



January 2021 Newsletter

Forest Grove Elementary

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*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

Early Dismissal Day: Wednesday, January 13th Dismissal is at 1:15 PM on this day (not 2:15)

Parents: Please note that school will be out at 1:15 instead of the usual 2:15 on Wednesday, January 13th. Buses will be running an hour early on that afternoon and parents picking up children from school will have to arrive an hour early. We will be having two more of these early dismissal days this school year on Wednesday, **March 3rd** and Wednesday, **May 12th**.

CPAC News

- i) As an adjustment to these “COVID-19 times” our PAC committee has made an adjustment to our monthly meetings. The plan for the remainder of this year is to hold our **monthly meetings online via “ZOOM” at 6:00 PM on the first Monday of each month.** Our next PAC meeting will be at 6 PM on Monday, February 1st.
- ii) **Hot lunches** have been scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month, with the exception being the month of March. March’s Hot Lunch will be held on the second Wednesday of the month (March 10th) to accommodate for Spring Break.
- iii) **Our PAC is commencing a school cookbook fundraiser** through Gateway Rasmussen for our food program. We are asking each student/staff to hand in their two favourite recipes to be included in the book, which will be available to purchase upon completion. Please send recipes in your child’s planner for his/her teacher or email to Jess Drennan at jesswood.sw@gmail.com. The cookbooks will make perfect additions to your own kitchen, as well as family gifts (Mother’s/Father’s Day, birthdays, Christmas). Thank you! **Deadline: Jan 31, 2021.**

Local Skating Rink

It is our understanding that our local ice rink, behind the post office, may be available for skating in the upcoming days. Some of our classes would like to take advantage of this outdoor opportunity and take their students to this rink for a skate. Students will have to wear proper clothing and a helmet will be mandatory. We do have a few extra helmets at the school if needed. Individual classroom teachers will communicate their skating plans with parents in advance to ensure that students each have the proper gear for this outing. A huge thank you to the Abrams family and Richard Bergen for their ongoing work in making this rink available for our students and community!

Important Upcoming Dates

January 13 th (Wed)	Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)
January 20 th (Wed)	Hot Lunch
January 22 nd (Fri)	School of Choice Applications are open for Fall 2021
January 22 nd (Fri)	Kindergarten/Returning Students Registration opens for Fall 2021
January 27 th (Wed)	Family Literacy Day
January 29 th (Fri).....	Spirit Day: Crazy Hat Day

February 1 st , (Mon).....	CPAC meeting 6:00 PM (on ZOOM)
February 12 th (Fri)	Pro-D Day (students do not attend)
February 15 th (Mon).....	Family Day (students do not attend)
February 17 th (Wed)	Hot Lunch

March 3 rd , (Wed)	Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)
March 15 th (Fri)	School of Choice Applications close for Fall 2021

May 12 th , (Wed).....	Early Dismissal (1:15 PM)

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) - Grades 4 and 7 only

FSA Exams have traditionally been held in the fall of the year, during the months of October and November. This year, the Ministry of Education postponed these assessments so schools would be able to focus their efforts on the COVID-19 situation. This year, students in Grade 4 and 7 throughout the province will be participating in the Ministry of Education's Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) during the **months of January and February**. Students will be assessed in the areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The results from these assessments are used to inform our teaching practice. These results will be sent home when they are compiled, later in the school year.

School Surveys

The Ministry of Education is conducting their annual Student Learning Survey for students in grade 4, 7, 10, and 12, their parents, staff and administrators. More information regarding these surveys will be sent home soon.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27th to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. "Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically and can help a parent improve their skills as well."

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Home Reading Tips

How difficult should the home reading books be?

Tip #1: The books that children bring home to read should be at a slightly lower level than what they are reading in the classroom. Reading at home should be an enjoyable experience for both parents and their children - it should not be a stressful time. You are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher if you are unsure whether or not a book is at an appropriate level for your child.

Tip #2: Use the 5-finger test: Open the book to any page. Have your child read it out loud. If they can read all of the words then the book is too easy. If there are 1-2 challenging words, the book is just right. 3 challenging words means the book may be too difficult and 4-5 challenging words means the book is definitely too hard for your child.

Crazy Hat Day

Our next Spirit Day will be Friday, January 29th. The theme for this day will be Crazy Hat Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their wildest hats, helmets or other "head gear" on that day.

A couple of items for our next school year

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – Begins January 22, 2021

Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2021. Children presently enrolled in Kindergarten do not need to re-register for Grade One.

A Birth Certificate or Passport, BC "Care Card", and Two Pieces of Proof of Address are required at registration. Please contact 250-398-3811 if you need any clarification regarding these requirements.

Students are required to register at the school in their catchment area. Parents not sure of their catchment area are requested to contact the nearest elementary school, the School District Office (250-398-3811), or our website at www.sd27.bc.ca for this information. Please contact your catchment school for a registration appointment.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE PROCESS 2021/2022

All elementary and rural elementary-secondary schools in the School District have a designated "catchment area." If you wish your child to attend a school that is not their catchment school, a School of Choice application must be submitted.

- 1) Applicants must be registered at their respective catchment school **BEFORE** submitting a School of Choice application. A catchment area finder is available on the District website (www.sd27.bc.ca/find-the-nearest-school/).
- 2) Application forms may be obtained at all schools, the School District Office, or on the School District's website (www.sd27.bc.ca).
- 3) Parents will assume responsibility for travel and any additional costs incurred by a School of Choice approval.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE APPLICATIONS OPEN - JANUARY 22, 2021
DEADLINE FOR SCHOOL OF CHOICE APPLICATIONS - MARCH 15, 2021