

# Port Kells Elementary

19076 – 88 Avenue

Surrey, BC

604-882-2021

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[portkells@surreyschools.ca](mailto:portkells@surreyschools.ca)

## October 2021 Newsletter

## **Mrs. Stubbings' Message**

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It is hard to believe that we are almost at the mid-point of October already. Feels like we just returned to school. We had a good start up this year and it was nice to hear the hallways, classrooms and school grounds abuzz with children's laughter and voices.

We hope that you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving weekend and that you were able to enjoy the day with family and friends. While we are still being asked by the PHO to stay safe, it sure is nice to be able to connect with our family and friends again.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we were able to recognize our amazing and dedicated staff for World's Teachers Day. We are so lucky here at Port Kells!

We look forward to the next month of learning with your child(ren). As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our school.



## Staffing for the 2021 – 22 School year

### Teaching Staff:

Mr. Morgan	Grade 6/7
Ms. Fox	Grade 5/6
Ms. St. Jean	Grade 3/4
Ms. Singh	Grade 1/2
Ms. Fraser	Kindergarten

### Non-enrolling staff:

Ms. MacWilliams	Learning Support
Ms. McNeil	Integration Support
Ms. Jhaj	Counsellor (Wednesday's)
Ms. Wong	Music (Tuesday's)
Ms. Brar	Library (Thursday's)
Ms. Zielke	French (Tuesday/Wednesday)
Mr. Melnyk	Band (Thursday/Friday)
Ms. Moore	Speech and Language

### EA/ABA Team:

Ms. Cerullo  
Ms. Dinnell  
Ms. Frick  
Ms. Iseli  
Ms. Kinna  
Ms. Lescisin  
Ms. Moore  
Ms. Sharma

Ms. Elliot

CCW

Ms. Michelle  
Ms. Catherine

Noon supervisor  
Noon Supervisor

# Important Information

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## Bell Schedule for 2021-2022

8:30	Welcome Bell
8:35	Morning Instruction Begins
10:15 – 10:30	Recess
11:50 – 12:10	Outside Play Time
12:10 – 12:30	Eating Time
12:35	Afternoon Session Begins
2:35	Dismissal

## Important Dates:

Oct. 15	Earthquake Drill
Oct. 21	Early Dismissal – 1:35
Oct. 22	Provincial Pro-D – No School
Oct. 28	PAC Meeting – 7pm (zoom meeting)
Oct. 29	Halloween Spirit Day



# October Information

## Terry Fox Run

Last week our students learned about Terry Fox and his Marathon of hope. This year we were able to complete our run as a whole school. Our school goal was \$150.00 and we are happy to announce that we surpassed that goal and raised a total of \$300. Way to go Port Kells. Thank you for your generation donations.



## Photo Day

Picture Day is coming **Monday, October 25**

Our photos will be done through LifeTouch Photography again this year. Following picture day, you will be able to order pictures through [www.mylifetouch.ca](http://www.mylifetouch.ca) using your Portrait ID and Access Code which can be found on your Picture Day order form. Our photographers will follow the safety guidelines as outlined by the PHO as well as our school district. If your child is absent for photo day, our retakes will take place December 3, 2021.



# Early Dismissal and Fall Interims

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A new school year brings many great opportunities for building a strong community and sense of belonging. We all know that positive relationships between home and school have a significant impact on improving student learning.

**Kindergarten to Grade 7 students will be dismissed at 1:35 on  
Thursday, October 21, 2021.**

We had hoped that we would be able to fully open our school for student led/Goal setting conferences but we are still required to limit the number of visitors in to our school at this time. You should be receiving information from your child's teacher shortly about what the fall interim will look like. Each classroom will have a different format for these conferences - Some will be sending home a paper interim/goal setting form, some may be setting up phone or TEAMS meetings with families. Please connect with your child's teacher if you have questions about this.

Please note, that you may reach out to your child's teacher at any time throughout the school year, and you do not need to wait until these scheduled sessions. You can call the school to leave a message for your child's teacher or email the teacher directly to set up a time to connect.



### **West Coast Recess and Lunch**

Please remember that as the weather changes we will have a “West Coast” or as our kiddos say a “Wet Coast” recess and lunch. Students do need a break from their classroom environment each day and will be expected to go outside at both recess and lunch regardless of weather. We will make exceptions to this rule on days with heavy rainfall and/or extreme weather conditions. Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather in proper clothing – boots, hats, jackets, umbrellas, etc. It would also be a good idea for students to keep a change of clothes at school in case they need to change. This also prevents phone calls home and an extra trip to school.

An extra pair of runners or inside shoes would also be useful.

### **Phoning in Lates and Absences**

If your child is going to be away for any reason, please remember to contact the school at 604-882-2021.

Our answering machine is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. As a safety precaution, we have the phone home program and we will contact all emergency numbers you have provided until we can be sure that your child is safe. Please be sure to update all numbers. If your child is going to be late, we also ask that you please let us know so that we can make note and not make unnecessary calls to you. Please have your child check in at the office when they arrive so we can make sure they arrive safely.

## Orange Shirt and Truth and Reconciliation Day

September 30<sup>th</sup> is known as Orange Shirt Day and this year marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honours the survivors of the Residential school system, their families, and their communities, but also pays respect to those children who never made it home. I recently took my own children to the Tk'emlups Residential School in Kamloops to visit the site of where the remains of 215 children were found. The site of the memorial caught my breathe and a wave of emotions hit not only for myself, but my own children. They also could not understand why this happened. While we paid tribute to these children, we also made a conscious effort to listen and learn even more from the stories being told to us by our Indigenous Community members. As an educator, it is hard for me to comprehend what happened in these schools. Schools are meant to be a safe and happy place for all students who attend, and to hear of the tragedies that occurred in these schools breaks my heart.

During the week of September 27- October 1, our students learned about Truth and Reconciliation and about Residential Schools and their impacts on our Indigenous Peoples. Some of this information is hard to hear, but it is an important part of our teachings and learning. During this time, we created a tribute in memory of all those children who never made it home from residential schools, and also to the survivors of these schools. Our students created a display on each of the classroom windows along 88<sup>th</sup> with hearts and hands. When you visit our school site, have a look at the displays in our windows.



# Our Tribute and Memorial Windows

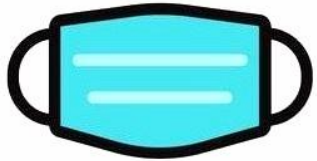




# Health and Safety

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*Please  
Wear a mask*



*Thank you and  
stay safe!*

As of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the province mandated masks in our schools for all students in Kindergarten to grade 12. This is an added measure to keep our students, staff and community safe. We are encouraging our students to bring their own masks from home, however, we do have disposable masks available for students on days when they forget. Masks are to be worn inside classrooms and in all common areas of the school. Students do not need to wear masks outside while playing. We are also reminding all visitors to our school to also please ensure that they are wearing masks when they enter our school buildings.



# Health and Safety Continued ...

## Daily Health Checks

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We are asking our families to continue to use and complete the daily health check at home prior to coming to school each day. The form does not need to be completed and returned to school, but is a tool for you to check. By sending your child to school, you are verifying that your child does not have any of the symptoms listed and is well enough to be at school. If your child becomes ill at school or exhibits any of the symptoms on the form, we will be calling home as continued procedure.

When you call to let us know that your child will not be at school, we may ask you for your child's symptoms. This is not to pass judgement, but rather for us to keep track for cleaning and tracking purposes should it be required. Confidentiality is our utmost importance. There may be occasions where we as a school are required to report symptoms to our district facilities and Health and Safety departments.

## **Health and Safety Continued...**

### **Allergy Alert**

At Port Kells we have students and staff who have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts, tree nuts and their by-products, as well as other allergens. Please help us in committing to do everything we can to protect these students and staff. Ways to help include: not sending foods that contain peanuts or tree-nuts (peanuts, almonds, pecans, hazelnuts – including Nutella, peanut butter, walnuts, etc.), remind your child to not share his/her food and do not use products that may contain these items as well (hand sanitizers, hand creams/lotions, etc.). If your child has a severe or life-threatening food allergy, please notify the office to ensure that proper medical forms are completed. If your child requires an Epi-pen, Fraser Health does recommend that it is worn or kept on the child. If this is not possible, we ask that you send an extra one to be stored in the school office for safe keeping should we need to administer it.

### **Student Verification and Medical Forms**

Student Verification forms and required medical forms were sent home with all students in September. The information on these forms is important should we need to contact you throughout the day or in case of emergencies. Please check over the forms and make the necessary changes and return to school. If there are no changes, we ask that you still return the form, but please make a note, "No changes necessary – all information correct", that way we can ensure we received your form, but that our info is up to date and current. If there are changes in your information throughout the school year, we ask that you please notify the school.



## 2021-22 Dates by Month

**\*\*There will be additional dates to add to the master calendar as scheduled throughout the year.  
Please check our School website often for updates.**

September 7, 2021  
September 27, 2021  
October 11, 2021  
October 21, 2021  
October 22, 2021  
November 11, 2021  
November 12, 2021  
November 26, 2021  
December 10, 2021  
December 20 -31, 2021

Schools Open  
Non-instructional Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Early Dismissal -1:35  
Non-instructional Day  
Remembrance Day  
Non-instructional Day  
Early Dismissal – 1:35  
Term 1 Report Home  
Winter Break

January 3, 2022  
February 8, 2022  
February 21, 2022  
February 25, 2022  
March 10, 2022  
March 14 – 25, 2022  
April 15 – 18, 2022  
May 6, 2022  
May 23, 2022  
May 30, 2022  
June 7, 2022  
June 23, 2022  
June 24, 2022

Schools Reopen  
Early Dismissal – 1:35  
Family Day – No School  
Non-instructional Day  
Term 2 Report Home  
Spring Break  
Easter Break  
Non-instructional Day  
Victoria Day  
Non-instructional Day  
Early Dismissal – 1:35  
Last Day of School  
Final Reports Home  
Administrative Day/Schools  
Close for Summer



## PAC News

Our PAC Executive Members for the  
2021-22 School Year are as follows:

Raj Bath	President/Chair
Megan Fox	Secretary
Stephanie Zailo	Treasurer
Becky Parker	Social Media/Fundraising
Amber Kowalyk	Member at Large

The PAC meetings are open to any member of our school community. Come on out and support our school and PAC. You do not need to be an executive member to attend meetings and/or to help out.

**Stay tuned for our PAC upcoming Fundraisers.**

**Our Next PAC meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.**

## **Looking for Childcare?**

Tiny Toes Learning Centre is taking new registrations for Before and After School Care and as well as their Preschool Program.

For more information contact 604-765-0355

Or

[www.tinytoeslearningcentre.ca](http://www.tinytoeslearningcentre.ca)

