

# Cherry Hill Elementary School



# Newsletter



September 19, 2021

Hardeep Grewal, Principal

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## Principal's Message

Classes are set and students are learning! We are beginning an exciting new school year with many events coming up. We have our Terry Fox Run, picture day and cross country is getting organized with practices and meets scheduled. It is good to know that we are able to provide these opportunities to students while still following our communicable disease prevention plan.

Currently, we are being cautious with visitors and parent volunteers entering the school. These visits will continue to be made by appointment with myself ahead of time, and the following of protocols: a paper health check completed at entry, wearing a mask, hand sanitizing and signing in for contact tracing.

For projects, we are working in conjunction with PAC for an outdoor classroom area, looking at adding a fountain in the primary classroom area, adding a colour printer and purchasing new learning resources/updating tech for teachers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at [Hardeep.grewal@mpsd.ca](mailto:Hardeep.grewal@mpsd.ca).

## Terry Fox Run:

Our Terry Fox Run will be on Wednesday September 22. Primary students (Grades K-3) will run on our field while our intermediate students will run a route in our neighbourhood. For donations, students are encouraged to bring a loonie or twoonie to support cancer research.

## Go by Bike Week:

Students are encouraged to ride their bike to school during this week. It is a good time to go over safety rules (wearing a helmet, safe path to school, etc.) and to lock up their bike at school. It's a healthy and environmentally-friendly alternative to driving to school.

## Picture Day:

Picture day is scheduled for Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup> and photos will be taken in the gym. If you haven't already received an order form, please contact your child's teacher or the office.

## Cross Country Team:

Grades 4-6 students are invited to participate in our cross country team at Cherry Hill. Practices will be afterschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays with meets on October 7 and October 14. Students will be bringing permission forms home this week.

## Students Dressed for the Weather:

With the changes in weather recently, both cooler temperatures and lots of rain, it is important for students to bring an umbrella, wear a rain jacket and boots. A change of clothing to be kept at school is also helpful, especially extra socks.

## Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA):

Our grade 4 students will have the opportunity to complete a Foundation Skills Assessment from October 4<sup>th</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>. This assessment may be used by the classroom teacher to help inform them about their students' literacy and numeracy skills. I hope that all students will participate. This is an annual assessment provided by the Ministry of Education.

## UPCOMING DATES:

Wed Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Terry Fox Run
Fri Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> :	Pro D day (students not at school)
Mon Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Go by Bike week
Tues Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day
Thur Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Holiday is our Orange Shirt Day (students not at school)
Thurs Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cross country meet
Mon Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day Holiday (students not at school)
Thurs Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cross country meet
Thurs Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Shake Out BC
Fri Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Provincial Pro D Day (students not at school)

Thursday September 30, 2021 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is our traditional Orange Shirt Day and this year is a holiday. Phyllis Webstad is speaking at Heritage Park and our whole community is invited to the event.

**Open to the Public:  
Come hear Phyllis Webstad speak for the  
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation!**



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981). Compensation Project and Reconciliation events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013.  
Former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

  
Siwal Si'wes  
Indigenous Department

  
Mission Friendship  
Centre





Where: Fraser River Heritage Park, 7494 Mary Street, Mission, BC (covered area)  
When: Thursday, September 30, 2021 starting at 11:00am  
Please wear orange and bring your own lawn chairs, water, snacks and if you wish, a drum.  
Elder Parking available onsite. Contact Marcy Buell at [marcy.buell@mpsd.ca](mailto:marcy.buell@mpsd.ca) or 604 826-3103 for Elder Parking Pass. Additional parking at Heritage Park Middle School and Windebank Elementary.  
Contact Vivian Searwar at [vivian.searwar@mpsd.ca](mailto:vivian.searwar@mpsd.ca) for questions.

Partnerships: Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Department, SD75, City of Mission, Mission Friendship Centre

### Seven Sacred Teachings and Year of the Beaver

This year is the year of **sqelá:w, the Beaver, shxwlheq'lomet, Wisdom**. In past years, in September, our Siwal Si'wes department will provide cutouts in the shape of the teaching to classes interested in decorating them with images, words and messages of reconciliation and of the teaching of the year (i.e., wisdom). The decorated cutouts are then gathered, taken to the annual 'Orange Shirt Day' March for Reconciliation, and gifted to the Elders at the event. We have classes participating this year as well. It is coordinated by Rhea Paul, our Indigenous Liaison Worker. She is also connecting with families as she is new to Cherry Hill. She can be reached at [rhea.paul@mpsd.ca](mailto:rhea.paul@mpsd.ca).

### sqelá:w, the Beaver, shxwlheq'lomet, Wisdom

Teaching of Sqelá:w Sqelá:w carries the teaching of shxwlheq'lomet. The Creator gave sqelá:w large teeth and the knowledge of how to build. This has enabled sqelá:w to positively impact its environment and create a more sustainable world. Sqelá:w uses their teeth to cut trees and build dams; in doing this they have a positive impact on their community (the nature around them), their family (who live in the dam), and themselves (by finding purpose and health in doing what they are meant to do). Sqelá:w represents shxwlheq'lomet because it utilizes its gifts in ways that promote wellness to itself and its family. Sqelá:w reminds us that we all have gifts and a purpose in this world. It is through the love of knowledge that we find shxwlheq'lomet. Shxwlheq'lomet is not to be confused with knowledge. Shxwlheq'lomet is gained experience and knowledge is to know the difference and accept responsibility and accountability. For example, when one pollutes the water, one does not break a human law, but the law of nature, which states that to poison the water, is to destroy oneself. Shxwlheq'lomet also means knowing what your limits are with respect to your body and the life around you.



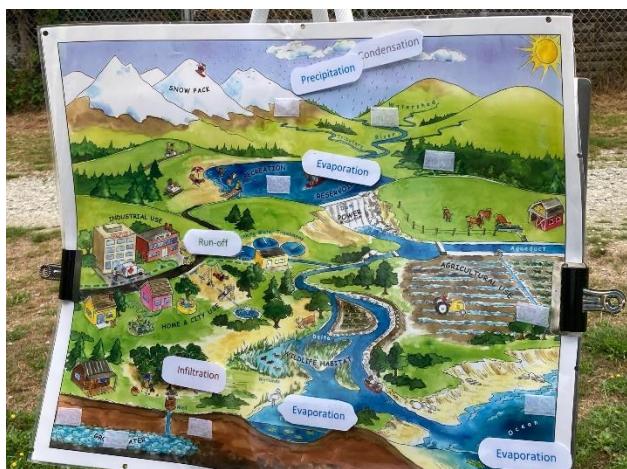
*Sqelá:w* is captured in the above design created by Ovila Mailhot, Coast Salish graphic artist, originally from Seabird Island reservation in British Columbia, whose roots are both of Stó:lō & Nlaka'pamux Nation.



### Celebrating our Learning:

Many classrooms will be participating in an outdoor education class with the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition. It is a 2-hour long workshop of guided, outside learning with hands-on participation, games, a nature walk, and a science or art activity.

Here our division 10 students learned about the water cycle, discussed how we use water and ways to conserve and protect it. It was an interesting and engaging discussion! And yes, it did rain a little so students connected it to the water cycle 😊



### Covid-19 Health and Safety Reminders for Parents:

Please continue to complete a daily health check of your child before sending them to school. It is important that they are not experiencing any new symptoms. If they become sick at school, we will call home to have them picked up until they are feeling better. Here are some resources that may help you.

Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)

Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)

Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider

In case of an exposure, Fraser Health will only send out two possible letters this year. A self-monitoring letter and a self-isolation letter for close contacts. They are no longer sending out a whole school letter of exposure notice. In the case of any students needing to self-isolate, I will also call home to confirm receipt of the letter. Please note that there is sometimes a delay between the exposure and notification from Fraser Health.