

Simon Fraser Elementary School

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NEWSLETTER No. 1

September 15, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to school! The staff at Fraser is ready to help your child enjoy many successes in learning this year. Thank you all for your cooperation and support as we moved the students into their new classes for this year. Thank you to those parents who helped orient our new families and thereby ease their transition into a new school. Once again this year we have 9 Divisions, including two Full Day Kindergarten classes.

Staffing Update

We have a number of new staff members: Ms Elaine Ong (Kindergarten) Ms Ali Cumisky (Intermediate Resource) Ms Joanne Cox (Primary Resource), Clare Ferko (Student Support Worker), Krystyna Shipley (Student Support Worker) and Amanda Hill (Student Support Worker) and Ms Ruth Wrinch (Acting Principal). We are all excited to be a part of the Fraser community and look forward to an excellent year.

Job Action

As you are probably aware, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), which represents the province's public school teachers, is involved in negotiating a new collective agreement with the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), the bargaining agent for the province's school boards. These discussions to date have not produced a settlement and the parties have indicated that they are not close to an agreement. As a result, the province now faces job action. The BCTF has said that the

job action will be in phases. The first phase is a "teach-only" campaign which will restrict teachers' ability to participate in administrative duties and other non-instructional activities. As a result of this job action we will not be scheduling a "Meet the Teacher" night. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Lunch Arrangements

Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms. Supervision is provided by our support workers, supervision aides, Ms. Wrinch and Grade 6/7 big buddies. Sincere thanks to Tony Ramsell, our PE Teacher extraordinaire, for organizing and supervising lunch hour games.



Safe Arrival

If your child will be late or away for the day, please advise our Secretary, Mrs. Eppler by phoning the office at 604-713-4946. When a student is late arriving at school he/she needs to check in with the office before going to the classroom. If a student needs to leave the school for any reason he/or she needs to sign out on the form provided in the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

Student Information Forms

I want to thank everyone in advance for your prompt attention to all the necessary forms that need to be completed and returned to the school ASAP. I know it may seem redundant but the earthquake information is kept in a few different places just in case one

area is not accessible in the event of earthquake.

Please complete:

- 1) The yellow Student Information Verification Forms - please sign and return even if there aren't any changes
- 2) The green Serious Health Conditions
- 3) The blue Media Consent Form
- 4) The peach Emergency Preparedness Card along with the comfort kit in the large baggie provided

Medication

If your child requires medication to be administered at school, please visit the office and ask for a "Request for Administration of Medication at School" form. If necessary, you are welcome to discuss your child's medical condition with our school nurse, Nancy Skucas.



School Grounds Supervision

Fraser staff provide supervision on our east playground before and after school from:

8:40 to 8:55 AM before school

3:01 to 3:15 PM after school

Our two Supervision Aides Romeo Dimatulac and Lil Crimeni, provide playground supervision at recess and lunch.

REMINDER: There is no supervision after 3:15 PM, therefore, it is imperative that you pick your children up promptly!

School Supplies Fees

The Vancouver School Board purchases basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices resulting in a cost-saving for families. The School Supply Fee is \$25 per student for basic supplies and \$8 for a planner for a total of \$33. This year Ms. Wrinch will be in the Library from 8:45-9:15 on Monday, September 19th to Wednesday, September 21st to collect fees.



Terry Fox Run

We will be having our Terry Fox Run on Friday, Sept. 30th. We will not be doing the pledge sheets, instead we are asking each student to bring a toonie (\$2.00) or whatever you can afford to contribute. Students from Mr. Murphy's class will come around to classrooms with the donation bucket each day starting next week. Thank you for your support.



Cell Phones

If it is necessary for students to bring a cell phone to school it must not be used during school time. The phone should be turned off during school hours and kept in the child's backpack until 3:01. In case of an emergency the office phone is available to students.

Office Telephone

The office telephone is to be used to inform parents of school related information. It is not to be used to make social arrangements. Please encourage your child to make their arrangements before arriving at school. Thank you for your support!



Valuables & Electronic Devices

Please encourage your child not to bring items of value to school. We cannot be responsible if the items are lost or stolen.

Allergy Alert

We have students who have a severe allergy to nuts and nut products. Therefore, **WE ARE A NUT-FREE SCHOOL**. Please do not include nuts and nut products in lunches or snacks. Thank you for supporting us in this health concern.

Accident Insurance

Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) has again reviewed the insurance policy offered to Vancouver parents for their children and have approved Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance and Financial Services as the official insurance carrier for the 2011-12 school year. The plan which was included in the baggie full of forms, is voluntary. Please review it and decide if you need the coverage for your child as the VBE does not carry accident insurance.

Safety Patrol

Our Safety Patrol has not yet begun. Please discuss with your child(ren) safety when crossing any street especially busier streets such as 16th Avenue.



Library Volunteers Needed

An hour or two a week would be appreciated. Very flexible times. Anyone interested, please talk with Pam in the Library. Thanks!

Cross Country

Cross Country will begin soon. Tony will provide information as it becomes available.

Photo Day

On Monday, October 3rd the students will be getting their individual photos taken starting at 9:00 a.m. **IF** your child is away on October 3rd, he/she can have their photo taken on the retake day: October 25th at 9:00 a.m. I will be sending home more information from Lifetouch closer to that time. The form with the



background and pose choices will need to accompany your child on the photo day or the photographer will use the default choice (blue).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Sept. 26th PRO-D Day
No School for Students
- Sept. 30th Terry Fox Run
- Oct. 3rd Photo Day
- Oct. 7th District Closure Day
- Oct. 10th Thanksgiving-No School
- Oct. 21st Provincial Pro-D Day
No School for Students

Sincerely,

Ruth Wrinch
Acting Principal

