

N O R T H R I D G E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Sept. 29, 2016



Principal's Message...

Welcome to new and returning families to Northridge for the 2016/17 school year. Our student population presently stands at 270 students; our school is organized with twelve divisions from Kindergarten to Grade Five. The staff is excited and enthusiastic about the many opportunities and initiatives in place for this school year.

We welcome to the school this year, Ms. Lister (Div. 2), Mrs. Saunders (Div. 4), Mrs. Martiniuk (School Counsellor), Ms. Urbaniak (Educational Assistant), Ms. Howitt (Educational Assistant) and Mrs. Williams (Educational Assistant).

It has been a very busy and productive few weeks as routines, timelines and schedules have been established. Over the last couple of weeks, the staff has been assessing the children and developing support systems to enhance their learning.

The commencement of a new school year is always an exciting time; it is not uncommon for students to have mixed emotions - eagerness, apprehension, enthusiasm and perhaps even a little anxiety. The Northridge staff wants all students to feel comfortable while they are here so that the focus for them can be on learning. It is our intention to provide a caring and supportive environment for students in which they are prepared to take educational risks. It is also our intention to provide a welcoming environment for parents.

Communication is an essential element between home and school. The school newsletter will be distributed the last Thursday of each month. Please try and make time to read the newsletter on a regular basis as there is important information for parents. The newsletter is currently e-mailed to over 96% of the families; please keep your e-mail address updated with the school. Many thanks in advance!

I would like to thank the dedicated Northridge Staff for their hard work over the past few weeks as we have organized schedules, assignments and services. The students have been terrific and should be commended for their cooperation and commitment to learning through the many adjustments and changes that have taken place in some of our classrooms. To our wonderful parents - Thank you for your continued support and involvement as we create the best possible learning environment for each and every student.

A special wish to you all for an excellent school year!

Lynda Whittam, Principal



Parent/Teacher Conferences

on Wed. Oct. 5 &

Thurs. Oct. 6

(Confirmation notices go home on
September 30)

***Early Dismissal
both days at
11:50 am***

Reminders....

IMPORTANT STUDENT Forms....

If you haven't completed and returned your important student forms (i.e. Student Information Verification, Student Computer Use Agreement, Earthquake Emergency, etc.), please return them a.s.a.p.

Tomorrow (Friday, September 30th) is Hot Lunch Day and Car Free Friday

Pick-up/Drop Off- Mrs. Whittam

This year, we have a new group of school leaders eager to demonstrate their responsibility and help make Northridge Elementary a safe place to be. Grade Five students have been trained by Constable Sidoroff and understand the serious and important nature of being a school safety patroller.



Unfortunately, some drivers are parking their cars in our drop off zone. This results in confusion as other drivers must veer wide to avoid parked vehicles. Additionally, drivers have been noted turning left out of our parking lot and through the crosswalk on Carey Road. Our patrols have been trained to follow the rules and when drivers disregard posted signage, the result is confusion and danger.

Please do not park cars in drop off zone and remember to turn right when leaving the parking lot. Thank you for keeping our children safe.

Terry Fox Run

Students and staff at Northridge and participated in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 23rd. This run was held to maintain Terry Fox's vision, principles and inspiration. With fierce determination, Terry started his fundraising journey on April 12, 1980, "The Marathon of Hope", raising \$24.17 million toward cancer research by Feb. 1981. Terry Fox died of cancer in June 1981 at the age of 22. Thank you to all students that brought in a "loonie" or "toonie" on the day of the run. We raised over \$400. All donations were forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation. Donations were voluntary. Thank you!!



The Great British Columbia ShakeOut Drill - October 20, 2016

Since 2001, British Columbia has invested more than \$840 million to seismically upgrade schools, but making sure our school buildings are ready for an earthquake is only part of the equation - students, teachers, staff and parents also need to be prepared to react.

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut Drill is an annual earthquake preparedness drill held on the third Thursday of October. Northridge Elementary will join over 12 million people registered to participate in ShakeOut drills worldwide.



Personal Comfort Packs

Should an emergency situation occur during school hours, your child will more than likely be very anxious. Items from home can offer some relief while your child is waiting for you. If you haven't done so already, with your child's help, please put together a small personal package (sandwich-sized zip-lock bag with your child's name and division on the front of it) to bring to school. Below are some suggestions to include in a comfort pack.

- A snack your child will eat. Make sure it has a long shelf life and is sealed (eg. fruit leather, granola/energy bar, etc.). Drinks are available from our kiosk and need not be included.
- A small toy or activity that can fit into a zip-lock bag (eg. cards, puzzles, puzzle books, folded paper/crayons, stuffed toy, etc.).
- A family photograph. As trauma and injury may cause memory loss, a picture can help identify family members in addition to giving comfort to a child waiting to be reunited with his/her family.
- A letter of comfort. Reassure your child that you love him/her and that you will come for them as soon as possible. Also, you may want to remind your child who will pick him/her up if you cannot get to the school immediately (Permission for Release Information provided by you to the school). Your child may be at the school for up to 48 hours before you are reunited.



Inclement weather and soggy playground conditions....

The Office has limited amount of extra clothes when a student clothes gets wet. It would be greatly appreciated if you could bring an extra change of clothes to school.

USED Clothing Request

There is a need for smaller size sweat pants. If you have gently used sweat pants (pull on style) suitable for age 5-8 children, would you please bring them to the school office?

If your child has borrowed clothing from the school, please wash and return. Thank you!

Early Warning System

This is a system for all Northridge children regarding their safe arrival at school. Should a child be unaccounted for, the parent or guardian would be notified by 9:30 am.

Please establish routines to ensure that your child arrives at school before the 8:45 am bell.

....**EARLY WARNING E-MAIL:** earlywarning54@sd61.bc.ca

....**EARLY WARNING PHONE NUMBER:** 250-479-4639

When you know your child will be absent or late, please e-mail or call the above.

Please clearly state the following information:

- Your child's name
- Your child's teacher
- The date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence (i.e. illness, vacation, appointment)



The answering machine is on 24 hours a day.

If you know that your child will be absent for a specific time, and have already informed your child's teacher, please also let the Office know. This will ensure that the absence is recorded and an Early Warning call is not made. You can e-mail the Office at earlywarning54@sd61.bc.ca or phone the Early Warning line at (250) 479-4639 or just let us know in the Office. Thank you!

Safety Reminder - Parents are reminded that when they remove a child from school during the day for a medical appointment or other reason, they must check the student out at the office. The student should also be checked in at the office when they return from an appointment.

LATE ARRIVALS



School begins at 8:45 a.m. We would like to decrease the number of late arrivals as this is very disruptive to classroom instruction. If you arrive just after the morning bell, please proceed to your class and your teacher will mark you as late. For students that arrive after morning announcements - please check in at the Office so that we know that you are here and are not marked as absent all day!

The following reasons outline why punctuality is an important skill to foster:

- ⊗ your child will be part of opening activities in the classroom and will not miss information that gets their day off to a good start
- ⊗ teachers will not use instructional time to be keying in late students
- ⊗ your child will develop a life skill that gives them a feeling of self confidence and one that employers see as a sign of competence

Lunch Monitors

At Northridge, all Grade Five students are expected to monitor (watch over) our younger children as they eat their lunch. Lunch monitors are expected to:

- ✓ Remind students to stay in their seats while eating;
- ✓ Encourage 'restaurant' manners;
- ✓ Interact with younger children;
- ✓ Model healthy eating habits and litterless lunch;
- ✓ Ensure that all the children are outside to play before leaving the room;
- ✓ Model our 'greening' initiatives (recycling, lights out, etc.)
- ✓ Seek adult help when necessary.

Administration of Medications

If your child must take medications (prescription or otherwise), please contact the school office. It is mandatory that the school nurse facilitate formal authorization. It is very important that if your child has allergies/reaction to insect bites and may need medication during school hours, that you update the medical information. The office must be provided with the required medication together with a signed REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATIONS (forms available in the office) as soon as possible. We cannot administer any medications for emergency situations without the required forms signed by the family doctor with detailed procedures. If there are no changes you may return the same card. All medications are kept in a central, locked cabinet in our office.



MediAlert No Child Without - **FREE** medical identification services (including a custom bracelet or necklet) for children with a special medical condition, allergy or special need that should be communicated to emergency medical personnel in an emergency. For more information, visit www.nochildwithout.ca. Please contact the office for a brochure with a special bar code & pin number for enrolment into the program.

Cross-Country (Gr 3-5) - Mrs. Buckham, Mrs. Penner and Miss Marczyk

Cross-Country practices for Grades 3 to 5 are held every Tuesday and Friday at 2:45pm. Students have begun training for the upcoming season. The meet dates are as follow:

Monday, Oct. 3	Cross Country @ Clover Point	3:45 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Cross Country @ Lambrick Park	3:45 pm
Monday, Oct. 17	Cross-Country @ Clover Point	3:45 pm
Monday, Oct. 24	Cross-Country Finals at Beacon Hill Park	1 pm



After the four preliminary meets, participants will be invited to the City Finals to be held Monday, Oct. 24 at Beacon Hill Park at 1:00 p.m. **A special Thank You to all parents** for driving to the weekly meets, without your support we would be unable to sponsor such a large group.

Soccer (Gr 4/5)- Mr. Richardson & Mr. Johnston

Our soccer program for Grade 4/5 boys and girls has started again. Practices and inter squad games will be after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 to 3:45pm (starting September 22 and ending October 27th). A season-ending jamboree is set for Thursday, October 27 at Beckwith Park. We are enjoying teaching, coaching, and playing with such an enthusiastic, energetic bunch!

Choir - Mrs. Hall

Choir sign up happened last week and our choir has had two practices already. We have 61 members from grades 3, 4 and 5 and Mrs. Hall is looking forward to working with her choir members! They are off to a great start!

Scholastic Book Fair - Mrs. Buckham

Our Scholastic book fair fundraiser is just around the corner and is scheduled to take place during the parent-teacher conferences on October 5 and 6 from 11:50am to 6:00 pm. Please come and visit us in the library and help support our school as every \$10 purchase returns up to \$6 in book profit to our library and classroom libraries. Please refer to the book fair letter or the Scholastic flyer that will come home with your child next week for more details about our literacy fundraiser. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work at the book fair, please contact Mrs. Buckham in the library. Thank you in advance for your support.



<u>Dates to Note</u>			
Sept. 30	Hot Lunch Day. PT Confirmations go home. Car Free Friday	Oct. 17	Cross-Country @Clover Point 3:45
Oct. 3	Cross Country @ Clover Pt 3:45	Oct. 18	Fruit & Veg Prgm - Baby Carrots
Oct. 5/6	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-5:40pm (Students dismissed at 11:50am both days) Book Fair 11:50-6pm in Library	Oct. 20	Photo Retakes. Hot Lunch forms due ShakeOut BC Earthquake Drill
Oct. 7	Turkey Trot 1:45 pm	Oct. 21	Pro-D day - no school for students
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving - No school	Oct. 24	Cross-Country Finals @ Beacon Hill 1pm
Oct. 11	Cross Country @ Lambrick 3:45pm	Oct. 27	Soccer Jamboree @ Beckwith Park (12:30-2:30pm) Newsletter Day
Oct. 13	School Assembly 1:09pm	Oct. 28	Hot lunch day. Car Free Friday. Halloween Dance
Oct. 14	Hot Lunch forms go home	Oct. 31	Black & Orange Day



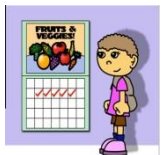
DATES TO NOTE FOR OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oct. 3 Cross Country at Clover Point 3:45pm	4	5	6	7 Turkey Trot
	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-5:30pm. Early Dismissal at 11:50 am. Scholastic Book Fair 11:50am -6pm			
10 Thanksgiving - No school for students	11 Cross Country at Lambrick Park 3:45pm	12	13 School Assembly 1:09	14 Car free Friday Hot lunch forms go home
17 Cross Country at Clover Point 3:45pm	18 Fruit & Veg Prog - Baby Carrots delivered	19 PAC Meeting 6:30pm	20 ShakeOut BC Earthquake drill at 10:30 am Photo Retakes Hot lunch forms due	21 Pro D Day - no school for students
24 Cross Country City Final at Beacon Hill Park 1pm	25	26	27 Newsletter Day Soccer Jamboree at Beckwith Park (12:30pm)	28 Hot Lunch Day Car Free Friday Halloween Dance
31 Black & Orange Day				



Soccer practice - Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:45 to 3:45 pm
 Cross Country practice - Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 2:45pm.
 Choir Practice - Tuesdays at 12:10 pm and Thursdays 1:09pm
 String Practice - Wednesday and Friday mornings 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program



Northridge has enrolled in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional collaborative program from the provincial government's Healthy Families BC with the BC Ministry of Health. This program delivers healthy fruit and vegetable over 489,000 children in schools across the province. Some of the objectives of are to increase the acceptability of, exposure to, and willingness to try fruits and to increase awareness of local fruits and vegetables. Children who eat more fruits and vegetables eat fewer high



calorie, high fat foods, have better attention spans and have fewer discipline problems at school as well as decrease their risk of cancer and other chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Below is a schedule for the delivery of Fruits & Vegetables to Northridge:



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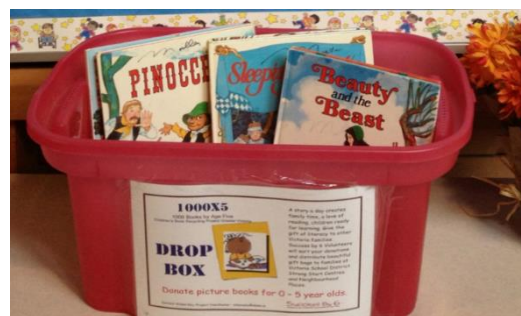
Below is a schedule for the delivery of Fruits & Vegetables to Northridge:

DELIVERY DATE	PRODUCT
Tuesday, October 18	Baby carrots
Tuesday, November 1	Mini cucumbers
Tuesday, November 15	Honeycrisp apples
Tuesday, November 29	Mandarin oranges
Tuesday, January 24	Anjou pears
Tuesday, February 7	Kiwi
Tuesday, April 4	Mini peppers
Tuesday, April 25	Grape tomatoes
Tuesday, May 9	Mini cucumbers
Tuesday, May 30	Marzano tomatoes

Fruits and vegetables usually arrive late afternoon, so students will be receiving the product the following day.



1000X5
1000 Books by Age Five
Children's Book Recycling Project
Greater Victoria



Have you found the pink bin beside the Northridge library?

The 2016-2017 year has begun and along side the children entering the Rockheights Middle school building are the 15 retired teachers and principals who meet every Wednesday to sort your donations of books for babies and preschoolers. Every month we send 800-1000 books into homes with few resources. 110,000 books in five years! Please give the opportunity for early literacy to more families in our communities.

Country Grocer (Royal Oak) - Save a Tape Program

Save your grocery receipts and drop them off at the school. Country Grocer will donate 3% of the total sales of the receipts collected. That's \$3 to our school for every \$100 spent at Country Grocer. You can ask family and friends to save their receipts for you as well. There is a drop off box located just inside the front door of the school. This is a great fundraiser!

