

September 3, 2019

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Dates to Remember

Tues. Sept. 3	First Day of School - 8:30 - 10:00
Wed. Sept. 4	Full day for students - 8:30 - 2:22
Mon. Sept. 9	Strong Start Opens
Mon. Sept. 16	First full day for Kindergarten
Tues. Sept. 17	Open House / Barbeque @ 5:00 - 7:00
Fri. Sept. 20	Student Photo Day
Thurs. Sept. 26	Orange Shirt Day
Fri. Sept. 27	Strathcona Pro-D Day
Mon. Sept. 30	PAC Meeting @ 7:00
Thurs. Oct. 3	Terry Fox Run

Our School Hours for 2019-2020 are as follows:

8:10	-	Playground Supervision begins
8:25	-	Warning Bell
8:30	-	Classes begin
8:30 - 10:30	-	Morning Session
10:30 - 10:45	-	Recess
10:45 - 12:16	-	Mid-Morning Session
12:16	-	Eating Period / Play Time
12:57	-	Warning Bell
1:00 - 2:22	-	Afternoon Session
2:22	-	Dismissal

Principal's Message

Welcome back to school everyone! As we begin another exciting school year I would like to welcome all of our new families to the Strathcona School community! We are extremely proud of our school and invite you to join us in helping to make it a great place for our children to learn!

Our school mission statement is, "We inspire competence, character and compassion." We expect to continue making significant progress in each of these areas. Our character education program entitled The Virtues Project, which includes a monthly focus on the qualities that define excellent citizens, has become an important part of our school culture. There will be many leadership opportunities for all students in keeping with our code of conduct: Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect This Place.

We expect that your child will receive an excellent education this year from our very dedicated staff. Your help, encouragement and participation are most welcome and a team approach between the home and school is such a valuable component to every child's success.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to contact our teachers or myself. I'm looking forward to a terrific year of learning at Strathcona Elementary.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ferris

"Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

What Happens on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday?

On Tuesday students are to return to their last year's classrooms and new students will be welcomed in the library. Tuesday will be a partial day beginning at 8:30 and ending at 10:00.

Wednesday will be a full day of school. Last year's Kindergarten students (this year's grade one students) will begin their day in the gym and all other students will enter the school via their last year's classroom doors. New students will once again report to the library. Students will then be placed into grade groupings and will spend the day reviewing our school matrix and code of conduct together with a variety of team building activities.

On Thursday, all students will return to the classroom where they were dismissed from on Wednesday afternoon. We are expecting the district to allow us to place our students in classes by Thursday or Friday. **Instead of posting class lists outside, letters will be sent home with each student indicating who their child's teacher will be.** Students can be picked up from their new classrooms at the end of the day and we will have staff members outside to assist parents in locating your child's classroom.

Please do not send school supplies until you know which class your child is in and until she/he has a desk to put things in. Our school does require students to have a pair of clean, non-marking inside / gym shoes. Our custodians and the rest of us work hard to keep the inside of our school clean and inside shoes make a remarkable difference.

Class Lists

We take great care and attention in creating balanced classrooms at Strathcona Elementary. We have a number of combined classes this year and our dedicated staff are trained in meeting the diverse needs of all of our students.

Drop off and Dismissal Procedures

We have a drop off lane at the front of the school where students can be dropped off safely between the red flag and the crosswalk. Parent parking is available both beside and in front of the school. Please remember to use the crosswalks in our parking lot as it is not safe to walk through our parking lot. Thank you in advance for your patience regarding our parking areas. Please have your children arrive at school no earlier than 8:00 a.m., as we are unable to provide adequate supervision before that time. Thank you!

PAC Meeting

Our first PAC meeting will be held on Monday September 30th @ 7:00 in the Multi-Purpose room. All parents are members of our PAC and are encouraged to attend the meetings. PAC meetings provide parents with information about our school, a chance to ask questions or raise concerns and of course, a chance to become involved with our school. Tanya Rath is our PAC president and I know that she and the rest of the executive are looking forward to meeting you.

Nut Aware School



We have a number of students at our school who have severe peanut allergies and can have a life-threatening medical reaction to even the smell of peanut butter. There are a few others who are unable to eat peanuts. We are asking that the school become a "Nut Aware" school and request that students not bring any foods with nuts or peanut butter. Due to its sticky nature, it is especially dangerous for students with nut allergies as it can remain on surfaces (tables, chairs and taps) long after students have left the eating area. We understand this can be an inconvenience, but the safety of our students is vital. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Bikes/Rollerblades/Skateboards

Please remember that it is mandatory for all bicycle and scooter riders to wear a helmet. Please ensure that your child has both a helmet and an adequate bike lock. Students are reminded that they need to walk their wheels on school grounds.

Student Absences

If your child is ill or planning to be absent, please give the school a call in the morning at 604-792-9301; otherwise our clerical staff will phone home to ensure your child is safe in the event of absence. Thank you for your support!

Open House / Barbeque

On Tuesday, September 17th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. we will be hosting an Open House where you will have the opportunity to meet our teachers in their classrooms, and then join us outside for a hot-dog. Ordering information will be sent home in the near future. Thank you so much both to our amazing PAC and to our staff for organizing this event!

Orange Shirt Day

On Thursday September 26th, we are encouraging everyone to wear orange as a way of supporting "Every Child Matters" which is an initiative honouring students who attended residential schools.

Terry Fox Run

Strathcona Elementary students will be participating in a Terry Fox Run on **Thursday October 3rd**. The run/walk will take place at 11:00 a.m. Parents, grandparents, etc. wishing to participate may meet at the gym at that time or may join us along the route. Students are encouraged to bring a loonie for the Canadian Cancer Society. Any donations will be accepted; cheques should be made out to the **Terry Fox Foundation**. We hope to see you there!

Student Supplies

Our Kindergarten teachers have purchased kindergarten supplies and a cheque can be made out to the school. Supplies for grades 1-5 can be purchased at any local store and supply lists can be found on our school website: <http://strathcona.sd33.bc.ca/school-supplies>.

Student Information System

All B.C. schools have implemented a student information system called MyEducation BC. We are in the process of updating our student database and verification forms will be sent home soon. Please update these and return as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Hot Lunch

We have an incredible Hot Lunch team who provide our students with hot lunch each month. This year we are planning to have a variety of foods including pizza, hot dogs and some specialty items. We have an on-line ordering system called 'Munch a Lunch' which will help to streamline the ordering process.

Breakfast and Lunch / Soup Programs

We are fortunate to have breakfast and lunch programs at Strathcona. Students wishing to have breakfast can enter the school via our doors near our Multi-Purpose room after 8:00 a.m. Students who need lunch meet in the Multi-Purpose at 12:16 for soup.

