



October 2019

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
SECRETARY: Ms. Sharon Binng 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 35 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 are common at Park Ave (cougars, bears etc...).

A reminder dismissal on Monday October 21 to Thursday October 24 is 1:15 PM. Teachers will be preparing for the portfolio learning conversations (more detailed information is in this 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.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020

Non-Instructional Day (Students do not attend)..... Fri Oct. 11
Thanksgiving (students do not attend)..... Mon. Oct 14
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM) Mon Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM) Tues Oct 22
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM) Wed Oct 23
Portfolio Conferences 1:30-3 PM & 5:30-7 PM..... Wed Oct 23
Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)..... Thurs Oct 24
Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend)..... Fri. Oct 25
Cross Country Zones (most likely AM) Tues Oct 29

Photo Retakes Mon Nov 4
Cross Country Districts (AM) Tues Nov 5
Remembrance Day (students do not attend) Mon Nov 11
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Nov 18

Last Day before Holiday..... Fri. Dec 20

First Day back Mon Jan 6
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Jan 13

Progress Report IssuedFri Feb 7
BC Family Day (students do not attend) Mon Feb 17
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend) Mon Feb 24
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend) Tues Feb 25

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Mar 2
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter Fri. Mar 13
First Day back..... Mon Mar 30

Good Friday Fri Apr 10
Easter Monday..... Mon Apr 13
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Apr 20

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon May 11
Victoria Day (students do not attend) Mon May 18
Track and Field Meet (Gr 3-7@ Rotary) Fri May 22
Non Instructional Day(Students do not attend)..... Fri May 29

PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Jun 15
Formative Report Issued.....Thurs Jun 25
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:37).....Thurs Jun 25
Administration Day Fri Jun 26

PORTFOLIO LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

In keeping with the theme of Ongoing Communication of Student learning, the Staff at Park Avenue is offering our Portfolio Learning Conversations on Wednesday, October 23rd, 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. 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 21 to Thursday October 24)**, 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 planner for all grades (Grades 1-7) costs \$7. 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) MONDAY NOVEMBER 4th

- For ordering purposes, proofs for all students photographed on October 2nd will be provided to each child/family before the retake date.
- The photographer asks: parents who want a retake (time will be announced closer to the date), to return their original proofs to the photographer. **Please do not return the proof envelope to the school.** The photographer 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.

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. **Please note Kindergarten teachers may send home additional information regarding Halloween activities and costumes.**

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.