



June 2020

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
SECRETARY: Ms. Sharon Binng & Ms. Judi Miehl

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

**FROM THE OFFICE**

Dear Families,

This is the last newsletter I write in my 7 years as Principal of this wonderful school. I have to say the students, staff and parents/guardians have made this a memorable time for both me and my family. I have been fortunate to have been associated with such a wonderful group of people. I am looking forward to running into you in the community and hope you will come up and say hi and fill me in on how things are going. The end of the school year is, of course, also memorable for COVID-19. I won't forget the total staff buy in, with our return to in class instruction for the month of June. It was so nice to see so many students return to school and at the same time still be connected with those who remained at home.

There have been many memorable moments to reflect upon this year. Our PAC has provided some key moments this year. Classroom teachers and support staff have planned, sponsored and supported a multitude of activities for students. Thank you to all staff and parents for making this a great year!

The staff of Park Avenue has always been very proud of their students and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the positive citizenship exhibited by our students. It has been a pleasure to see the growth in all our students.

On behalf of all students and staff at Park Avenue Community School I would like to express my appreciation to the PAC for their support and contributions made over the year.

I would like to extend a thank you to our parents and community members who volunteer their time directly in the classrooms helping with reading, in the library etc... Your help in classrooms and around the school has contributed to the success of each and every student. To everyone who has volunteered this past year, my sincerest thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend best wishes to our Grade 7 students who will be moving onto high school next year. Congratulations and continued success in all your future years!

Yours truly,  
Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
Principal

**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020**

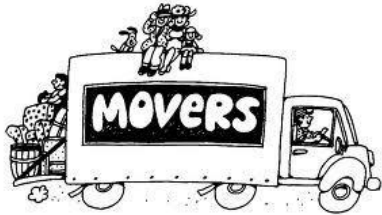
Formative Report Issued ..... week of June 22  
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:37)..... Thurs June 25  
Administration Day.....Fri June 26

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Our school office is open until Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and reopens on Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>. Our office hours are as follows:

\*\*Monday June 29 ..... 8 AM to 2 PM  
\*\*Tuesday June 30..... 8 AM to 2 PM  
\*\*Wednesday July 1 ..... Canada Day Stat Closed  
\*\*Thursday July 2 ..... 8 AM to 2 PM  
\*\*Friday July 3..... 8 AM to 12 PM

**ARE YOU MOVING IN OR OUT OF THE AREA?**



If you are moving (and your child is changing schools) please advise the office as soon as possible. Your co-operation greatly assists us in determining our numbers and school organization for the upcoming school year. Please also ensure you have registered your child at your new catchment area school as well. If you know of a family moving into our school community (or has already moved in), encourage them to come in to register before June 15 as this is the district deadline for guaranteed placement in our school. After that date, we can still accept students from within our community providing we have room for them, but we may not be able to confirm this until September.

**BELL SCHEDULE 2020-2021**

Below is a summary of our bell schedule for the upcoming school year. (**no changes from this year**)

Morning Session	8:45
Eat Lunch	11:30 – 11:45
Long Recess	11:45 – 12:21
Afternoon Recess	1:20-1:35
Dismissal Tuesday to Friday	2:37
<b>Early Dismissal MONDAY's only</b>	<b>1:37</b>

**Notes:** Our Monday short recess will be in the morning, 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM. Some teachers may opt to have students eat after coming in from long recess. Your child's teacher will communicate this to you directly. **Please note EVERY MONDAY is early dismissal (1:37 PM).**

**TENTATIVE STAFFING FOR 2020-2021**

Our teacher staffing for 2020-2021 is still ongoing. Most of our division teachers remain the same. We will have a couple of classroom teacher postings and Ms. Baker will assume the role as a Student Support/ELL teacher (taking over for Mr. Shaw). Our new Principal is Mr. Darren Dickie and he will be visiting Park Ave a few times before the end

of the school year to introduce himself to students, parents and staff.

**STAFF FAREWELLS**



We wish our leaving staff members the best of success in their future endeavours and hope that soon they will return to Park Avenue as many have in the past. They have all left a mark on our school and will not be easily replaced. Please wish the following staff members all the best: Ms. Mills, Ms. Patten, Mr. Dhillon, Ms. Marshall, Mr. Klan, Mr. Shaw, Ms. Pullen, and Ms. Caldwell-Demmon. A special farewell to Mr. McGann who is retiring at the end of June. He was our Speech Language Pathologist this year.

The posting and staffing process is still underway so there is a chance that some of the staff listed above might be back with us in September.

**CARING & SHARING**

Wow, this school year is almost over, and already children (and even some parents/caregivers) are looking forward to the freedom that comes with summer. It's great for children to have some unstructured time to rest up over the holidays, but two months without any schoolwork can have a downside. In May's newsletter we talked about how some experts estimate that during the summer holidays, children can lose up to 20% of what they learned in school. In this month's column there are some additional ideas to help reduce learning loss and give your child a head start for next September.

Yes, hiring a tutor or enrolling your child(ren) in 'summer school' are good options for retaining academic success, but this is not always an option for many families, so here are some creative alternatives. It is *always* good to review the concepts learned in school, but ***the key is to keep exercising the same parts of the brain***. Some people compare it to a physical exercise program, where we must "use it or lose it". For example, athletes who work hard all year would not stop training for two months and expect to go back into competition at the same level; however, they might switch up their training while still maintaining their fitness level. In fact, cross-training can actually help an athlete improve their performance, so it certainly can't hurt for students to do a little ***cross-brain-training*** over summer.

***Children learn to store memories more efficiently through practice.*** So, from local daytrips to long holidays, help your child(ren) relive the events; exercise memory storage systems by asking specific questions about the day's experience. For instance, at the end of a trip or event, we often ask things like "Did you have fun?" Children don't have to think for more than a second before giving a 'yes' or 'no' answer. Use open-ended questions starting with ***How, What, Why, Who, When, and Where***, like ***"What was your favourite part?"*** This encourages your child(ren) to think back, remember the sequence of events and make comparisons. It also gives you an opportunity to talk about an experience you shared together. You can continue the conversation and help your child(ren) to remember more by talking about your favourite parts, too. Do further exploration or research on interesting points or facts which come up. Bring in hands-on activities whenever possible as children are even more engaged when using more of their senses; it will also reinforce learning/memory in a different way.

***Some ideas for daytrips:***

\* Visit a museum or local historical site. You can research it online, use *MapQuest* or *Google Maps* to plan your route, and even have your child hold the map to practice

- math, map, and communication skills as he or she becomes ***Navigator-for-a-day***.
- \* Lots of stores have educational workbooks and travel games that children can use on car trips. (It's good to have some electronic-free car time anyway). Feeling even more creative? Together, make up a poem, song or rap.
  - \* While you have the electronics off, you can play memory games in the car- remember games like the trip game? ("I'm going on a trip, and I'm taking apples, books, hat, sunscreen, candy....." which each person repeats and then adds a word). The internet and library offer many more options of games.
  - \* Speaking of the library, have your child(ren) sign up for the ***Library Reading Club***, and make regular trips there. Kids can choose books that interest them, keep track of their reading, and earn prizes along the way – *and it is all free!* It's cool inside and there are several locations in Nanaimo, including one downtown next to the waterfront (where the seawall and ice cream are close by...hint, hint).
  - \* Check the local newspapers for events - things like dog shows can be a rich source of information and a lot of laughs for everyone, and they are often held locally. Nanaimo Parks, Recreation & Culture and other agencies offer a wide variety of events (many of which are free). Don't forget, ***even social interacting with others offers valuable learning opportunity.***
  - \* Finally, why not have your child make a trip memory book or journal? It helps them remember things in sequence, helps them practice skills like writing and art, and gives them something to help remember their experiences, and to share with others. Keep in mind many back-to-school assignments include ***"What I did this summer..."***

We hope these ideas help you get off to a wonderful summer, both full of fun and continued learning.