



Ocean Grove Elementary NEWSLETTER

2026 - 2027



Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful and memorable summer break. It has been such a joy reconnecting with returning students and families and welcoming many new faces to the Ocean Grove community. The excitement and energy around the school is contagious! As of today, we have finalized our Grade 1 to 5 placements, and students will begin attending their regular classes on Thursday morning. You will receive an email from your child's teacher after school today with a warm welcome and information about their class.

We understand that families often have questions or requests regarding class placements. While we carefully consider all requests, we are not always able to accommodate each one. Please know that a great deal of thoughtful planning, collaboration, and discussion has taken place among our staff to create balanced and supportive learning environments for all students. Class placements are made with careful consideration of each child's learning needs, friendships, well-being, and the provincial class composition guidelines.

As we begin this new school year together, we encourage you and your child to take the opportunity to get to know their teacher and classmates. Whether students are building new friendships or reconnecting with familiar peers, we are confident they will have many opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.



Ocean Grove is fortunate to have an exceptional team of educators and support staff who are deeply committed to the success and well-being of every child. Working together with our families, we are looking forward to a year filled with learning, connection, and memorable experiences.

Thank you once again for your patience, understanding, and support as we worked through the placement process. We are excited for the year ahead and grateful to be partnering with you in your child's educational journey.

With gratitude,
Hendrick Horsthuis, Principal

Truth & Reconciliation Day

Schools are **CLOSED on Wednesday, September 30th** for National Truth & Reconciliation Day. This statutory holiday is for all provincial public sector employees, including public school districts, to honour truth and reconciliation.

Terry Fox Run – Friday, September 18, 2026

All students will be participating in our annual Terry Fox Run on the afternoon of Friday, September 18, 2026. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear.

For our older students, this will be an off-school property run. Accordingly, teachers will be sending home permission forms for signature. Family members are welcome to participate in this event. As the younger students will be running on school property only, a permission form is not required.



If you can, please send in a "Toonie for Terry" to your child's teacher (any donation is appreciated).

Student School Supplies

As mentioned in our start-up newsletter, we have pre-ordered student school supplies on behalf of all students through Teacher's File. The cost this year remains at **\$45 per student** for all grades. We are requesting payment of student school supplies **by September 30th**. Payment may be made by:

- **Exact cash or cheque payable to Ocean Grove School.** Please ensure that payment is provided to the office in an envelope/baggie clearly labelled with the student's full name and grade. For families with multiple students, separate payment is not required as long as all information is provided.

OR

- **E-transfer** to oceangrove@sd72.bc.ca. To ensure that payments sent are identified and applied to the correct student(s) and account, in the NOTES section of the e-transfer the sender **MUST INCLUDE:**

*First and Last Name of Student
AND
"SCHOOL SUPPLIES" (Purpose of the Payment)*



School Telephones

Our office phone is for emergencies only and should not be used by students to phone after school and make play arrangements. Please ensure your child is certain about all after school arrangements before leaving each day so that needless, worrisome situations do not arise. Thank you.

No Microwave Use by Students

There is no microwave use allowed by or for students at school. We also can not add hot water to noodles/soup in a cup. This is primarily a safety issue and we also do not have the staff available to carry out this task.

If your child wishes to have a hot lunch please send it in a thermos. Don't forget cutlery!
Thank you for your cooperation.

Paperwork Send Home with Students

With school start-up each year comes a lot of paperwork to confirm and update our records. The following forms are being sent home with your child:

- **Student Verification Form**
- **Use of Computers Agreement**
- **Emergency Release Form**
- **Student FIPPA/Personal Consent**

In addition, we are providing you with a Volunteer Application Form and Criminal Record Check information in case you are interested in volunteering, and information on the district's Parent Portal mobile app.

We appreciate the time it takes to review and update these forms and thank you for returning them promptly to your child's teacher.

Additional Instructions for the Student Verification Forms:

- Carefully review all information on the form
- Print clearly to ensure correct input
- If there are no changes, write NO CHANGES in large letters across the first page
- Return to your child's teacher asap
- Make any changes in blue/red pen
- **Sign & date** at the bottom of page 2

As the Verification Form does not print out all contacts listed in a student's profile, attached is a complete list of contacts on file. Please note that any changes to custody/access must be supported by appropriate legal documentation.

Cell Phones

Students are not allowed to use cell phones on school property. Our preference is that they stay at home. If they have to come to school, they remain in the student's backpack with the ringer off.

In the event you need to reach out to your child for an important message please call the main office.

Attendance

Please make every effort to ensure that your child(ren) come to school on time. If your child arrives late they must come in through the main entrance to the office "drive thru" window to sign-in and get a **Late Slip**.

Also, if you know that you will be late or leaving early, please email the school AND your child's teacher the day before if at all possible. Teachers do not regularly look at their emails when teaching in the classroom.

Absences may also be emailed before 8:30 am each day to: oceangrove@sd72.bc.ca
Please state "Attendance + date" in the subject line. Kindly provide a reason for the absence (ie sick, appointment, vacation). An "unexcused absence" call-out is made daily to the cell number of the first contact on file.

Office hours are 7:45 am to 3:15 pm, but our answering machine will take calls 24 hours a day. Either way, by phone or email, **please ensure you state the student's first and last name**. Also, please speak slowly and clearly as phone messages are automatically transcribed.

If your child has been sick, it's VIHA's recommendation that children do not return to school until 24 hours has passed since their last symptom (ie throwing up, fever). Thank you for your consideration in keeping other students and staff healthy throughout the year. If you are concerned about missed school work, please email your child's teacher directly.

Bus Students

Immediately after the dismissal bell, bus students are to proceed to the front of the school and place their backpacks in the appropriate line-up (north or south bus).

Students often run and play after school while waiting for the bus and the backpack will indicate to the bus supervisor that there is someone intending to get on the bus after school. Bus students are not permitted to play behind the building as the incoming bus will not be viewable. Please review this procedure with your bus student.

It is recommended that students keep their bus passes in a secure, zippered pocket of their backpack.

Supervision

A reminder that student supervision before school does not begin until 8:00 am.

All students are expected to remain outside until the first bell of the day, then line up outside their classroom.

**Mark Your Calendar:
Student Photo Day is Wed.,
October 14th!**

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

We are very fortunate to have an active and generous PAC. Please join the PAC at their first meeting this year – date to be confirmed via email once confirmed. These meetings are open to all parents/guardians of Ocean Grove students to attend. Joining the PAC or being a part of the force of volunteer adults for school activities helps you connect to the school and helps us do even more amazing things at Ocean Grove!

Check out the Ocean Grove Elementary School PAC Facebook page – please “like” to receive updates. **PAC email: pacoceangrove@gmail.com** If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email or private message the PAC Facebook page.

Adult Volunteers at Ocean Grove

We appreciate the time and commitment of adult volunteers at our school. In the package of materials being sent home this week you will find a Volunteer Application Form. This form is required to be completed by all volunteers **each school year**.

In addition, ALL adult volunteers must have a Criminal Record Check on file. Every CRC completed since May 2024 is valid for 5 years. If you are not sure if you have a current CRC on file with the District (can be any school in SD72), please contact the school office. CRC instructions are also being sent home in the this week’s package of materials.

Parent Drivers are required to have a completed Driver’s Information Form, Driver’s Abstract, and copy of valid driver’s license, all within the past 12 months, on file in the school office.

Student MEDICAL ALERTS

If your child has any medical concerns, or is on daily medication, please ensure that all information is updated with the office as soon as possible. If you wish to keep medication at school for your child, or if your child is bringing medication back-and-forth in their backpack, a **Request for Administration of Medication** form **MUST** be completed.

This information must be updated on a yearly basis.

If anything changes during the school year please let us know.

Many children have allergies, however, only a few are life threatening. If you are the parent of a child with life-threatening allergies, we need your cooperation in providing the office with current medical information and assistance in developing a plan to protect your child’s health. If this applies to you, please contact Mrs. Worsley in the office.

