



October, 2020

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## October Dates to Remember

Mon. Oct. 5	Strong Start opens
Thurs. Oct. 8	Terry Fox Run
Mon. Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – No School
Fri. Oct. 16	Hot Lunch: Papa John's
Fri. Oct. 23	Professional Day – No School
Tues. Oct. 27	PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Wed. Oct. 28	Photo Re-take day
Thurs. Oct. 29	Early Dismissal @ 11:30
Fri. Oct. 30	Costume Day

## Principal's Message

October is now here and the fall leaves are starting to show their wonderful colours. Students are working hard, breakfast and lunch programs have begun, and most importantly our school community is strong. Our academic school goal is to prepare our students to be flexible thinkers, fluent in literacy and numeracy, who are able to process knowledge systematically and critically in a variety of contexts.

Our school's mission is to inspire: character, competence and compassion. To prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we are teaching our students to improve their skills in: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, computing, career learning and cross-cultural understandings. We continue to reinforce our Code of Conduct: Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect this Place at all times.

At Strathcona, we have a monthly virtue that we practice. In September, we learned about kindness and many students exhibited examples of this virtue. Our October virtue is patience and I'm looking forward to all of the ways that our students will demonstrate being patient. As we approach Thanksgiving, our staff would like to wish everyone a very special time spent with family and friends.

*Jonathan Ferris*

*'It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer.'*  
–Albert Einstein

## Strong Start

Strong Start begins on Monday, October 5. Strong Start programs will be reduced to two shorter sessions to accommodate cleaning and disinfecting protocols. The number of families who can attend has been reduced to help maintain safe physical distancing. Drop-in attendance will change to an online sign-up system and pre-registration will be required. Handwashing procedures will be in place, as well as mandatory mask wearing for adults. Our entrance will be the purple multi-purpose room door. Our online hub for registration, sign-up links and information can be found here: <https://sd33.bc.ca/strong-start>.

## Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run will be taking place on October 8th. We are asking that students bring in donations and our goal is to raise in excess of \$500.00 to support Terry Fox's legacy to find a cure for cancer.



## Hot Lunch

Our first Hot Lunch will take place on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and we'll be enjoying pizza. Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for organizing this!

## Professional Day

Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> is a Professional Day and schools will be closed, as teachers will be enhancing their learning by attending a variety of workshops.

## Photo Re-take Day



Student photo re-takes will take place on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Early Dismissal / Student led conferences

We will be having an early dismissal on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and students will be dismissed at 11:30. Your child's teacher will be contacting you with respect to setting up a time to discuss his / her progress.

## Rainbow Crosswalk



As a sign of inclusivity, we are planning on installing a rainbow crosswalk in the near future.

## Costume Day



Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> is costume day and students may come to school dressed in costumes if they wish to. We are asking that costumes should be appropriate for school i.e. no violence or gore please, and that students bring a change of clothes if needed. Fun events will take place during the day. Please contact your child's teacher for further details.

## Student Health

Thank you parents for using the [Student Daily Health Check](#) to assess your child's health before sending him/her to school. If you are unsure about symptoms of illness, please contact a health care provider, your family doctor or a health nurse at 8-1-1. Please let the office know as soon as possible if you will be keeping your child home. Also, we are encouraging everyone to go straight home after school in order to limit the number of cohorts mixing on the playground. Thank-you for your support!

## Parking Lot / No idling Zone



Our parking lot continues to be a safe and respectful area. Thank you parents for driving slowly, not having your car idle and for obeying our drop off and thru lane system. Please note that we have areas reserved for staff only and that we encourage everyone to use the sidewalks and crosswalks instead of walking through the parking lot. Thanks for your cooperation!

## PAC News

I would like to thank the following people for their wonderful dedication this past year: President: Tanya Rath, Vice-President: Charlotte Tegtmeier, Treasurer: Nicole Toews, Secretary: Tara Lanyon, our Hot Lunch Coordinator Jen Howell and Milk Coordinator Barb Dekkers. On Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup>, our PAC held its Annual General Meeting. Elections were held at this time and congratulations to the following people who were elected: President: Tanya Rath, Vice-President: Adel Klassen, Treasurer: Maria Jenner, and Secretary: Tara Lanyon. Jen Howell will continue as our Hot Lunch Coordinator and Barb Dekkers will continue as our Milk Coordinator. We are so thankful for the many parents who have been involved with fundraising, assisting in the classrooms and in many other ways. Parent involvement in Strathcona is really appreciated and welcomed. THANK YOU PARENTS!

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open to all Strathcona students. Quite often you can find Mr. Ferris and Ms. Kass sitting down to enjoy the company of the students at Breakfast Club. This is a highlight for the students while providing a sense of community and belonging to all students.

Breakfast Club is sponsored through "Breakfast Clubs of Canada". We are fortunate to receive donations of sausages from Meadow Valley Meats and we have also received donations from various families at Strathcona. Donations are always appreciated by the many students who visit Breakfast Club.



## Bowls of Hope

We have a lunch program where we are able to offer hot soup and bread to students who are either hungry or have forgotten their lunch at home. Thank you to 'Bowls of Hope' for sponsoring this initiative!

## Library News

See the attached link for updates from the library:  
<https://bit.ly/33SgK3k>

## School Safety:

Throughout the year, we hold a number of safety drills in order to ensure that our students know how to respond in a variety of situations.



**Fire Drill:** When the alarm sounds, our students line up and proceed outside to the tennis court in an orderly manner.

**Earthquake Drill:** When an announcement is made, our students take cover under desks or tables. When the drill is over students line up and proceed outside to the tennis court in an orderly manner.

**Bus Evacuation:** Kindergarten students will practice on buses and students in grades' 1-5 will be watching a training video.

**Lockdown:** This protects students and staff from a threat inside the building such as an intruder when it may be more dangerous to leave the building than to stay in a secured room. When an announcement is made, staff lock all doors and shut off all lights. Staff and students move to a designated location in the room and stay silent.

**Hold and Secure:** This protects students and staff from an outside threat when it is safer for students and staff to remain inside the building. An example would be when a serious criminal offence takes place in close proximity to a school. All exterior doors are locked.

**Sheltering in Place:** This is used when personal safety is in jeopardy if anyone leaves the school. This is used mainly for environmental or weather-related events. An example would be a blizzard or an environmental event such as a chemical spill, or if a dangerous animal was sighted in proximity to the school. Staff and students remain inside the building until advised by the authorities.

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



## WALK SAFELY

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.



## TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



## KEEP COSTUMES CREATIVE AND SAFE

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.



## DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., so be especially alert to kids during those hours.