



January 2022 Newsletter

Forest Grove Elementary

4497 Eagle Creek Road, P.O. Box 99

Forest Grove, B.C. V0K 1M0

Phone: (250) 397-2962

Email: mark.doolan@sd27.bc.ca

<https://www.sd27.bc.ca/FG>

Welcome back to school for 2022!

Extended Christmas Break and COVID-19 updates

We hope you all enjoyed an extended Christmas Break with the addition of last week. We had a productive week with staff at the school as we made preparations for the days and weeks ahead. One of the first things we attended to was updating our **School COVID-19 Safety Plan**. Please know that this document is a work in progress as we make adjustments to it as necessary. You can view this document on our school web site (<https://www.sd27.bc.ca/FG>) under **downloads**.

As we move forward in these uncertain times, our goal continues to be maximizing in-class instruction to minimize learning gaps and while providing the academic, social and emotional supports essential for learning. To maintain a healthy and safe environment for students, staff, and families the school continues to follow important safety and infection prevention control measures, such as:

- Daily health check:
 - We urge parents and caregivers to assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, please do not send them to school.**
 - *The K-12 Daily Health Check web link (<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>) is working again.*
 - Please report absences as “Illness-related” to help us track illness-related numbers in our schoolwide attendance.
- Masks:
 - The PHO Order – Face Coverings requires all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask indoors at school. Everyone who is able to (i.e., does not have a mask exemption) must wear a mask. If your child has an exemption, but can tolerate a mask for short periods of time, please encourage them to do so. **Please ensure you are sending your child to school with a properly fitting mask, and if possible, a back-up mask.**
- Minimizing physical contact
- Hand and personal hygiene

CPAC News

i) **January Meeting Change** (and a potential move back to virtual meetings?)

This month's meeting has been changed to take place on Monday, **January 17th at 5:30 PM**, as Mr. Doolan has an afternoon appointment on January 10th.

ii) As an adjustment to the new OMICRON COVID-19 variant, our CPAC committee may have to return to online (virtual) meetings. Our CPAC executive is investigating the option of obtaining ZOOM licenses again. If we need to meet in person, we will have only CPAC executive members, along with our two school employees in attendance. Our CPAC executive will provide parents with updates.

iii) **Hot Lunches**

Our Hot Lunches have been regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month, but please check newsletters and planners for any changes. Please note that there will not be a Hot Lunch in the month of March this year, since there is a two-week Spring Break in the middle of that month. This month's Hot Lunch has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 19th. We had originally planned to have hot dogs and potato wedges but have decided to go with **pizza** to simplify things for this month.

iv) **Thank you's**

I would like to thank Jess Drennan and Melanie McMaster for setting up the Christmas trees and decorations before the Christmas Break then for taking them down afterwards. You helped give our school a warm and festive feeling for the days leading up to Christmas Break, and your ongoing support is much appreciated!



New School Librarian



I am pleased to welcome Julie Viergutz to our support team at the school. Jules, as she prefers to be called, has become our newest staff member as she will be taking over our librarian duties from Vera Rottluff starting this week. Jules is a familiar face to many of us as she has been our bus driver for the after-school Eagle Creek run for more than a year. I would like to thank Vera Rottluff for her years of service as librarian at our school and wish her all the best in her new role in Peter Skene Ogden's library.

A couple of familiar faces (practicum students) will be joining our staff until Spring Break.

- I am pleased to welcome **Delaney Speers** to our school for the next 9 weeks. Delaney will be at Forest Grove Elementary working on her extended teaching practicum in Ms. Reed's class. Welcome back, Delaney! We look forward to working with you!
- I am also pleased to welcome back **Christie Wells** for her extended EA practicum beginning now and extending until Spring Break. Christie completed her first practicum with Ms. Reed last year and will be doing this year's practicum in Mr. Kass's 6-7 class. Christie will continue in her role as one of our noon hour supervisors and will be at the school every day, except Thursdays.

Cold weather and winter clothing reminder

Parents, please note that our students go outside for recess, noon hour, and other activities throughout the day when the temperature is as cold as -15°C . However, students can be out in much colder weather while waiting for buses before and after school. School buses run regularly during winter weather, but delays are inevitable. Please ensure that children come to school prepared for our winter weather. There is no longer any set temperature when school buses do not run, so parents are encouraged to listen to the local radio station or check the school district web site as bus cancellations are usually announced by 7:00 AM.



Kindergarten Registration & School of Choice process

(To commence Monday January 17, 2022)



a) Kindergarten Registration

Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2022.

Children presently enrolled in Kindergarten at our school do not need to re-register for Grade One.

A **Birth Certificate or Passport, BC "Care Card", and 2 Pieces of Proof of Address** are required for registration.

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, or our website at www.sd27.bc.ca for this information. Please contact your catchment school for a registration appointment. A catchment area finder is available on the district website (*click on Schools, then School Locator*).

b) School of Choice Process

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.
- 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.



Family Literacy Day

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development.

... 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."

Crazy Hat Day

Our next Spirit Day will be Thursday, January 28th. The theme for this day will be Crazy Hat Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their best and/or wildest hats on that day.



Forest Grove Elementary School Calendar

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Stat Holiday for Jan 1st	4 <i>Staff and children of essential workers only this week</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>First Day back for students after Christmas Break</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Kindergarten Registration and School of Choice applications commence today PAC Meeting (5:30 PM)	18	19 <i>Hot Lunch (pizza)</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Family Literacy Day	28 <i>Spirit Day</i> <i>* Crazy Hat Day *</i>	29
30	31					

Important Upcoming Dates (Spring 2022)

- February 18th (Fri)..... **Not In Session Day (Pro-D)**
- February 21st (Mon)..... **Family Day**
- March 12th-27th **Spring Break**
- April 13th & 14th **Early Dismissal Days**
- April 15th **Good Friday**
- April 18th **Easter Monday**
- April 29th **Not In Session Day (Pro-D)**
- May 23rd **Victoria Day Holiday**
- June 29th **Last Day for Students**