



Forest Park School News

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Principal: Mr. Larry Dean
Vice Principal: Mr. James Pascoe

Secretary: Cathy Peace
Adrianna Furlan

October 10, 2017

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Wow, here we are at the Beginning of October - it has come quickly once again. September flew by! 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.

Once again, we had a fantastic Open House where many families had a chance to meet their child's teacher and see their child's classroom - a fabulous introduction to the school year. It was great to see many of our new families out to get the full tour and meet returning families. Our school continues to grow—we continue to have over 400 students attending. The extra two divisions that we were assigned has helped keep class sizes down.

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.

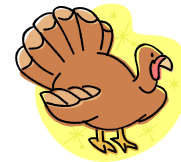
Sincerely,

Mr. Larry Dean



16th Annual Turkey Trot!! Thursday, Oct. 5th

Yes, the Turkey Trot continued at Forest Park. In honour of past tradition, and to continue to give back to our community, children were encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations from Oct. 2nd - 5th. On Oct. 5th the donations were 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 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.

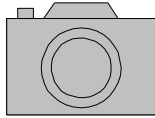
Welcoming Bell	8:35 a.m.
School Begins	8:38 a.m.
Small Recess	10:15 a.m.
Lunch Break	11:45 a.m.
Afternoon session	12:20 p.m.
Monday Dismissal	1:30 p.m.
Dismissal (T-F)	2:30 p.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STUDENTS

As in the past, we will have early dismissal days from October 16th - 19th. 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 notice was sent home last week outlining how these days will look for you and your child in his/her class. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

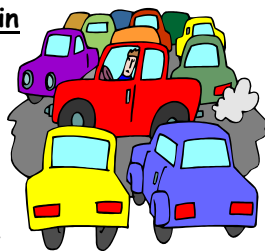
PHOTO Re-Take DAY!!

**Mark the date on your calendar -
Forest Park Photo Day is on
Friday, October 13th
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 volunteering at the school and volunteer drivers. Please read through this information carefully, as all volunteer drivers must now have a criminal record check for the School District within the last five years. If you had one done last year you do not need to do another criminal record check this year. 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.

FOREST PARK RECYCLING CLUB

Please Help Forest Park Students Become Aquatic Stewards

The **Forest Park Recycling Club** has set up an account at the Nanaimo Recycling Depot, 2375 Hayes Rd. Any returns you make there, or to the depot at 839 Old Victoria Road, can be credited to Forest Park Elementary School - just let the attendants know you want your returns credited to the school account.

The funds raised from your donations, and from other Recycling Club efforts, will go to support a classroom salmon incubation program at Forest Park School. The incubation program will provide students with opportunities to become involved with, and interested in, the preservation and restoration of our local salmon stocks.

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 Mr. Dean 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 in 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

Tues., Oct. 10	PAC mtg - 7 pm - Library
Fri., Oct. 13	Photo re-take day
Oct 16-19	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Fri., Oct. 20	Pro-d Day (students not in session)
Wed., Oct 25	Halloween Dance - 5:30 - 8pm
Mon., Nov. 13	Remembrance Day (schools closed)
Tues., Nov.14	PAC mtg - 7 pm - Library
Tues., Dec. 12	PAC mtg - 7 pm - Library
Fri., Dec. 22	School Closes for Winter Vacation