



# Vedder Elementary School Newsletter



September 2022

Tracy Wagner, Principal – Tel 604-858-4759 - [tracy\\_wagner@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:tracy_wagner@sd33.bc.ca)

[Vedder Elementary School Website](#)

Sharilyn Mordaunt, Vice-Principal - [sharilyn\\_mordaunt@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:sharilyn_mordaunt@sd33.bc.ca)

Hello Vedder Families,

Wow, what a whirlwind of a first week we've had! Thank you all so much for your patience and perseverance as we sorted out logistics to get our year running successfully. All classes are now set, students will go to their new classroom for arrival and dismissals from this point on.

Throughout September, **we will be focusing on creating a supportive, safe, caring school culture.** Our staff has many things planned to support our students in reaching this goal, however, our children will also be asked to play their own role in being a member of our safe, inclusive school family. We will begin this journey by teaching students about the ideals that Bear represents in building personal awareness and responsibility.



Bear is a **great protector**. He represents **Personal Awareness and Responsibility**.

Through Bear, we can learn to nurture our own personal well-being by valuing ourselves and our accomplishments; understanding our feelings and making good choices that demonstrate respect for ourselves and others. We will be teaching the following statements:

- I can look out for my own well-being.
- I can practice self-regulation
- I can show self-determination

September promises to be full of learning, friendships, and fun. **Thank you to our parents and our staff for being partners in learning.** Together, we will help our students further develop **"kind hearts and curious minds"**.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Tracy Wagner, Principal

All newsletters will be published online at the website, on the **first Friday** of every month.

## Parking

Our parking lot is running smoothly so far this year. Please remember:

- The **bus loop** is for **busses** only
- **Handicap parking** is in the front parking lot (**permit holders only**)
- **Drop-off/pick up lane** - pull all the way up to the front spot on the **GREEN LINE**.
- Once at the **GREEN LINE**, up to three cars can unload their children.
- **Parking is at the front, to the left, and back of the school in our old lot.**
- The Tzeachten lot is not accessible this year due to construction. Thank you for respecting this change.
- Our **full-stop, crosswalk** is in front of the school on **Promontory Road** – please follow Mrs. Stolz's lead in crossing

## Fees

Thank you for waiting until classes were set to send in your fees for supplies. You can now pay by sending cash or cheque (made out to Vedder Elementary) to your child's classroom teacher.

### Fees are:

- **Kindergarten, grades 1, 2 and 3 = \$45.00**
- **Grades 4 and 5 = \$65.00**

## PAC Hot Lunch and Lunch Drop Offs

Our first PAC Hot Lunch will be on **September 23**.

**Please be sure to pack your child's lunch and snack each day.** Our school has a culture of parents dropping off **fast food** lunches to our students, mid-morning, I'd really like to see this stop if possible. We know the odd day has its challenges but hopefully we can stop making this a daily occurrence. **Thank you in advance for your support of limiting lunch drop offs.**

### **Breakfast and Lunch Program**

Vedder Elementary is dedicated to ensuring that our students are ready and able to learn while at school. We all know that it's very difficult to concentrate when we are hungry. We are so grateful for the supports of our PAC, the Bowls of Hope Program, Breakfast Foods of Canada, and the many parents who make random food donations as acts-of-kindness. Together, with all of this support, we are able to provide breakfast and lunch to our students who arrive to school hungry. This program is available to all students, whatever the reason.

### **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting – Sept. 13**

Vedder Elementary PAC welcomes all families back to school! Please join our **PAC Facebook group [Vedder Elementary PAC](#)** for all things Vedder Elementary School related. We keep things updated and bring you information that will help us all along through the school year.



If you are a parent or guardian of a child at Vedder Elementary, then you are a member of our PAC. PAC Meetings provide the space for our parents and school Administration to come together and discuss the many ways that parents can support our students and our school. There are limitless ways that you, as a parent, can help our school, not to mention that it's a fun way to connect with other parents. We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30pm for our first PAC meeting of the year. We will meet in the school library**, enter through the main, front doors. All parents who attend will have their name entered into a draw to win our "Parent of the Month" parking spot for the month. We hope to see you there. **Your PAC Executive is in the photo above**, they will be hosting the meeting. ☺

### **Attention Kindergarten Parents – CHEQ Survey – Sept. 14**

While your child is in class for a shortened day, we are inviting you to come to our multi-purpose room to complete a short (30minute) on-line survey. The information from this survey will help us better understand the needs of our incoming new students. Your child's teacher gave you an information letter about this survey at your child's intake interview. We look forward to seeing you there and thank you in advance for your participation. If you are not able to make it on this date, the survey can be completed from your home as well.

### **Cops for Cancer – Tour de Valley Visit**

We are fortunate to have the Cops for Cancer Team stopping by Vedder Elementary at some point in September, we are just waiting for a confirmation on the date. Cops for Cancer is an annual event where law enforcement and emergency services personnel cycle across the Fraser Valley raising money for **childhood cancer research and support services** at the Canadian Cancer Society. Donations raised are used for life-saving pediatric cancer research and caring support programs like Camp Good Times. Our students will decorate inspirational posters and decorations to welcome the team. Riders will roll into our parking lot, greet students, and share some singing and fun. I'm certain our kids will love to see the team again this year. **If you want to donate to this team that supports childhood cancer patients, please send your donation to school with your child by Sept. 16. We will also be selling Caring Caterpillars (\$2each) as a fundraiser for this event from September 13 – 16.**

### **Welcome Back BarBQ – Sept 21**

We are so excited to invite you all to our annual Welcome Back Bar-B-Q on September 21. This is a casual event that provides a fun way to meet your child's teacher and other staff. We are looking forward to providing tours of our school expansion as well.

- **4:30pm – tours of the expansion** of our school will be provided by our student leaders and PAC Exec.
- **Food will be served from 5:00-7:00pm.**
- **\$5 = hot dog, chips, and a drink**
- Staff will be barbequing and serving up the food as well as mingling in the crowd.



### **Chilliwack Museum Fieldtrip – Sept. 26, 27, 28**

Our students will have their first, school-wide fieldtrip of the year on either Sept. 26, 27, or 28. Different grades will go on different dates to visit the exhibit "**Where are the Children**" at the Chilliwack Museum. This exhibit provides a tour of artifacts and photographs that tells how the history and effects of residential schools are ongoing. The Museum curator will lead the students through 3, 20-minute sessions that are age-level appropriate and include a craft. The exhibition is the first of its kind in Canada, spans more than 125 years and contains photographs and documents from the 1880s to the present day. Here is a video clip from The Chilliwack Progress that shows the exhibit: [Where are the Children - Chilliwack Museum](#). **Please watch for consent forms in backpacks on Monday, September 19.**

### **Orange Shirt Day Assemblies and Walks – Sept 29**

On **Thursday September 29**, we will be hosting an assembly and community walk to learn about Phyllis's Orange Shirt and its relevance in regard to residential schooling in Canada. Parents are invited to attend the assembly and join us on our walk. Please don't forget to wear an orange shirt.

- Please note that there will be **NO SCHOOL on September 30** as this day is now **National Truth and Reconciliation Day**. All schools will be closed so people can reflect on the importance of our learning and pursuit towards Truth and Reconciliation.

#### **Paperwork Coming Home with Students:**

Please watch for, complete, and return the following paperwork that will be coming home with your child this week.

#### **Verification Forms**

A green student verification form will be sent home this week. **Please update, sign and return these forms by Friday, September 16th.** These forms are very important as the school depends on the information you provide to us to contact you or your designate in the case of an emergency.

#### **Medical Alerts**

If you require the school to administer any kind of medication to your child, an authorization form must be completed first. Please see the office to get the forms, which must be signed by the family doctor and parent. **Please notify the school office and your child's teacher if there are any health issues that we need to be aware of.**

**As we have students with severe allergies to nuts, our school is Nut Aware.**

#### **Indigenous Ancestry Letters**

Indigenous Ancestry letters will be sent home Wednesday, September 14. Please look for these letters in your child's backpack. Once you have completed the form, please send it back to the school to Mrs. Surman. Thank you.

#### **School Closures for September**

- September 30 – National Truth and Reconciliation Day

#### **September Events**

Sept 6 – first day for students

Sept 12 – Classes are set for the year – students go to new class to start the day

**Sept 13 – PAC Meeting** – library – 6:30pm – everyone welcome

Sept 14 – CHEQ Survey – Kindergarten parents – MPR at school or online at home

**Sept. 21 – Welcome back BarBQ** – food is 5-7pm, tours of expansion at 4:30pm

Sept 23 – Hot Lunch

Sept 26, 27 OR 28 – class visits to Chilliwack Museum

Sept 26, 27, 28 – IEP meetings (if needed, you will be phoned for a meeting time)

**Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day Assembly and Walk** – parents welcome to join us

**Sept 30 – School Closed** – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation