protocols that will remain, and others that are no longer recommended by Fraser Health.

K-12 HEALTH CHECK

Just a reminder that every parent is responsible for monitoring the daily health of your child(ren) before sending them to school. The Ministry of Health has also provided families with an additional resource, the online K-12 Health Check. <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/>

VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO

- Perform a health check prior to entering the building
- Wear a mask
- Sign in with contact information at the office
- Respect others' personal space
- Visitors are to only access areas required for the visit
- It is recommended that visitors call the office to book an appointment

MASKS

- All staff, visitors, volunteers and students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors and on school buses
- We encourage parents, while on school grounds, to wear a mask at drop-off and pick-up time

CLEANING & DISINFECTING

- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day

IF PARENTS IN THE COMMUNITY ARE CAR POOLING

- Spread out occupants as much as possible
- Travel with the same people whenever possible
- Masks recommended for those 9 and older
- Hand hygiene before and after
- Open windows
- Clean high touch surfaces
- Set ventilation to bring in the fresh outside air, not recirculate

We will update our Coast Meridian community as we receive more information regarding safety protocols.



CHECK UP



BACK UP



WASH UP



MASK UP



VAX UP

Combined-grade classes: Learning together

Combined-grade classes consist of students from 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. The term “split class” is no longer used as we view students in a class as a “community of learners”.

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 student’s learning strengths and the needs of the whole child.

Students in combined classes, as in every classroom, display a wide range of skills and abilities. Studies have found that on average, a single-grade class includes students whose development spans five years. Children mature at different rates in various aspects of development. Intellectual, social, physical and personal development is not grade level dependent. Teachers are aware of these

individual differences and structure learning opportunities to meet the needs of each student.

Research shows that there are both academic and social benefits to combined-grade classes and that successful learning is less dependent on how students are grouped into classes, than on the quality of instructional practices. Every child will be encouraged on their learning journey as much in a combined class as he or she would be in a single-grade class. The curriculum with its focus on engaging the learner through a lens of inquiry-based learning using critical thinking is well suited to combined classes of learners. As well, the Curriculum Core Competencies which include: communication, creative and critical thinking, positive personal and cultural identity, social responsibility, and personal awareness and responsibility are easily supported in a combined class of learners.



Children in all class formation thrive when parents/caregivers are involved in the learning process. Talk to your child about their day, communicate with the teacher and spend time reading with your child.

Coast Meridian School Calendar 2021/2022

September 7	One hour of attendance (time to be determined) **
September 8	1 st full day of school (8:25 am – 2:30 pm)
September 22	Student Photo Day **
September 24	Terry Fox Run **
September 27	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day – NO SCHOOL
October 11	Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL
October 21	Early Dismissal – Parent Conferences (1:30 p.m.)
October 22	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
October 27	Photo Retakes **
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly (10:45 a.m.)
November 11	Remembrance Day Stat – NO SCHOOL
November 12	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
December 7	Early Dismissal – Report Writing (1:30 p.m.)
December 17	Last day before Christmas Break
Dec. 20 – Dec. 31	Christmas Break – NO SCHOOL
January 3, 2022	School Re-opens / classes resume
February 21	Family Day – NO SCHOOL
February 23	Pink Shirt Day
February 25	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
March 14 -18	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
March 21-25	School closure days – NO SCHOOL
April 15	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 18	Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
May 6	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
May 18	Early Dismissal / Parent Conferences (1:30 p.m.)
May 23	Victoria Day Stat – NO SCHOOL
May 30	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
June 10	Sports Day
June 21	Year End General Assembly
June 22	Grade 7 Farewell Assembly & Luncheon
June 23	Early Dismissal (1:30 p.m.)
June 23	Last day for students

** Please note: some events may be changed in September depending on Health & Safety protocols.