



### We have a new baby in our staff family!



Big news for those who have not yet heard...

Mr. Kass' wife Julietta gave birth to Paskal, a beautiful baby boy, on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

I am happy to share that everyone is healthy and happy! However, according to Mr. Kass, he has come to understand that a peaceful sleep for him, is entirely out of his hands. Mr. Kass dropped by the school last Friday to say hello to students and staff. We couldn't help but notice that he was surrounded by a small mob of students until their



buses left the parking lot. We look forward to more visits in the upcoming weeks and months and we look forward to meeting baby Paskal!

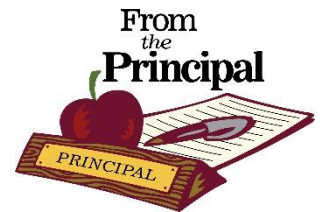
*I couldn't decide which picture was cuter, so I included both. Please know that we have many other pictures of Paskal without headphones, but these just made me smile the most and I wanted to share that joy!*

### Principal's Message

Let's be real, my principal's message had to play second fiddle to Mr. Kass' wonderful news this year. I would like to officially welcome our families back to school for the 2021-2022 school year. While these are challenging 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, caregivers, staff and students for helping to make our first week back a successful one. We appreciate families 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 93 students registered at Forest Grove Elementary for this school year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all and especially to our new students and their families. We are looking forward to another successful year at Forest Grove Elementary!

Sincerely,

Mark Doolan (Principal)



### COVID-19 Daily Health Checks

*(Please continue to err on the side of caution if children are feeling sick, just as you did last year.)*

We are asking parents and caregivers to please be diligent with daily health checks of your children. If your child is showing any symptoms of illness, we ask that you keep your child at home until they are symptom-free. Our cautious approach kept us safe last year and we encourage all to continue with this practice.

### New Teaching Staff at Forest Grove Elementary

1. I am pleased to announce that **Ms. Shelley Minato** has joined our staff as the full-time teacher in our grade 6-7 classroom until Christmas Break, to fill for Mr. Kass' paternity leave. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Minato take over in his absence. I have known Ms. Minato for many years as a colleague and friend, and am confident that our grade 6-7 class is in very capable hands for the next 4 months!
2. I am also happy to announce that **Mrs. Heather Greenhalgh** will be joining us to teach in each of our classrooms on Wednesdays this school year. Some of you will already know her as she has previously taught at Forest Grove Elementary. Her most recent teaching, however, has been at 108 Mile Elementary. I am looking forward to working with Mrs. Greenhalgh and I know that she is excited to work with our students and staff.

### CPAC News (Community and Parent Advisory Council)

1. All 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 parent volunteers is involved in many aspects of school life at Forest Grove Elementary including involvement in 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 Monday of each month at 5:30 PM** and this year we will be returning to in-person meetings **in our school gymnasium**.

2. **Another Successful Summer of Recycling!** I would like to thank and give a shout-out to our recyclers for another successful summer of bottle and can collection. Over \$6000 was raised in the two summer months through this recycling program! Your efforts are not only noticed but very much appreciated! You Rock!
3. **Volunteers are needed for our recycling program.** Our CPAC recycling program does not take place only in the summer months. Each month, throughout the school year, our parent volunteers collect, sort, and bag or box recyclables. The plastics, cans and juice boxes are picked up by Gold Trail recycling, but parent volunteers deliver the glass bottles to the recycling depot in 100 Mile House. These efforts typically raise approximately \$2000 every month and fund so many of our programs and projects at the school. Please consider helping out, wherever you are able, to assist this small group of volunteers.
4. **How can you help our recyclers if you can't help with any of the jobs above?**
  - a. When dropping off your recycling: if families drop their recycling in the blue wooden boxes at the front of the school it will save someone having to transport it from the dump to the school.
  - b. If bottles are separated from cans it will also save work for our small group of volunteers
  - c. It is wonderful if cans have been rinsed (the volunteers want to hug those of you who do this!)
5. **How can you contact the CPAC executive** if you are able to help out?  
You can e-mail [forestgrovecpac@gmail.com](mailto:forestgrovecpac@gmail.com) if you are can help with recycling cans and bottles or would like to get involved in another way.
6. **Our next CPAC meeting is Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** (5:30 PM in the school gymnasium). Please note that **this meeting will be the AGM** where new executive members can be voted in. I am sad to announce that our current **CPAC president, Kristy Abrams, will be stepping down** from her position, so we will need to add at least one new member to our CPAC executive team. If you have been considering joining this team, now is a great time.

## STUDENT PLANNERS

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



## BREAKFAST SNACKS & HOT LUNCHES

a) Our student **breakfast snack program** will begin on **Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. We will be operating the program in a similar to the way we conducted it last year to ensure that we adhere to all of the COVID protocols that we have in place at the school. Mrs. Michelle Haretzmuller will again be our school lead in this important program. Snacks are prepared in our kitchen then a tray is taken to each classroom for teachers to distribute to their students.

\* **Please note that** our breakfast snacks are not designed to replace a healthy home-cooked breakfast. However, our aim is to provide nutrition for students who either missed breakfast altogether that day, or who just need a boost before embarking on a new school day.

b) Our CPAC committee will be continuing their tradition of offering "**HOT LUNCHES**", once per month. These hot lunches will usually take place on the third Wednesday of each month. The first hot lunch of this school year will be **Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. As last year, the plan is to have Canadian 2-for-1 provide as assortment of hot lunches such as various types of pasta and pizza. We will do our best to make accommodations for those children who are vegetarian, cannot tolerate gluten or need to avoid other specific food items. Parents are encouraged to communicate special dietary concerns to the classroom teacher. CPAC is currently reviewing the hot lunch program as it has become extremely costly with the number of students we currently have enrolled at the school. The cost of providing children breakfast snacks and hot lunches combined is a challenge we will address in the upcoming weeks and months.

## 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 remind returning families and inform new families 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 please 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, we will call you to ensure that your child is accounted for. We encourage parents to write notes in student planners if there is a planned absence or a change in plans for busing or after school pick up. This will also prevent unnecessary phone calls on both ends.

**\* If you are calling to change a departure plan for your student late in the day,** please make sure that you speak directly with a staff member (**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.

### Terry Fox Run

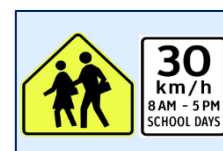


While the official Terry Fox Run is this weekend, our school will be holding our run on the afternoon of Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students will be collecting donations this week as we try to beat last year's fundraising total of \$650. Students will receive a paper running shoe, with their name on it, to post in the hallway for their contribution. Please send cash or cheque made out to "Forest Grove Elementary." The school sends one total cheque to the Terry Fox

Foundation on behalf of all monies collected by students and staff. **Should you require a charitable tax receipt,** please fill out the attached form and make your cheque payable to the Terry Fox foundation. Your email address is necessary for this receipt.

### Drivers: Please observe the reduced speed limit in front of the school

I would like to remind everyone of the reduced speed limit in front of the school. With so many small children on the roads we ask that the public take extra care in watching for our little ones as many of our students walk to and from school cross the street.




### 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. Rhonda Brown every

Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. New registrants are always welcome. Mrs. Brown will be officially opening her classroom to families on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13 <b>CPAC Meeting</b> 5:30 PM in the school gymnasium	14	15	16	17	18
19 <b>Terry Fox Official Run Today</b>	20 National Forest Week <b>Breakfast Program begins</b>	21 National Forest Week	22 National Forest Week <b>Hot Lunch</b> (cheese pizza)	23 National Forest Week <b>* Spirit Day *</b> <b>Terry Fox Run</b> At FG Elem	24 <b>Pro D Day</b> (students do not attend)	25
26	27 Truth & Reconciliation Week	28 Truth & Reconciliation Week <b>Strong Start officially opens</b>	29 Truth & Reconciliation Week	30 Orange Shirt Day  Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)	Oct 1 Truth & Reconciliation Week <b>Orange Shirt Day</b> at FG Elem	

### Noteworthy Events in October

Thanksgiving.....Monday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>  
 School Photos.....Tuesday Oct 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Hot Lunch.....Wednesday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Pro-D Day .....Friday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>