



October 2018

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
SECRETARY: Ms. Sharon Binnig and Ms. Judith Miehl

<http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/parkave/>

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents,

These past 5 or 6 weeks have been busy getting school started but we are settled in thanks to the hard work of staff at the school, as well as district staff, parents etc... You will note our early dismissal times for the school year on Monday's is 1:37 PM, every Monday (**with one exception in October, that is detailed in this newsletter**).

I am impressed by the hard work of staff with respect to the transition of our 48 Kindergarten students. Many thanks to the staff working with these students as well as to our parents in transitioning these students to school.

We have had many practice drills. These drills are very important both for the students and for the adults. Please feel free to prepare your children for these much needed practice drills. Hold and Secure not uncommon at Park Ave (cougars, bears etc...) and other schools in our vicinity.

A reminder dismissal on Monday October 15 to Thursday October 18 is 1:15 PM. Teachers will be preparing for the portfolio learning conversations (more detailed information is in the new school newsletter)

On a different note, the wet (and possibly cold) weather will be arriving soon. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes (including socks, etc...) in their backpacks. This saves having to bother parents/guardians at home or work during the school day.

Working together reaps the most rewards for your child, it truly does take a village to raise a child. All of us want the best for your child. Home and school working together is key in achieving the greatest results.

Please also note the January PAC date has changed (it is in red in the calendar of dates)

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-2019

Thanksgiving (students do not attend)	Mon. Oct 8
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon Oct 15
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)	Tues Oct 16
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)	Wed Oct 17
Formative Assessment Conference 1:30-3 PM and 5:30-7 PM	Wed Oct 17
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)	Thurs Oct 18
Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend)	Fri. Oct 19
Photo Retakes	Tues Oct 30
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon Nov 26
Remembrance Day (students do not attend)	Mon Nov 12
Winter Concert (1:00 PM and 6:00 PM start)	Thurs Dec 20
Last Day before Holiday	Fri. Dec 21
First Day back	Mon Jan 7
PAC (6:30 PM) (new date)	Mon Jan 14
Progress Report Issued	Fri Jan 25
BC Family Day (students do not attend)	Mon Feb 18
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend)	Mon Feb 25
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend)	Tues Feb 26
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon Mar 4
Formative Assessment Conference (Portfolio Style) (5:30-7 PM)	Wed Mar 6
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter	Fri. Mar 15
First Day back	Tues Apr 2
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon Apr 15
Good Friday	Fri Apr 19
Easter Monday	Mon Apr 22
Non Instructional Day (Students do not attend)	Fri May 10
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon May 13
PAC Fun Fair	Sat May 25
Victoria Day (students do not attend)	Mon May 20
PAC (6:30 PM)	Mon Jun 17
Formative Report Issued	Thurs Jun 27
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:37)	Thurs Jun 27
Administration Day	Fri Jun 28

PORTFOLIO LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

In keeping with the theme of Ongoing Communication of Student learning, the Staff at Park Avenue is offering a new format for the traditional "Parent-Teacher Interviews". This year we are offering two Portfolio Learning Conversations on Wednesday, October 17th, from 1:30-3:00 and 5:30-7:00 PM. Please bring your child with you for this visit and stay as long as needed. We will be repeating these conversations in March as well. Ongoing communication allows for timely interaction between staff, students and families to talk about authentic learning progress and set goals for improvement. We are excited about this change in practice for this year. Please note that the Early Dismissal times will remain as in years past (1:15 Monday October 15 to Thursday October 18), allowing for the teachers to be prepared for this innovative approach to assessment and communication to occur.

GARDENING AS LEARNING



As the school year gets started, the Park Avenue school garden is also getting some much needed attention from 7 different classes, facilitated by a coordinator from the Nanaimo FoodShare. We hope the students enjoy this valuable program again this year.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS+



NEIGHBOURHOOD FIELD TRIP FORM

Please look for these important forms that were sent home in

early September.

We ask that you review all the pages and return them to school as quickly as possible so that we have the necessary safety contacts and medical information on file for your child. It is very important that we have alternate phone numbers to call in case your child is sick, or there is an emergency.

KEEP COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS (PAC)



Please bring in all your Country Grocer receipts (originals only) and drop them off in front of the office just above the lost and found bin! PAC receives 1 cent for every dollar

spent.

YOU CAN HELP THE OFFICE BE MORE EFFICIENT BY CONTINUING TO:

- call the school in advance and leaving a message on the answering machine that is on 24 hours a day if you know your child will not be attending school on that day. It has been very much appreciated this year, some days we have only had to make 2 or 3 calls to parents.
- have after school plans set up with your child before the start of the day so they do not have to use the office phone at the end of the day. Thank you parents for continuing to do this.
- A convenient pick up point is near the flag poles. If someone who does not regularly pick up your child is coming please ask them to wait there *and also remind your child(ren) to meet at the flag pole after school.*
- get your name on our email list (information on our website). If you know of families who are not receiving our emails please encourage them to contact our office and provide us with their email address.

PLANNERS (GRADES 1-7)

Please note this is NOT a fundraiser. All students in Grades 1 through 7 have received a planner. The primary planner (Grades 1-3) costs \$7 and the intermediate planner (Grades 4-7) costs \$5. Cheques are made payable to SD 68.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES (Grade 1 to Grade 3)

A reminder, if not already done, to please ensure your school supply fee (Grade 1 to Grade 3) of \$30 is paid to your child's teacher. This is not a fundraiser and we need to break even on our cost or we may not be able to offer this service to

families in the future. Cheques are payable to SD 68.

PHOTO DAY (RETAKE DAY) TUESDAY OCTOBER 30th

- For ordering purposes, proofs for all students photographed on October 2nd will be provided to each child/family before the retake date.
- In addition, there will be a picture day ID (printed on the proof envelope) which is required to enter once at the site.
- The photographer asks: parents who want a retake (9 AM-9:30 AM is the approximate time), to return their original proofs to the photographer. Please do not return the proof envelope to the school. We would like the students to physically hand their original proofs to the photographer.
- If a student was absent on the original photo day, then they would have their picture taken on the retake day.

PAC

We have an active PAC at Park Avenue, which is always in need of new or more members. I would encourage parents to get involved in the goings on at PAC. Many programs in and around the school are run and facilitated by members of PAC. PAC meeting dates are listed under the dates for the school year on the first page of this newsletter. Please note the dates have changed since our September newsletter. The updates are in this newsletter.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

A few words about Halloween costumes Since we are a school, and a school that has children as young as 4 years old, we ask that parents and students keep this in mind when preparing costumes to be worn at school. Costumes should not have guns, swords (weapons of any kind) nor excessive gore. We do have a school parade and costumes have to be age appropriate even for our youngest students. Also, our school dress code still applies even on Halloween. This is one of those things that we ask for parents and students to use good judgment and to pick costumes that respect the viewer and the wearer.

GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS (ISLAND HEALTH)

Recently immunization consent packages for grade 6 students were sent home from the school. If you have not already done so, please return the completed consent form to the school in a sealed envelope as soon as possible. Students in grade 6 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics with the consent of a parent(s), guardian or representative. Please contact the local Health Unit at 250-755-3388 and ask to speak with a Public Health Nurse if you have any questions.