



## Ocean Grove Elementary

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Hello Ocean Grove Community!

Welcome to our new school year. This year, we are hosting an informal Open House on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. This will give your child/children a chance to be leaders by showing you around the school and making introductions.

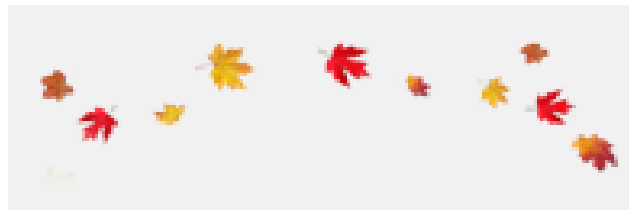
I also wanted to highlight our Terry Fox Run, our first school wide event. There is more information on this Friday's run in this newsletter. It will be our first chance to get out and work towards an important goal together and to honour not only the cause, but Terry's compassion, resiliency and commitment to achieving his goal. As he said when he had to stop in Thunder Bay, "I will figure out a way to finish the run". The community honours Terry by finishing his run.

We have new families and staff to our Ocean Grove community and I want to wish them a big welcome. They have already made a great addition to our school. And of course, a huge welcome our new Kindergarten students who have their first full day on Friday, September 15th.

I am looking forward to a new school year as it offers new possibilities and lets us enjoy what we are already strong at as a school community. This year, my key word is 'compassion'. There will be activities and some new ways of doing things so that students learn to make choices and decisions showing compassion.

Have a wonderful September and hope to see you at our Open House.

Louise Panziera, Principal





# Open House

**5:30 - 6:30 pm Thursday, Sept. 28th**

Ocean Grove families are invited to tour the school and  
informally meet their child's teacher for the year

Hope to see you there!

**Monday, October 2nd**

**NO SCHOOL**

***Truth & Reconciliation Day***

October 2nd is a statutory holiday for all provincial public sector employees, including public school districts, to honour truth and reconciliation.

The Campbell River School Districts and all its schools will be closed on October 2nd to observe this day in reflection.



**Thursday**

**September 28th**

This year Island Life Photography will be taking student photos.

Additional information will be sent home soon via email.

**SCHOOLS CLOSED**

**Monday, October 9th**





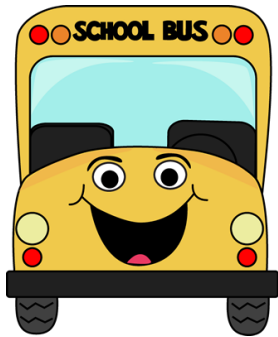
## Terry Fox Run

**Friday, Sept. 15th**

All students will be participating in a Terry Fox Run on September 15th.

For our older students, this will be an off-school property run. Accordingly, these teachers have sent home permission forms for signature. Family members are welcome to participate in this event.

If you can, please send in a “Toonie for Terry” to your child’s teacher (any donation is welcome).



Our SD72 transportation department is still processing late bus pass requests.

After submitting the application, parents should receive an email from Transportation informing them of the status of their application. If approved, students will be given their bus pass by the school office (once received from transportation). This process may take a few weeks.

Until they receive their pass, approved students will need to provide their first and last name to the bus driver.

Please refer to the district’s website for any updates or information regarding bus pass applications.

We do not provide “buddy passes” for students wishing to take the school bus on an occasional basis, such as an after-school playdate. All bus users (even if part time) must be an active bus pass student. A Request for Courtesy Ridership and Bussing Change Form” (found on the website) must be submitted to request authorization for any bus ridership to a **second** drop-off location for daycare purposes.

Contact the SD72 transportation department directly with any questions.



## Paperwork Sent 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 Acceptable Use Agreement;
- Emergency Release Form; and
- Student FIPPA / Personal Information Consent Form 2023-2024.

**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;
- ♦ Make any required changes in blue or red pen;
- ♦ Write clearly so that information may be translated and input correctly;
- ♦ If there are no changes, write "NO CHANGES" in large letters across the first page;
- ♦ **Sign and date** the bottom of page 2 of the Form; and
- ♦ Return the form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you!

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

## Class Community Walks

Parents/guardians are welcome to join on class walks within the community, as long as the following protocols are observed:

- ♦ Contact your child's teacher to confirm participation;
- ♦ Meet outside the classroom (no school entry); and
- ♦ Have an up-to-date Criminal Record Check on file with the school office (CRCs are good for 3 years - contact the office if you require a form or need to check the expiry date of a CRC previously provided).

*Signed permission forms are required for students to participate in community walks off the school property. Please check your child's backpack regularly.*

# Allergy Alert

A few of our friends have allergies. Our class will be free of these allergens to protect these children.

Once we have obtained updated information from our families, the classroom teachers will send home notifications if there is a student in their classroom with an allergy alert.

In the meantime, please note these restrictions for the school.



Nut Free Zone



Dog Free Zone



Seafood Free Zone

## **CELL PHONES:**

A reminder that 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. *Digital Safety* will be part of our curriculum this year as it is an extremely important skill these days.

I feel that it is my responsibility to let you know that I have noticed with young students that cell phones can be distracting to learning, have caused stress and anxiety, and have impacted what used to be healthy and positive friendships. Cell phones will not enhance the learning and social experiences of your children while at Ocean Grove Elementary, but they could get in the way of these experiences for themselves and their peers.

At schools, it is our responsibility to supervise the students' safety as best as we can, before school, during short and long recess, after school, in the classroom of course, and on fieldtrips. Yet we cannot supervise cell phone safety.

There are situations in which a phone is a type of assisted technology for learning and communication. We have an understanding with those students and their families on how to supervise and support that situation.

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

## MEDICAL

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 the school for your child, 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. Does your child have a life threatening allergy? If so (and you haven't already contacted us), please phone Mrs. Worsley in the office to discuss the situation.

## Attendance

Please make every effort to ensure that your child(ren) arrives 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. Absences may also be emailed before 8:30 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.

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 that you state the student's first and last name.** Also, speak slowly and clearly as phone messages are automatically transcribed.

## School Telephones

Our office phone is for emergencies only and should not be used by students to phone after school to 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.



## 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 that there is someone intending to get on the bus after school. Please review this procedure with your bus student.



## Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

At Ocean Grove we are very fortunate to have an active and generous PAC. Please join the PAC at their first meeting this year:

**6:30 pm on Monday, September 18th**

These meetings are open for 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 community and helps us do even more amazing things at Ocean Grove! Everyone is welcome.

Don't forget to join the PAC information page where you will find updates on school activities and more.

[PAC Facebook Page](#)

*Please write your  
child's name on his/her  
sweatshirt/jackets/hats  
to assist us in returning  
items to  
students  
through-  
out the*



Many thanks to **CR Dance Extreme** (and its families) for the donation of student school supplies collected at their June recital. These supplies will be put to good use by our students!

### **NO MICROWAVE USE BY STUDENTS:**

Please note that 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 to school with them in a thermos.

Please also remember to send utensils if required for your child's lunch.

Thank you for your cooperation.

