



Parkland Elementary School

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Principal: Anita Strang
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Hi Parkland Families,

There are always lots of exciting events going on at Parkland this month – please take the time to read through this information so that you are fully aware.

Communicating Student Learning

Our reporting practices Province-wide are mandated through a “report order” which is issued by the Minister of Education. At the end of the summer a revised report order came into effect. The order is very similar to the previous order, but provides us with more flexibility in how reporting looks this school year. This has been done intentionally to give educators an opportunity to experiment with different reporting methods. It is expected that there will be a new report order for next school year that will be influenced by feedback from educators and from parents in regards to what type of reporting practices are best for our learners.

Over the course of the year educators in our district will be looking at various options and considering the advantages and disadvantages of each. We will also be seeking feedback from families about what gave them the most useful information about their child's learning.

Things you can expect this year:

- **Three formal written reports** – some teachers may continue to use the same form that has been used in the past, others may try out different formats.
- **Two 'informal' reports** – as in the past few years, the way this is approached by each teacher can differ and can include any of the following as long as “student learning” (in academic or social and emotional learning areas) is part of the conversation:
 - A note sent home about the child's learning
 - A formal or informal meeting or conversation initiated by the teacher or the parent
 - A 'student-led conference' (we will have these again this year on February 9th)
 - A phone call
 - An email
- **A 'self-evaluation' element to communicating student learning** - more involvement of our learners in the evaluation and reporting process.

Again, families are an important part of this conversation. If you have questions, concerns, or praise in regards to the revised curriculum the ways we are communicating student learning, or other things that are happening at Parkland please email me directly: astrang@sd43.bc.ca

Early Dismissals for Parent Conferences

As you were notified in a previous email, **Wednesday October 19th and Thursday, October 20th** our students will be dismissed one hour early (at 1:58) to make time for teachers to meet with parents. If your child's teacher sets up a conference time with you this counts as one of the "informal reports" as mentioned in the section above. If your child's teacher does not set up a time to meet with you, please know that you are always welcome to contact the teacher to set up a time to meet. Teacher contact information can be found on our website: [staff>staff directory](#)

Parent Information regarding the Revised Curriculum

Throughout the year I will post information about the revised curriculum on the Principal's Blog or in the newsletter (much like I have above in regards to communicating student learning). Please let me know if you have any thoughts about areas you would like to see addressed or explained. I will work to include information in response to people's questions throughout the year. Please email your questions to me directly: astrang@sd43.bc.ca.

I would also like to set up a few opportunities to meet with parents who have questions. I am currently looking for a group of parents who would be interested in helping me organize these events. Please email me directly if you would like to be a part of this: astrang@sd43.bc.ca

Dress for the weather

Please remember that our students go outside in all sorts of weather. Very occasionally we will have a 'choice day' where the students can choose indoor or outdoor if the weather is especially wet and even more rarely we will have an indoor day if the weather is extreme. Please ensure your child is prepared to go outside – the most common complaint from the kids is that they are cold so please encourage them to bring extra clothes. For more info about why we go outside everyday please read my [Principal's Blog Post: West-Coast Recess – Please Dress for the Weather](#)



As in past years, our students will be encouraged to wear their costumes to school for the afternoon of October 31. At about 1:15 we will head to the gym for a Parade so we can see everyone's costumes.

Please take some time to think through your child's costume with them – while Halloween is seen as a time to embrace the dark-side, not all costume possibilities are

appropriate in an elementary school setting. It is important that we think through costume options with our kids – a few conversations that are worth having:

- 🍌 We are a school that has young students attending – if your child's costume is violent (includes weapons of any kind) or gory (blood or other gory details) it is not appropriate for school as there are younger students in attendance for whom this can be very frightening.
- 🍌 Costumes that glorify prostitution (ie: pimp-type costumes), are overly sexual in nature, or in other ways glorify illegal activities are not socially appropriate in any context and should definitely not be worn at school (please see the article published recently in the Tri-City News for more information: <http://www.tricitynews.com/news/avoid-costumes-that-glamourize-sex-trade-group-1.2364777>)
- 🍌 Costumes that encourage negative or inappropriate racial stereotypes are not appropriate (such as those portraying First Nations peoples in demeaning or stereotypical ways)

Thanks ahead for thinking this through with your child 😊.

Professional Development Day Friday, October 21 (no school for students)

District and Provincial Conferences

All teachers will be attending conferences in an area of interest for them on this day.

💖 💖 💖 Gratitude 💖 💖 💖

To everyone for their support for the Terry Fox Run!!

We raised \$843.70 for cancer research!! Our community far exceeded the goal set by Division 1 which was \$500.00. To celebrate this achievement, on Friday our PAC provided popcorn which our students enjoyed during an extra afternoon recess time 😊. Thanks again to Division 1 for organizing this, to our PAC for providing the popcorn, and to all of our families for their generous donations to a great cause!!

To our students who have been taking great care of our environment

We have placed a strong focus on taking care of our playground by highlighting the efforts of our kids in ensuring their garbage makes it to a garbage can. The tidiness of our playground is much improved. Please congratulate your child on their efforts!!

School District and Community Programs

Continuing Education – Please see the information also attached to this email for information about SD43 Learning opportunities in our neighborhood!

We frequently receive information about programs available in our community (after school programs, Professional Development Day and other holiday programs) and post them on our website in the tab under “[Parents – Communication](#)”. We also post parenting workshops that are available in the [PAC page](#) of our website. Please check there often as new opportunities are posted as they become available.

Please remember to **check our online calendar frequently** as so you don't miss any of the important dates.

Upcoming Events:

- Early dismissal days on Wednesday and Thursday (1:58) for Parent Conferences
- Professional Development Day on Friday Oct. 21 (No School for Students)
- Wednesday, October 26 – Photo Retakes
- Halloween Movie Night – October 28th (Thanks to our PAC!!)
- Monday, October 31 – Halloween festivities
- Tuesday, November 1st – Pajama Day ☺
- November 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:45
- November 11 – Stat Holiday (no school for students)
- November 14 – Curriculum Implementation Day (No School for Students)

As always, if you have any questions about the information in this newsletter or about other things that are happening at Parkland please don't hesitate to email me.

Thanks for Reading!!

Anita

Anita Strang

Principal

Parkland Elementary

www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/parkland