



Forest Park School News

2050 Latimer Rd. Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 2W5 Phone: 758-6892 Fax: 758-2373 schools.sd68.bc.ca/fore

Principal: Mrs. Jacquie Poulin
Vice Principal: Mr. James Pascoe

Secretary: Cathy Peace
Karen Dendes

September 30, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Wow, here we are at the end of September - it has come quickly once again. The month has flown by quickly. I would like to take this time to thank everyone - staff, students, parents, and the larger community - for helping to make the transition back into school a positive and energetic one. I am so pleased to see how well our new students have settled in and become part of our community. It continues to be evident what a fantastic and supportive community exists at Forest Park.

As you know by now, our school community continues to grow and we added another division this year. A new division also means a portable again this year. Many thanks to our staff and students in their amazing flexibility and adaptability in making it all work as we watch the portable 'get ready'. Also, many thanks to district facilities in responding quickly with the work needed to bring the portable onsite.

We look forward to another great year and working together with you and the whole community. Your involvement in your child's daily school experiences is 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, we will strive to provide the best possible education for your children

Thanks for your support in our start up, looking forward to a fabulous year.

Yours in education,

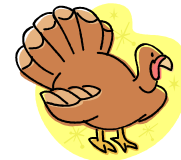
Mrs. Jacquie Poulin



15th Annual Turkey Trot!!

Friday, Oct. 9th - 1:30 pm

Yes, the Turkey Trot continues at Forest Park. In honour of past tradition, and to continue to give back to our community, children are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations from Oct. 1st - 9th. On Oct. 9th the donations will be handed over to Loaves & Fishes to support needy families in Nanaimo.



SCHOOL HOURS

Now that the general routines have been well established and students feel more comfortable with classroom expectations and school wide behaviour code it would be appropriate for parents to further review and reinforce with their children these rules and expectations outlined in our daily planner. Children are encouraged to arrive to school between 8:25 and 8:35 a.m. unless they are directed by their teacher or coach to do so otherwise. Supervision begins at 8:20 a.m. and is primarily at the front of the school. For your reference, the following schedule is in effect at Forest Park School.

Welcoming Bell	8:35 a.m.
School Begins	8:38 a.m.
Small Recess	10:15 a.m.
Lunch Break	11:45 a.m.
Afternoon session	12:20 p.m.
Monday Dismissal	1:30 p.m.
Dismissal (T-F)	2:30 p.m.

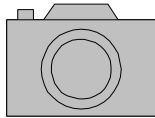
EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STUDENTS

As in the past, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held this year from October 19th - 22nd. Please note that this year students will be dismissed one hour and 20 minutes early on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday which will be 1:10 pm, Monday will be regular dismissal at 1:30 pm. A schedule will be established and meeting times will be sent home with your child.

This meeting time is a critical opportunity to establish communication with your child's teacher early in the school year and to set clear goals with your child. If you are unable to make the meeting time, please contact the office to find a time that works better.

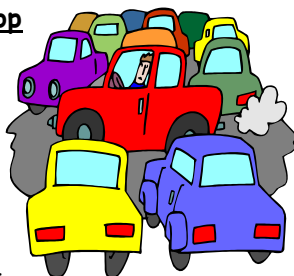
PHOTO DAY!!

Mark the date on your calendar -
Forest Park Photo Day is on
Tuesday, October 27th
Be sure to bring your smile!



TRAFFIC SAFETY-PARKING LOT

Anyone driving children to Forest Park is well aware of our daily traffic challenges. Drivers are urged to exercise extreme caution at all times in the parking lot as well as drop off/pick up area. Congestion at peak times (arrival, dismissal) means children must occasionally walk between cars. Please be extra vigilant when pulling in, backing out or driving through. We have many new youngsters and families using our parking lot this year. **Motorists are reminded NOT to stop in the fire lanes or to stop in the drop off/pick up zone in front of the school.** This is becoming a major issue both in front of the school and in the parking lot. Please do not stop in the front area near the red line as this is for the daycare buses only. Also, the 'curve' of the parking lot (near the bike racks) is clearly marked



with a 'NO STOPPING' sign, we require all parents to comply with this request as the parking lot is becoming increasingly dangerous for students and drivers.

STUDENT FORMS

By now, your son/daughter should have brought home a package of forms for you to review and sign. Each of these forms is important for different reasons. The student verification form must be updated as all of this information is required by the Ministry of Education and for your child's safety. Some of the sections pertain to medical information which is vital if there are any medic-alert or medical administration needs that 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.



The package also includes very important information about changes to volunteers around the school and volunteer drivers. Please read through this information carefully, as all volunteer drivers must now have criminal record checks. This can now be done online at no cost to the parent in the initial check. Without this continued support from parents it may become difficult to arrange fieldtrips and afterschool athletics. The final form focusses on parental permission for neighbourhood field trips and media information. Having this form completed helps us in the office with the many requests that come in.

PERMISSION FORMS

In addition to the above information about volunteer parent drivers, when a class goes on a field trip, a detailed permission form is sent home for parent consent. To ensure communication is clear, and for the safety of all students, we will be requiring these forms to be returned for a child to be able to go on the field trip. Phone permission or notes written in the planner or on a separate sheet of paper will not be able to be accepted. Thank you for your help and support with this matter.

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

The use of tobacco products in school buildings and on school property is now against the law! Several years ago, the B.C. Legislature approved legislation making it illegal to smoke or use tobacco products at school. This ban is now in effect and applies to everyone - students, staff, parents and the public. Previously, it was against school district policy to smoke in schools or on school grounds, but the policy allowed for some exceptions. The new law will not allow for any exceptions.

Signs have been posted on the school property to remind everyone about this new ban. We are asking for the cooperation of students, staff and parents in respecting this law.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please be sure to review the Forest Park Code of Conduct with your child in the front of the student planner. A copy can also be found on the school website. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Poulin or Mr. Pascoe in the office.

LATES

Last year there were a large number of students who were late on a consistent basis. To promote responsibility and a value for education, we would like to work towards an improvement in student arrival time. When students are late, they often miss information given first thing the morning, basic directions on a task, and disrupt the learning environment for the rest of the class. Sometimes students are late due to medical, dental, or other appointments, these are exceptions and we understand they will occur. On all other occasions, please help us promote responsibility and punctuality by having students at school on time each morning.



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.

END OF DAY SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Establish clear after school routines to avoid confusion or uncertainty at the end of school day.
- Please do not take other children home other than your own without prior approval from a parent.
- Students may not go to the store or off grounds during the school day unless they have written parent permission.
- Ensure the main office and your teacher are aware of specific custody issues regarding pickup or contact.
- Remember the drop off and pickup zone is just that and vehicles should not be left parked or unattended for lengthy periods of time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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	Parent-Teacher Conferences
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 - 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