



Panorama Park Elementary

September 27 to October 1, 2021

Dear Panorama Park Parents and Families,

A big thank you to our staff for their hard work in organizing classes (it is always a very complicated and time consuming process) and to our students and parents for their patience.

Now that we are settled in our new groups, our focus will shift to many of the big events that happen every year in September and October, including Terry Fox, Orange Shirt Day and Meet the Teacher. It's going to be a very busy first term at Panorama Park.

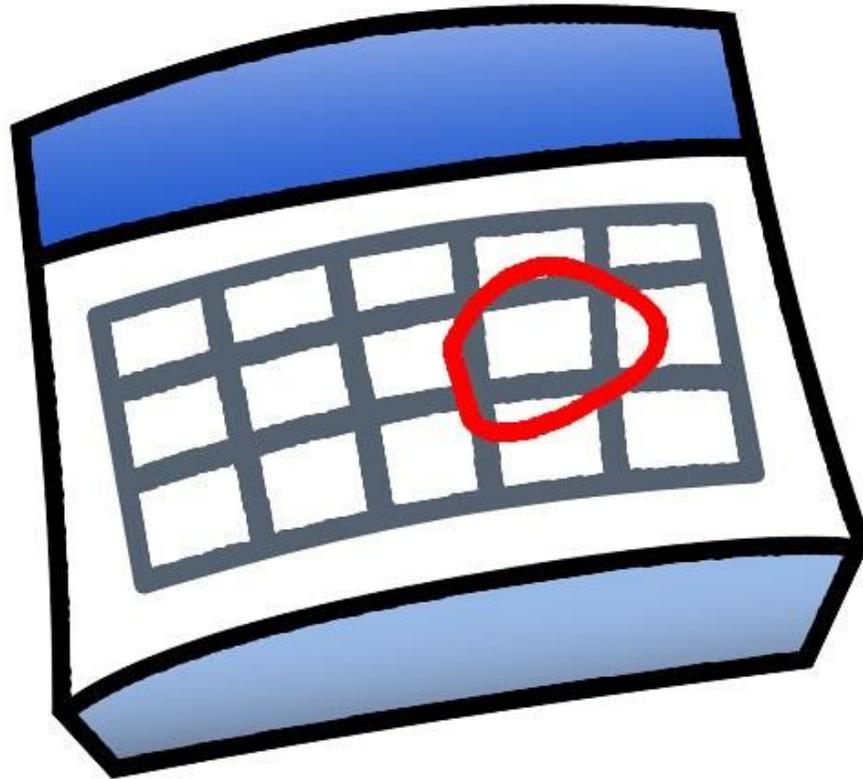
In this week's sway, please see the information about Terry Fox Week, Orange Shirt Day and a number of school start up reminders. We are looking forward to re-connecting with our parents from last year and meeting our new families over the next few weeks!

All the best,

Ms. J Dhaliwal and Mr. H. Gill

~ Ms. J Dhaliwal (Principal) & Mr. H. Gill (Vice Principal)

What's Happening This Week



Monday, September 27

- District Professional Day - No School

Tuesday, September 28

Wednesday, September 29

- Earthquake Drill @ 1:00 pm (for students and staff)

Thursday, September 30

- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School

Friday, October 1

Class Organizations and Combined Classes



Our students were moved into their permanent classes on Tuesday, September 14 and have quickly settled into their new learning families. A big thank you to parents and students for their patience as the move took a little longer than in past years.

It is natural for students to feel anxious about moving into their new classes at the beginning of the school year. Students and parents often have expectations about who will be their teacher and which friends will be in their class. Some students may feel a little disappointed that they aren't in a particular teacher's class or with a specific friend or group of students. Our classes are organized by the students' previous year's teacher(s) and they consider a number of factors when creating classes, including:

- creating a class with a balance of students with different strengths and abilities
- social groupings (putting students together or separating them into different classes)
- friendships (our teachers make best efforts to put students with at least one friend or supportive learning partner)
- teacher fit (the dynamics of their classroom, teachers' passions, style of teaching etc.)

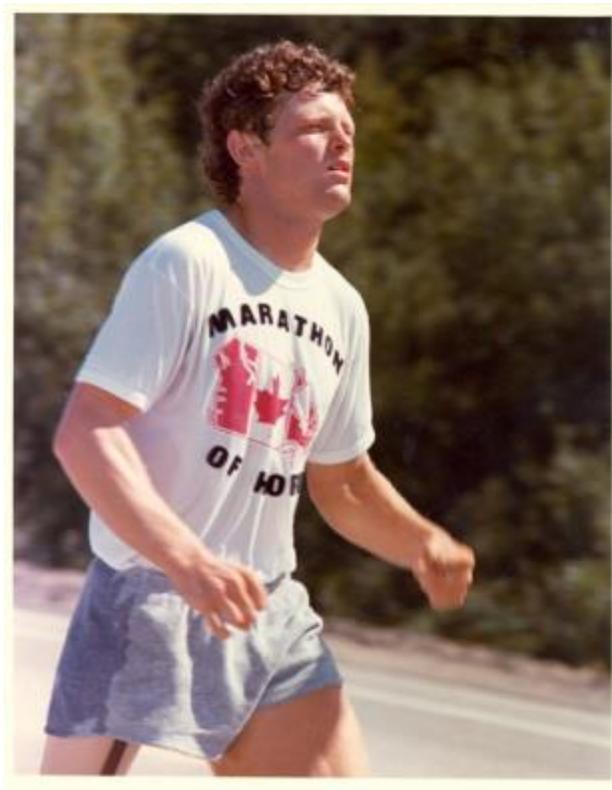
Our experience has been that students generally settle into their new classes very quickly at the beginning of the new year and thrive in their new settings. Almost all students feel better within a day or two after moving as they make new friends and begin to feel a part of their class community. If your child is feeling anxious or upset after moving into their new class we would ask that you reassure them that change is difficult for everyone and to give it a few days. We generally do not move students into a different classes once the school year has started as we often don't have room to do so and it often has a significant impact on other students and the class dynamics. If your child is feeling upset about their new class you might also share how your child is feeling with their new teacher(s) so they can monitor those students and the class dynamics with this in mind.

We often receive feedback about students in combined (sometimes referred to as "split" classes). At Panorama Park, a large number of our classes are combined classes this year. Our experience at Panorama Park has shown that students in these classes have the same learning opportunities and general outcomes as those in straight classes. Research shows that the biggest factor in a students success is the abilities of the teacher(s), rather than the type of class they are in. In BC, our curriculum

emphasizes competencies and skill development over teaching "content" and our goal is to teach students at their individual level. We know that even in a straight grade class we will have students who are below grade level, at grade level or above grade level in various areas (reading ability, numeracy skills, socialization, creative and critical thinking, etc). Because of this we find that students in combined classes are taught in the same way and have the same opportunities as those in straight grade classes and even benefit from working with students of different ages and abilities. For more information about class organizations and combined classes, please click these links:

- [Class Organizations District Information Sheet](#)
- [Combined Classes District Information Sheet](#)

Terry Fox Week



Terry Fox Week:

October 4th to October 8th will be our Terry Fox week. During this week our students will be participating in activities and learning about Terry, his Marathon of Hope and his inspiring message of perseverance in their classrooms.

Our Terry Fox run will be held in individual classes during this week. The students will be remaining on school grounds.

Donating to the Terry Fox Foundation:

If you would like to donate to the Terry Fox foundation, please click on this link
<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?TeamID=949379>

Panorama Park Elementary is proud to be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run. Let's get our fundraising going and show everyone how we can "try like Terry"! Together, we can all make a difference. #terryfoxschoolruns #tryliketerry @terryfoxfoundation

Thank you for your support.

Orange Shirt Day and National Truth and Reconciliation Day



We will be doing a variety of activities next week (September 28 - October 1) to recognize Orange Shirt Day. As you are aware, the government recently announced that September 30 would be an annual civic holiday, National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Schools, including Panorama Park, as well as government offices and many businesses will be closed that day.

During Orange Shirt Week we are encouraging students to wear orange everyday if they can, but most importantly on Wednesday, September 29. Due to tight deadlines and other factors, our school has decided not to sell orange shirts offered by the school district or commercial vendors. However, we know that many of our students have Orange Day shirts from past years or have purchased orange shirts (and "Every Child Matters" shirts) in the community. Students can wear any kind of orange top (or clothing) to show their support. Next week our students will be participating in age appropriate

discussions and activities about topics including Indigenous historical perspectives and residential schools. For more information about Orange Shirt Day, please click [here](#).

Please Return School Forms



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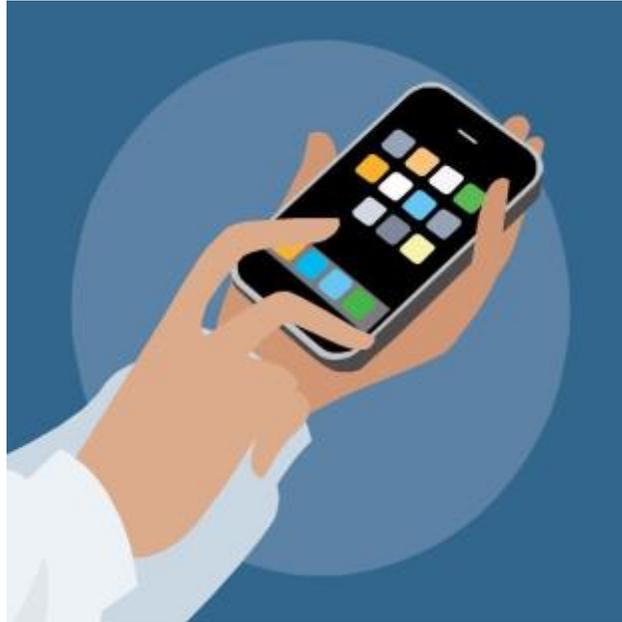
Last week, students were sent home with some important school forms for parents to fill out. Please complete / update the new **FreshGrade Information and Permission form** for each of your children at Panorama Park and return them to school by this Friday (September 24). Thank you for your support.

Dress for the Weather



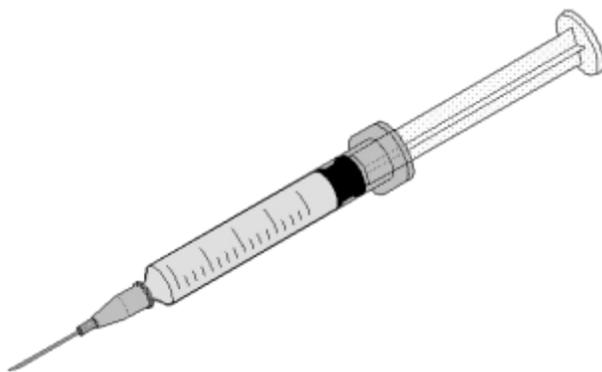
It is important children get outside for some fresh air at morning and lunch recess times. Students will be sent outside for recess times (unless it is raining hard) and should be dressed for the weather. Please send your children with rain jackets, umbrellas, and rain boots to ensure their comfort during our outdoor recess times and learning time in the classroom afterward.

If Your Child is Absent



If your child will not be at school due to illness, a medical appointment or other reason, please make sure you contact our office at 604-596 - 0963. You can leave a voice mail after hours which will be checked as soon as our office staff arrives in the morning. Even if you have given this information to your classroom teacher, please also contact our office. Thank you.

Medications and Medical Alerts.



If your child needs medication for an allergy or medical condition, please inform our office, your classroom teacher and ensure these medications are sent to our office as soon as possible. If your child has a medical alert that is new or we are not aware of, please contact our office to fill out a Medical Alert form so we have this information on hand.

Parent Email Contacts

Almost all communication at Panorama Park (both school wide and in individual classes) is done electronically. It is very important that we have your current email address.

- For school wide communication please make sure you have signed up for our school email list on our school website home page.
- For individual classes, most teachers have (or will be asking) for parent's emails in a document they send home. If you have not received this or would like to contact your child's teacher for any reason, please send them an email.

COVID Reminders and Daily Health Checks

Please click [here](#) to download a Welcome Back to School letter from Fraser Health.

- Schools will continue to follow a strict cleaning and hand sanitizing regiment.
- A reminder that masks are mandatory for all students in grades 4 -7 and highly encouraged for younger students.
- Staff members will wear masks when indoors at all times.
- Parents are expected to do daily health checks with their children before coming to school. For more information please see the [K-12 daily health check website](#) and [mobile app](#) to help students and families make the best decisions on whether to attend school, stay home, or take other measures. Questions and answers are easy to understand and are based on current health guidelines. All content is written with the K-12 age group in mind.

Mark Your Calendars

- **Monday, September 27:** Non-Instructional Day (school not in session)
- **September 28 - October 1:** Orange Shirt Week
- **Thursday, September 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school not in session)
- **Wednesday, October 7:** Early Dismissal @ 1:35 pm
- **Friday, October 8:** Individual School Photos
- **Monday, October 11:** Thanksgiving Day (school closed)

Useful Links

Click on the links below to be taken to these websites:

- [Surrey School District Website](#)
- [BC Curriculum Overview](#)