



September 2020 Newsletter

Forest Grove Elementary

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Principal's Message - Welcome Back!

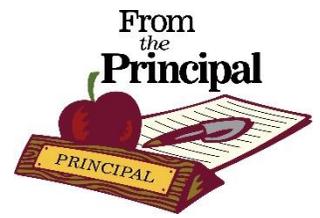
Welcome back to school! We made it through our first week and here we are well into the second week of back to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. While these are difficult times for all, I am happy to tell you that the students and staff are excited to be back and are working hard to establish a "new normal" for being back in school.

I would like to thank and commend parents and caregivers for working with us to make this a successful start-up. We appreciate you using the community hall parking lot for dropping off and picking up students as this helps us keep children safe by being out of the bus zone and high traffic areas. We currently have 68 students registered at Forest Grove Elementary for this school year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and especially to our new students and their families. We are pleased to have you join our school community.

Sincerely,



Mark Doolan (Principal)



From
the
Principal

Daily Health Checks (please err on the side of caution)

We are asking (and counting on) parents and caregivers to please be diligent with daily health checks of your children. If your child is showing any symptoms of illness symptoms, please err on the side of caution and we ask that you keep your child at home if you are in doubt.

CPAC (Community and Parent Advisory Council)

Parents and guardians of children attending Forest Grove Elementary are invited to participate in our local Community and Parent Advisory Council (CPAC). The Forest Grove CPAC plays a significant role in making our school a better place. This group of volunteers is involved in many aspects of school life at Forest Grove Elementary including involvement in our safe arrival plan, our breakfast program, our hot lunch program, fund-raising and supporting various curricular and extra-curricular activities. Regular monthly meetings will be held on the **first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM**. CPAC is considering running virtual meetings via Zoom to address the difficulties surrounding COVID-19 concerns and our school safety plan. We are planning a test run in the upcoming days with myself and the CPAC executive to see if this might be a good option for the October CPAC meeting.

CPAC News

1. After 6 years as CPAC president, Corrie Benard has announced that she will be stepping down. The last meeting that she will preside over is the annual AGM which will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. The AGM will serve as the regular monthly meeting for that month but will include the annual election of officers (president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.) New members are needed and all positions are up for grabs!
2. I would like to give a **big shout-out to our recyclers** for a most successful summer of recycling. You guys are the best and your efforts are so appreciated!
3. **Volunteers needed for our recycling program.** Please contact Melanie McMaster (melanie_mcmaster@hotmail.com) if you are willing and able to help with recycling cans and bottles.
4. Upcoming CPAC meetings:
 - a. **Tuesday, October 6th.**
 - b. **AGM Tuesday, November 3rd.**
 - c. **Meat orders** will be coming home soon as an additional fundraiser!

Student Planners



We would like to thank our Parent Advisory Council for providing a daily planner for each student at our school. We see these planners as a valuable organizational tool for our students and an important communication tool between parents and teachers at the school. We ask parents and caregivers to please review, sign and return your child's planner on a daily basis.

Breakfast Snacks & Hot Lunches

Our **BREAKFAST SNACK PROGRAM** will get off the ground this year starting on Monday of next



week (September 21st.) We will be running the program a little differently this year to make sure that we adhere to all of the COVID protocols we have in place at the school. Instead of having the children come down to the main foyer of the school to help themselves to our snacks, we will be making deliveries to each classroom on

a separate tray. Another change will be that we will be having Mrs. Amy McKean (one of our Educational Assistants) lead our breakfast program.

Breakfast & Hot Lunches continued...

Mrs. McKean has recently renewed her Food Safe certificate and will be doing the shopping for this program and preparing breakfast snacks on Mondays and Fridays. On the other three days of the week (Tues – Thurs) we will be enlisting the help of Melanie McMaster to work as a parent volunteer in collaboration with Mrs. McKean. We are so pleased to be able to offer this program again this year and I would like to thank our CPAC, Mrs. McKean and Ms. Melanie McMaster for helping to make this happen. While our breakfast snacks do not replace a healthy home-cooked breakfast, they do provide nutrition for students who either missed breakfast altogether that day, or who just need a boost before embarking on a new school day.

Our CPAC committee will be continuing their tradition of offering “**HOT LUNCHES**” this year, but hot lunches will occur **once per month** rather than every second week. On these special days, students and staff are fed a sit-down lunch designed to replace their regular “bag lunch.” The first hot lunch of this school year will be **Wednesday, October 14th**.



Outdoor (and indoor) clothing

Our regular morning routine is for students will play outside until the bell rings. We also plan to do more outside activities this year, so it is important for students to dress appropriately for the weather of the day.

Inside and Outside Shoes

For both cleanliness and preparedness (e.g. fire alarms) we ask that your child/children have both **inside** and **outside** shoes available at the school. For our younger children, who cannot tie their own shoelaces, we ask that you please provide shoes that are either “**slip on**” or have **velcro** or other “**quick ties**”, if possible. Please understand the challenge we face with shoelaces when children must enter and exit our building several times each day.

Student Absences / Safe Arrival

I would also like to inform/remind parents of the safe arrival and safe departure procedures we have in place at the school. If your child is going to be late, or absent, we ask that you call the school (250-397-2962) to notify us before the school day begins. If you do not get a person on the line, please leave a message as we check our answering machine regularly and record any absences or late arrivals on a whiteboard in the office for all staff to see. Our teachers take their classroom attendance shortly after school starts and, if we have not been notified of an absence, parent volunteers will call you to ensure that your child is accounted for. We ask you to **please notify us of all student absences**, so we do not have to make an unnecessary phone call. We also encourage parents to write notes in student planners if there is a planned absence or a change in plans for bussing or after school pick up.

If calling to change a departure plan for your student late in the day, please make sure that you speak directly with a person (**don't rely on our answering machine**) as this critical information needs to reach both the teacher and the student involved before we send them on their way.

Student Pick Up and Drop Off (including Strong Start)



I would like to thank the parents and guardians for your cooperation with the change we have made to dropping off and picking up of your children. We appreciate you parking in the Community Hall parking lot. This change helps us teach students to walk in the designated “safe walkways” and keeps our bus lanes free of congestion that can occur during these busy times. With Strong Start being moved to the side of our building nearest the Community Hall, it also makes sense for Strong Start parents to pick up and drop off in the Community Hall parking lot.

Strong Start

Strong Start at Forest Grove Elementary provides a wide variety of activities including games, songs, arts and crafts, stories, science and snacks. Parents and pre-school aged children are invited to join Mrs. Sheila Nelson every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. New registrants are always welcome!

Mrs. Nelson is busy setting up her new room and will announce her first day back soon. I will also make sure that I post the opening date on our school web site as soon as it is determined.



Band and Instrument Rentals (for grades 5-6-7)

Band is back at Forest Grove Elementary this school year! We are pleased to announce that Mr. David Parker will be teaching band at the school every Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning throughout the school year.

Mr. Parker will also be offering music (ukuleles) to Ms. Babicky's 3-4-5 class every Monday.

Our Band Instrument Rental Night is currently in the planning stages but, in the meantime, Mr. Parker has school district instruments that students can try out. We are hoping to work out the details of rentals with Long & McQuade in the very near future. We will announce the instrument rental date and time as soon as it is determined.

Our Daily Schedule (8:15 AM – 2:15 PM)**Start time:** 8:15 AM**Recess:**

- 9:40-9:55 Primary Cohort (younger kids – Divs 1 & 2)
 10:00-10:15 Intermediate Cohort (older kids – Divs 3 & 4)

Lunch: 11:30-12:15

- 11:30-11:50 Primary Cohort outside
 Intermediate Cohort eat lunch in classrooms
 11:50-11:55 Transition time
 11:55-12:15 Primary Cohort eat lunch in gymnasium;
 Intermediate Cohort outside

Dismissal: 2:15 (Buses arrive shortly after 2:15)**Calendar of Events**

Date	Event & Details
Thursday Sept 10 th	First Day of School (FULL DAY)
Tuesday Sept 15 th	CPAC Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
Monday Sept 21 st	Breakfast Program begins today 😊
Wednesday Sept 23 rd	Spirit Day: "Terry Fox Run Day" Terry Fox Run (afternoon)
Friday Sept. 25 th	Pro-D Day (<i>students do not attend</i>)
Wednesday Sept 30 th	Orange Shirt Day - Zoom presentation available (details tba)
Tuesday Oct 6 th	CPAC Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
Wednesday, Oct. 14 th	First Hot Lunch
Tuesday Nov. 3 rd	CPAC AGM