



Forest Park School News

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Principal: Mrs. Jacquie Poulin
Vice-Principal: Mr. Jim Pascoe

Secretary: Cathy Peace
Secretary: Karen Dendes

September 11th, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Welcome back to another incredible school year! I do hope everyone had a great summer break, enjoyed the incredibly beautiful sunshine we had, and are rested and now ready to return to school. Many of us have been getting ready over the past few weeks attending workshops and sorting through stuff in our classrooms and offices.

A special welcome to all our new students and families. It is always fun to see our community grow and expand each year. Please be sure to introduce yourself to as many of the staff as you can so we know who you are and can help you feel welcome.

On that note, the first newsletter of the year always tends to be a bit lengthy as there are so many reminders to make as the year starts up. Please take a few minutes to carefully read through the entire newsletter to re-familiarize yourself with some of the school policies, upcoming dates, and other key information.

I look forward to a great year of working together as a whole community. Your involvement in your child's daily school experiences are vital. Be sure to take the time to chat with your child each day about his/her classroom activities, provide a regular homework and reading time, and check their planners for information from school. Working together as a team will ensure the best year possible!

Once again, on behalf of the entire team at Forest Park, welcome back!

Yours in education,

Mrs. Jacquie Poulin



SPECIAL GOODBYE TO MRS ANNE GORDON

All of the staff and community would like to give a huge congratulations to Mrs. Anne Gordon on her retirement. As her retirement announcement was late in June we would like to recognize her many years of service to our school district including Forest Park Elementary. Mrs. Gordon was a great advocate for kids and taught with kindness and skill that was appreciated by all that she came in contact with. She will be greatly missed! We wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life.

Forest Park Open House
Wednesday, September 30th, 2015
School Open House – meet your child's teacher – 6:30 – 7:30 pm

First PAC Meeting of the Year -
Babysitting is provided!!
Tuesday, September 15th, 2015
7:00 pm - Forest Park Library
Look forward to seeing you there!

First Pro-d Day -
Monday, September 28th -
students do not attend this day.

Forest Park Bell Schedule 2015-2016

Monday Bell Schedule		Tuesday to Friday Bell Schedule
8:35 am	WELCOME BELL	8:35 am
8:38 – 10:15 am		8:38 – 10:15 am
10:15 – 10:30 am	RECESS	10:15 – 10:30 am
10:30 – 11:45 am		10:30 – 11:45 am
11:45 am – 12:20 pm	BIG RECESS	11:45 am – 12:20 pm
12:20 – 1:30 pm		12:20 – 2:30 pm

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We are pleased to be welcoming many new staff to our team at Forest Park this year. Please be sure to take a few minutes to introduce yourself to these individuals:

Mrs. Jacquie Davidson - Gr. 1
Mr. Joe Smith - Gr. 4
Mr. Steve Daly - Gr. 3
Mrs. Marina Letham - Student Support / Gr. 6
Mrs. Karen Dendes (2 days a week) - Secretary

We would also like to welcome the following staff who will be joining our school community in the short-term while staffing is finalized:

Mrs. Dana Heese - Gr. 1/2
Ms. Meghan Carver - Library

CLASS PLACEMENTS

All of us - parents, teachers, and principals - want to get students settled into their permanent classes as soon as possible. The ideal situation would be if we could know on the first day of school what class your child will be assigned to and what teacher he or she will have. Unfortunately, that is often not possible.

It takes us several days after school starts to know exactly how many students we will have enrolled this year. Some families may have moved away during the summer, and other families are on waiting lists hoping that their children can be enrolled.

Now that we have spent time with all our students, had a chance to check on registrations and follow up with families to ensure they are returning, we will organize into classes. Students will be assigned to their teacher Monday morning. Please know that a great deal of discussion, time, and serious consideration goes into class placement decisions. **Our class numbers are very tight and there will not be any opportunity for movement within classes at this time.**

STUDENT FORMS

During the first couple of weeks, students will come home with a number of important forms to be filled out and returned to the school. The student information form is used to update all of our information which is required by the Ministry of Education. In addition, we collect information related to parental permission, volunteer drivers,

and medical information. The gathering of medical information is vital if there are any medic-alert or medical administration needs which the school will need to address. Please complete and return these forms immediately. Additional forms requesting further information will be distributed upon the medical condition being dealt with. Thank you.

SCHOOL ZONES NOW IN EFFECT

As kids head back to school, the Nanaimo RCMP is reminding drivers to slow down in school zones.

A 30km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days. A reminder to drivers is that excessive speeding in a school zone (**70 km/hr in a 30 km/hr zone**) may lead to their vehicle being impounded for 7 days.

Statistics have shown that during the first week of school, two children in British Columbia will die as a result of injury. The most frequently reported child pedestrian activity that results in injury or death is crossing at an intersection.

Tips for Students:

- Use designated crossing points and follow crossing signals where available
- Dress to be seen - daylight hours are decreasing, so wear brighter colours or reflective material whenever possible
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Leave ample time to get to school so to avoid rushing and potential problems

Tips for Drivers:

- Plan ahead, leave earlier to allow yourself extra time through School Zones
- Be alert to children near or around crosswalks and intersections
- Always yield to pedestrians
- Ensure you drop off children in a safe place in the School Zone, where the children can exit onto a side walk.
- School buses will be back on our roads. Vehicles approaching from both directions must stop for school buses when their lights are flashing.

Tips for parents

- Make sure backpacks are not overloaded and straps are tucked away to prevent tripping
- Give your kids a secret word for pickups that only you and they know
- If approached by a vehicle driven by a person they do not know, do not approach the vehicle nor go within 2 arm's length from the vehicle

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/BEHAVIOUR

During the first few weeks of a new school term, it is very important for students to review and to understand what will be the expected behaviour both in the classroom and on the playground. Throughout the year the following will be emphasized so that a safe and non-threatening environment can be maintained.

Students are expected to:

- Act in a safe and responsible manner, recognizing and respecting the rights of others as well as their own.
- Develop the use of self-discipline.
- Be courteous at all times; and
- Achieve to the best of their ability.



STUDENT PLANNERS

Teachers continue to stress the importance of preparing for today's world by teaching the skills of organization and time management. The student journal/planner is an effective tool in realizing these goals as it encourages interaction and communication between the child, the parent and the teacher.

Students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 7 will use a planner to arrange, organize and co-ordinate all their assignments and correspondence between home and the school.

Planners can be very useful in the areas such as:

- goal setting - home & school (long & short term)
- planning for future events
- keeping track of homework
- communication between home and students

Students can make good use of their planners by being responsible for:

- having them at school on their desk or table, every day
- recording their homework
- recording their long and short range goals
- recording "coming events" reminders

Parents can help by:

- reviewing the planner with your child(ren) (there are other useful parts of the book - times tables, calendars, tips, etc.)
- looking at the daily entries and initializing
- writing a comment to the teacher if needed

At school, teachers will assist by:

- reviewing the planner with the class
- talking to students about goal setting
- checking the planners regularly
- allowing a few minutes at the end of the day for students to complete their planners.

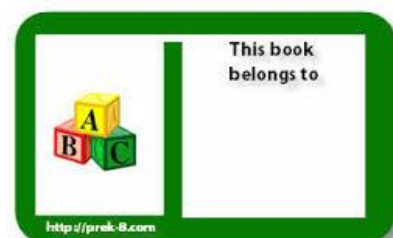
A student planner will be provided to every student at Forest Park School and will be used extensively throughout the year beginning in early September.

SCHOOL HANDBOOK

The current school parent/student handbook has been included in the student day planners. Basic school policies, procedures and programs are outlined in these introductory pages. **Please note, the Forest Park School Code of Conduct is provided in the student handbook. Please be sure to review this with your child, we will be going over it in class also. As these handbooks are printed the summer prior to the school year beginning, please look on our website for the most up to date version. Thank you.** We hope that this format will serve as a helpful reference for your use throughout the school year.

STUDENT PROPERTY

To assist the school with the return of any student property, should the need arise, it would be greatly appreciated if all school items and articles of clothing such as jackets, hats, gym strips, gloves, etc. were labeled with your child's name. Many articles of clothing find its way into the lost and found box, yet many items remain unclaimed, unless properly labeled for easy identification. Thank you for your support with this concern!



VISITOR REGISTRATION

Visitors to the school will notice signage on the main entry door asking visitors to 'Report to the Main Office' and obtain a visitors pass. If you are required to be in the hallways, on the grounds, in classrooms or other parts of the building beyond the main office during instructional time you are a visitor and must have proper identification obtained through the office. Parents and others who are delivering or picking up their children at the usual entry or dismissal time are not considered visitors and are not expected to report and register at the office. On leaving, visitors are asked to return the identification badge to the office and complete the registry.

We believe that this procedure will help to strengthen the safety concerns for students, parents and staff as well as identify personnel that may be visiting our school throughout the day. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation regarding this safety protocol.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Throughout the year if problems or concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact the school promptly. Our telephone number is 758-6892 and our fax is 758-2373. If at any time you wish to make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher, please contact one of our school secretaries, Mrs. Cathy Peace or Mrs Karen Dendes, who will arrange a mutually convenient meeting time for both you and the teacher. The school office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Special school insurance is available to families who wish to purchase it. This is a completely optional program. The forms are distributed through the school as a service to parents wishing to obtain this type of insurance coverage. **The forms should be mailed directly to the insurance company and not returned to the school.**



CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are issued with several textbooks, supplies, equipment, etc., throughout the school year. It is the **student's responsibility** to take care of any item that is on loan to him/her.

A school has a very limited budget for the replacement of materials and resources. Students who lose, deliberately deface, or destroy school property will be expected to replace it.

CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

As technology continues to advance, we are seeing students at schools with cell phones, Ipods, digital cameras, gaming devices, etc. If your child has any of these at school, please remind him/her that they are to be turned off and in his/her backpack throughout the school day unless the teacher has indicated differently in his/her classroom. In particular, cell phones are not to be used at any time during the school day. If a student needs to use the phone for emergent issues, the school phone is accessible with permission from a staff member. If a parent needs to contact a student in an emergency, please call the office.

The other issue around technology that has become increasingly common at schools is the use of digital or cell phone cameras. For privacy issues, as well as personal safety issues, we ask that students do not bring or use personal cameras at school.

Also, the school will not be responsible for loss or damage so students must securely put these items away. Thank you for your support.

APPROPRIATE FALL CLOTHING

It is very much appreciated when parents see that their child(ren) go off to school prepared for the uncertain fall weather. Boots, gloves, warm jackets are a necessity at this time of year, even though the weather may seem mild and rain free in the morning. Layered clothing is always a good choice as students can remove or add clothing as necessary. Appropriate clothing will help even reluctant students get needed fresh air and exercise outside at lunch time and recess on light rainy days.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

The school is a place to work and learn and as such students are expected to dress in a manner that is conducive to this expectation. At school we rely on the good sense of students and their parents rather than a strict code as to what is suitable to wear to school.

- Hats are not worn in the building.
- Beach wear or clothes that are revealing (low cut tops, spaghetti straps, muscle T-shirts, halter tops, bare midriffs and backs are not acceptable).
- Items of clothing that display offensive graphics/writing are not appropriate for school.
- Clothing needs to be suitable for the season (i.e. warm tops in winter).
- Tops must meet bottoms

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. We expect students to maintain the type of appearance that is not distracting to teachers or other students to the detriment of the educational process of the school. When a student's appearance is felt to be detrimental, the parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing for the student. If the problem persists, a parent/administrator conference may be required.

We would appreciate parental support for this policy by helping your child(ren) make appropriate choices for clothing worn to school.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council is an integral part of our school. They meet once per month, on the second Tuesday of each month. The Forest Park PAC invites parents to attend their first meeting to learn more about what they do and see how you can become involved. The first meeting this year will be Tuesday, September 15th at 7 pm in the Library.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Every year each school runs fire drills, earthquake drills and lockdown drills to prepare staff and students for these unlikely events. Please discuss with your child the importance of being prepared and the appropriate behaviors during such drills. If you have any questions about any of these drills please contact Jacquie Poulin or Jim Pascoe at the school to discuss.

SCHOOL WEBSITE & APP

To continue to build on our communication and to keep you informed, we do have a school website. Our Forest Park website can be located at schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/forestpark Please check it out, it will have the school calendar, upcoming events, and other great announcements! The Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools District now has a mobile app? To make sure you receive the most up-to-date notifications from our school or from the district, download the app on your [Apple](#) or [Android](#) device.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues., Sept. 15	PAC mtg - 7:00 pm - Library
Mon., Sept. 28	Pro-d Day - students not in session
Thurs., Sept. 30	School Terry Fox Run
Thurs., Sept. 30	Open House - 6:30-7:30
Fri., Oct. 9	Turkey Trot
Mon., Oct. 12	Thanksgiving - schools closed
Tues., Oct. 13	PAC mtg - 7:00 pm - Library
Mon-Thurs, Oct. 19-22	Early Dismissal - Interviews
Fri., Oct. 23	Pro-D Day - students not in session
Tues., Oct. 27	Photo Day - individual photos
Wed., Oct. 28	Zone Cross-Country Meet
Thurs., Nov. 5	District Cross-Country Meet
Tues., Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Tues., Nov. 10	PAC mtg - 7:00 pm - Library
Wed., Nov. 11	Remembrance Day stat - schools closed
Tues., Dec. 8	PAC mtg. - 7:00 pm - Library
Wed., Dec. 9	First Term Reports go home
Wed., Dec. 16	Family Craft Night
Thurs., Dec. 17	Christmas Breakfast
Fri., Dec. 18	Last day before the Winter Break

