



September 2022

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**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE –**

Welcome back! We have had a great first week and we are looking forward to this new school year. Classes are established. Now our staff members are helping the students with learning routines and expectations. Our theme for the year is "**Good Medicine**", which means we want to focus on the things, stories, actions and ideas that bring joy and add value. This includes good character, and every month we will focus on one character trait and reinforce it throughout the month. This month's focus is "**Kindness**", and we will reinforce it through stories, messaging, visuals and direct instruction. As we practice kindness in our interactions with others, we create a safe and welcoming space that supports our learning.

On a personal note, I wanted to let you know that I will be retiring as of December 31, 2022, after 36 years in education. It has been my honor to work with such great staff and families, and to lead such a great school community here at Promontory. I look forward to these next few months as we continue to move our school forward, and I am grateful that I get to invest into the lives of our staff and students. The succession plan is being determined by the District, and you will hear more about plans for a new Principal soon.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Welcome to all of our new permanent and temporary staff members! They are a great group and they join a wonderful staff.

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Moore (Vice-Principal) | Mrs. Bohnert (Grade 5)      |
| Ms. McNeice (Grade 4)      | Mrs. Williams (Grade 4/5)   |
| Mrs. Peterson (Grade 3)    | Ms. Hussain (Grade 2)       |
| Ms. Pearson (Grade 1)      | Ms. Campbell (Kindergarten) |
| Mrs. Ross (Kindergarten)   | Mrs. Stradling (Counsellor) |
| Mrs. Steegstra (CYCW)      | Mrs. Holm (PE)              |

**PARKING LOT**

**Reminder: Please DO NOT PARK IN THE DROP OFF ZONES IN OUR PARKING LOT**, as that completely disrupts the flow of traffic.

We have over 400 families coming and going, and we just do not have capacity for that many vehicles. Please be patient; your courtesy and cooperation help make everyone's day better, and more importantly it increases student safety on the parking lot and sidewalks. **Do not leave your car unattended in the drop off/pick up lane between 8:10-8:30am or between 2:00-2:30pm, or you will be creating a significant traffic problem.**

**MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT & BBQ! - Thursday, Sept.22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:00-6:30pm**

Please plan to join us and connect with you child's teacher and our admin team. We will provide your and your child with a yummy BBQ hot dog and drink. We plan to serve food on the outdoor basketball court. Teachers will be available for drop-in classroom visits at the following times:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grades K-2 between 5:00-5:45pm | Grades 3-5 between 5:45-6:30pm |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Please note that the purpose of the evening is to make connections and see your child's teacher and classroom. This is not a time for a parent-teacher interview or to ask for a progress report.

**COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

Sometimes you may have a concern with something you may have observed, something your child comes home and tells you or perhaps something you hear other parents talking about. In our school district the first step is to speak to the person you have a concern with. If it is the classroom teacher, go to the teacher, let them know what your concern is and have a conversation. This is a respectful process, and 99% of the time the situation is cleared up at that level. If it is not resolved, then you are welcome to come and speak to Mr. Bloch or Mr. Moore. They are not always in the office, so often the best thing to do is to email [chuck\\_bloch@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:chuck_bloch@sd33.bc.ca) or [justin\\_moore@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:justin_moore@sd33.bc.ca).

If you have general questions or concerns about the school, please feel free to come and chat with one of us, or check out our web site <https://promontory.sd33.bc.ca/>.

### PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The upper playground is scheduled to be replaced this school year. The School District Maintenance Department will be doing the site preparation, and we will be working with Habitat Systems to create a fun and accessible play zone with a rubberized surface that is safe and inclusive. We are grateful to have already received the following funds: \$165,000 from the Ministry of Education, and \$20,000 from the Chilliwack Foundation. We will continue to pursue grants and to raise funds towards the target of \$225,000.

### TERRY FOX RUN - Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

This year, our Terry Fox Run will take place on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. (Note that this is a change from the original date) To contribute to this very important cause you can donate online by clicking here: [Promontory Elementary School](#). Students can also donate at school. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help direct students as they run through the neighborhood. Stay tuned for more information about our run.

### POPCORN

Popcorn Tuesdays are back! Our first popcorn day will be Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost for 10 weeks is \$7.50 (\$0.75/bag). You can bring cash/cheque directly to your classroom teacher, or payment can be made online [here](#).

### SCHOOL BUS EVACUATIONS

Our school bus drivers and teaching staff will be conducting school bus emergency evacuation drills in the next few weeks at our school. One of the methods of evacuation requires students to jump out the back door, with assistance, onto a rubber mat - a height of approximately one meter. Appropriate footwear for this day would help to ensure student safety. Some of the Grade 5 students will be selected to act as helpers. If you have any objections or questions concerning your child's participation in these drills please contact the school or call the Transportation Department at 604-792-1255.

### DAILY HEALTH CHECK – A commitment from you



Everyone is mindful of how quickly illness can spread through a class or the school. **If your child is ill, especially if there are COVID-like symptoms, keep them home.** Please **do not send a sick child to school** hoping that they may get better. Err on the side of caution, and **keep your child home to help prevent others from becoming sick. If your child**

**demonstrates symptoms of illness at school, we will contact you to pick them up.**

This excerpt is from the latest Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Schools:

*Health awareness reduces the likelihood of a person with a communicable disease coming to school when they are infectious. This includes a person checking regularly if they (or their child) are experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) to ensure they are not coming to school when they are sick (including if they are unable to participate fully in regular activities due to symptoms of illness).*

*Students, staff and other adults should follow public health guidance and/or the recommendation of their health care provider when they are sick. Information specific to COVID19 is available from [BCCDC](#).*

### \*\*\*ALLERGIES – PROMONTORY IS A "NUT AWARE" SCHOOL



Please ensure that you have made your child's classroom teacher and the office **aware of any serious allergies. Students that require Epi-pens must wear a fanny pack at all times** with their Epi-pen and other medication in case it is needed.

This will ensure that the Epi-pen is immediately available in the event it is needed.

**We have a number of students with nut allergies, and at least one class where students have been asked to be "nut free".** We ask that families help us keep these students safe. If you send peanut butter, peanuts or peanut products to

school, your child may be asked to eat outside of the classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN LEARN TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY; THE FIRST LINE OF SAFETY LIES WITH THE CHILD AND THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE.

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Classroom instructional time is very valuable! **Students must attend regularly and be on time if we want them to do their best learning.** We inform our students that school is their job, and like adults they are expected to be at work and be there on time.

**Please make every effort to reinforce regular and prompt arrival to school.** Patterns of regular nonattendance, or lateness, will impact learning, and parents will be contacted by phone or letter seeking support in promoting regular, prompt attendance. School starts at 8:20am. **If your child arrives after 8:25am they will need to check in at the office before proceeding to class.**

### **REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES**

For the safety and security of the children, **if your child is going to be absent or late, please use our “Safe Arrival” program, located on the front page of our school website, or [here](#).** Please indicate “late” in the note to office section. This program can be accessed at any time of day. We are trying to limit the call volume to the office and appreciate your help using this new service. You are still able to report a late or absence over the phone if you prefer. If you are calling outside our office hours (7:30 – 3:30), please leave a message on the answering machine **indicating the following information: Date, Late or Absent, Child’s Name, the length of absence, and the Teacher’s Name.**

You can email the classroom teacher or Mrs. Thiessen [diane\\_thiessen@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:diane_thiessen@sd33.bc.ca) . If we have not been previously informed of your child’s absence via a phone call or note, you will receive an email or phone call to confirm your child’s absence.

### **SIGNING YOUR CHILD OUT**

If you wish to take your child out of school during the school day (i.e., Doctor/Dentist or other appointments), **please call the office and sign your child out.** The office will then call your child’s class to have your child come down. It is very important for us to know when a child has left the building/grounds. **Upon returning the same day, please inform the office.**

### **MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS**



During class time we make it a practice to minimize classroom disruptions to teachers and students. Learning time is important. **If you have a message for your child during instructional time, please leave a message with our secretaries.**

**We will be sure they receive it.** Students are not permitted to use their own technology for texting, phoning, gaming or taking photos during the school day., and they cannot use our school phone for personal reasons (i.e., to arrange play dates). These types of arrangements are the students’ responsibility and are to be made at home prior to coming to school.

### **CELL PHONES**



There are some students who, for purposes of family safety, have cell phones. Students may call home when they arrive at school and when they are leaving. After that, cell phones are expected to be turned off and put away in a backpack.

Students are not to use the cell phone camera/video option unless there is an educational purpose, and it may only be used with consent, and under the direction of the classroom teacher. There are district policies that apply to the use of both school and personal devices when used for educational purposes at the school. These practices will be adhered to. It is expected that the use of Social Media at school adheres to these policies. Students will be expected to have completed the Acceptable Use Agreement prior to any use of technology for educational purposes at the school. These forms were sent home electronically last June and we will be sending out reminders again soon.

**PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL OR TEXT YOUR CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL/CLASS TIME. OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TURN OFF AND PUT AWAY PHONES UNLESS DIRECTED BY TEACHERS TO USE AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL TOOL AND UNDER THEIR DIRECT SUPERVISION.**

### **ELECTRONIC TOYS AND GADGETS**

We ask that students **leave ALL their electronic toys and gadgets at home. We expect that students do not use them at school** (electronic games, etc.). Not only are they a distraction, but things can get damaged and/or go missing and it is difficult for us to be responsible for following up on these incidents.

### **DOGS AT SCHOOL**

We love dogs and all other furry friends. Your pet is in the presence of children at school, and both dogs and children can be unpredictable, so in many cases it may be best choice to leave pets at home. Any dog at the school must be on a leash and controlled by an adult. Please be very cautious when you are near children, or if students ask to pet your dog. Remember that not everyone is a "dog person", and a barking dog can be very scary to some children. Please keep your pet a safe distance from other dogs. Once on the school grounds, it is the responsibility of the adult to maintain control of the pet. Thank you!

### LUNCHES

If you drop off lunch for your child, please make sure their name is on it. You can inform the office and we will arrange for your child to receive the lunch; we will not interrupt class time if we can avoid it.

### SMOKING ON PREMISES

It has been **district policy to ban smoking on school premises**. Provincial legislation (Bill 10: The Tobacco Sales Amendment Act, 2007, Section 2.2 of the act), **prohibits all persons from smoking or using tobacco, or holding lighted tobacco in, or on school property. This applies to activities on site in the evening as well (PAC Meetings, concerts, team activities, Family Fun night, etc.).** We ask that you refrain from smoking or vaping anything at any time. Thank you for your cooperation in respecting this legislation.

### BIKES, SCOOTERS & OTHER WAYS OF ROLLING TO SCHOOL

Bikes and scooters are meant as a way to get to and from school, and they are not to be used on the school grounds. When bringing bikes to school, students should walk their bikes and scooters on the side walk directly to the bike or scooter racks. It is strongly advised that bikes/scooters be locked to reduce the possibility of theft. Students are expected to wear bike helmets when riding bikes/scooters to school. Please leave skateboards/longboards at home.

### IN/OUT DAYS

**WE WILL GO OUTSIDE MOST DAYS. With the fall weather on its way, we can expect more frequent wet, windy weather.** Even on days with drizzle or light rain, children will be sent out for a period of time to get fresh air. The day is long and children do crave exercise and fresh air. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES AND ENSURE THEY ARE DRESSED PROPERLY FOR THE WEATHER.**

### VOLUNTEERS (CRIMINAL RECORD SEARCH)

Once school is well under way and we continue to have the go-ahead to do so, we hope to welcome limited numbers of volunteers to help in the school. It is very important that parents who wish to volunteer at our school in any capacity complete a **Criminal Record Search form** that you **complete and turn in to the RCMP office**. These forms are available at the school office. School Board Policy makes this process a necessity. The positive service parents provide is valued and we encourage you to complete this process in order to enable your involvement. Criminal Record Checks expire after 4 years, so please make sure yours is up to date if you'd like to volunteer!

### CHILD CUSTODY/COURT ORDERS

Please make the classroom teacher and the office staff aware of any concerns of this nature that impact upon your child's family situation. **The office must have current copies of court orders, custody access documents, and/or documents that limit or restrict access**, so the school staff can support enforcement.

### BC SCHOOL FRUIT & VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM +MILK

Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh BC fruits and vegetables to our students during class time. Our students will receive these healthy treats 13 times over the school year at no charge! Free milk or soy milk will also be delivered again. A percentage of +Milk delivery will be fortified soy beverage for people with lactose sensitivities. We need volunteers to sort and wash the produce before we deliver it to students. Please contact Ms. vanDalfsen if you are interested in volunteering with this. **To ensure every student's health and safety, please contact the office or email [justin\\_moore@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:justin_moore@sd33.bc.ca) ONLY if you do NOT wish your child to participate AND/OR if you need to alert us to certain FOOD ALLERGIES.**



**Dates to Remember**

Sept 16	- Family Access Time @ the Library 8:20am-8:50am
Sept 20	- Popcorn Day! - PAC Meeting @7:00pm (in the school library)
Sept 22	- Meet the Teacher BBQ 5-6:30pm
Sept 28	- Terry Fox Run
Sept 30	- Day of Commemoration <b>(No School)</b>
Oct 5	- Individual Student Photos
Oct 7	- Pro-D Day <b>(No School)</b>
Oct 10	- Thanksgiving <b>(No School)</b>
Oct. 21	- Pro-D Day <b>(No School)</b>

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**NEW YEAR, NEW MACBOOKS!**

I just wanted to update the community about the purchase of the final 5 new MacBook laptops that we fundraised for last year. I will be putting in the order this September. The goal was to stagger the two purchases of the computers so that all ten do not become outdated at once. More to follow later this year!

**NUMBER OF BOOK CHECK-OUTS PER STUDENT**

During the school year a student may have no more than 3 books on their account at any time. Students need to return their old books to take out any new library books.

If a student has not returned their overdue books, they will be asked to pick a “Read and Return Book” to ensure that they have a book to read in the classroom and at home. An intermediate student with multiple missing books may be permitted to sign out an additional book to read in the classroom but it must stay at school until all missing books at home are returned.

- Kindergarten 1 Book (After Winter Break, they will be able to take out 2 books).
- Grade 1 - 2 Books (a “just right reading level book and 1 “choice book”).
- Grade 2 – 2 Books (a “just right reading level book and 1 “choice books”).
- Grade 3 – 3 Books (a “just right” reading level book and up to 2 “choice books”).
- Grade 4 – 3 Books (a “just right reading level book and up to 2 “choice books”).
- Grade 5 – 3 Books (a “just right reading level book and up to 2 “choice books”).
- Family Accounts – 15 Books per visit.

**LIBRARY FINES**

If a book has not been returned within 2 weeks of its due date, a notice may be sent home with the student for their parents. This is intended to help parents find the book. If a book is returned damaged a replacement bill may be sent home. Parents are responsible for replacing any damaged library books before their child can continue using the library. If a student has a book that is considered “lost” they could be asked to keep their library books in the classroom until the missing books are found at home and returned.

**KIWANIS SUPER READER PROGRAM**

Make reading part of your daily routine and earn rewards! The very successful “Super Reader” program will be back again this year. Students will receive an official green Super Reader Booklet the second week of school, after their first visit to the library. Every night a child reads for 15 minutes they receive a check mark in their booklet. Every 50 nights of reading return the booklet back to your classroom teacher for a reading prize. Parents are allowed to back date the booklet as of September 6. This program is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, and Promontory PAC. Happy reading!

**SUPER READER PRIZES:**

50 Nights

- Sticker and a Bookmark (Two for one!)

100 Nights– Kiwanis Club Prize & McDonald’s coupon

- K – t shirt & goodie bag
- 1 – picture book & goodie bag
- 2 – chapter book & goodie bag
- 3 – NEW Water bottle & McD coupon
- 4 – NEW Water bottle & McD coupon. (Grade 3 and 4 will receive different style water bottles this year)
- 5 – Stylus pen & McD coupon + Chapter Book

150 Nights

- Toy or Stationary Item – POKEMON mini figures, Fidget Toys, Poppets and other toys available but only while the supplies last.

200 Nights

- Book Prize – **NEW** for this year!

250 Nights

- \$7 Cole’s Books gift certificate from the Kiwanis Club. Please keep in mind this needs to be used by the following September

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

This is a volunteer and student run library! Our success is dependent on volunteers. We always need help in the library! Please contact Mr. Mueller if you are able to volunteer this year. There is a wide range of jobs including shelving books, and various book processing duties. No experience necessary. The faster we can get books out to the students the better. Email:

[matthew\\_mueller@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:matthew_mueller@sd33.bc.ca)

\*Please note that all volunteers need a criminal record check. Please see Mr. Mueller or the office for more details.

Putting books away at the end of the day

Beat after school traffic and get a parking spot! Every day at 1:50 (until the dismissal bell), the library will be open for volunteers. If you have time to help put away some books before you pick up your kids, please come see me or send me an email. A up to date criminal record check is required to volunteer.

Remote Book Wrappers needed!

*Do you like to wrap presents? If so, have you considered volunteering to help wrap library books with protective plastic? After some basic training this is a job that can be done remotely at home. All the supplies are provided, and you even get to preview and read new library books before they hit the shelf.*

**Library Website:**

Check out the library website for virtual reading resources and access to Destiny Quest.



What is Destiny Quest? It is a program design for students to search the library learning commons catalog at home, put HOLDS on books, write reviews and even rate books. This account will also give them access to some Ebooks that are available exclusively through the platform. For access to Destiny Quest please go to the library website and look for the logo on the left of the page: <https://promontory.sd33.bc.ca/promontory-elementarys-library>

Students in grade 4 or 5 will be able to sign into Destiny Quest with their email account information.

**Destiny Quest Login Information:**

USERNAME is the Student #

PASSWORD is Year/Month/Day of the student's birth date.

**Family Accounts**

Are you interested in borrowing books from our school library? With a family account, families can take out up to 10 books at a time and keep them for one week. The library is open after school for 15 minutes every Monday through Thursday. Families are welcome to use this time to check out books. Accounts will be created at the time of your first visit. \*\*Please keep in mind that parents or guardians only have access to family accounts. Students cannot sign out additional books on that account. \*\*

**Family Library Access and Monthly Story Times**

Starting Friday Sept 16, the library learning commons will be open to all families on Friday mornings from 8:20-8:50am. This is a great time to come in and sign out books to read at home.

Once a month I will be doing a special story time read aloud for parents and children 4 or younger. This is a great way to introduce young children to the school, library, and staff. **Next Story Time Date: Friday Sept 23 at 8:35.** If you would like to sign out books on this date, please come in at 8:20. I would like to sign out books before the story to book shop and set up your family account.

**MAKERSPACE NEWS**

**Supplies Needed:**

We are always looking for supplies to use in the Makerspace. Please check out the list below to see if you can help. If you have something unique, that is not on the list, please contact Mrs. Buck or Mr. Mueller. \*\*Please note that we do not accept Styrofoam\*\*

- 1.) Beads
- 2.) Magnets
- 3.) PVC Pipe pieces/Plumbing pipe scraps
- 4.) Pipe Cleaners
- 5.) Elastics
- 6.) Toothpicks
- 7.) Gently used puppets
- 8.) Old Lego, Duplo, K'nex, or Lincoln Logs
- 9.) Nails/Screws

**PAC NEWS**

The promontory PAC welcomes all new and returning families to Promontory Heights Elementary School. We trust that everyone had a healthy, safe, and fun summer. We are looking forward to another great year, full of learning, developing, and adapting to new situations. We are a supportive and trustworthy group of parents/guardians, whose top priority is to support students and staff.

What is the PAC? What does the PAC do?

All parents/guardians of students at Promontory Elementary are part of the PAC! The PAC executive team works together with the school's administrators to offer fun and exciting events and activities that enhance the school experience for all students.

Through fundraising and government gaming grants, PAC can provide or purchase classroom learning materials, technological devices, library materials, field trip subsidy, sports equipment, and team/club materials.

This year the PAC's main goal is to raise money for the new "Upper playground" (located by the basketball courts). This means that we will have a few new fundraisers and incentives to help us reach our goal. Please be watching the Facebook page and newsletters

for upcoming information. As we start a new year the PAC is always looking for active and willing parent participation. We cannot do what we do without the help and support of parent involvement. There are many opportunities to help:

- ~Fruit and Veggie Program
- ~Popcorn Tuesday
- ~Hot lunch
- ~Lost and Found Committee
- ~Grade 5 yearbook team
- ~Playground Committee
- ~PAC meetings
- ~Teacher Appreciation
- ~and/or any upcoming fundraisers & committees

If this is something that you are interested in, please contact [promontory-pac@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:promontory-pac@sd33.bc.ca)  
Please remember to get your criminal record check done ASAP 😊

To learn more about PAC our next meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### HOT LUNCH

Our first hot lunch date is Thursday, October 6, 2022.

**Note to returning parents upon first login.** Any returning parents who login will see this message: “Welcome to the 2020-21 school year, please update your child’s grade/teacher/div BEFORE ordering”. **You must complete this step before you will be able to order.**

#### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

- 1) Go to: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/PromontoryHeights/>
- 2) Click the “**Register Here**” button (as shown below). The system will guide you through from there.
- 3) After adding your children, click the green “Order Lunch!” button to order
- 4) Next time, just click the “**Login Here**” button to access your account.



#### **ORDERING DETAILS**

- Online ordering will be open at least by the 1st of each month until 1 week before date of hot lunch
- Orders are paid for using credit card online through munch a lunch secure system. Or brought to school by ordering date deadline. If payment is not received by deadline you will be notified of your order cancellation.

**Please only order for the dates you intend to pay for. Munch A Lunch does not accept partial payments. Thank you!**

Please note if your child is ill on a lunch date, you are welcome to come and pick up their lunch at 12 pm from your child’s classroom; otherwise please consider it a donation for a child who does not have a lunch. Consistent with previous years, there are **NO REFUNDS** as this is a PAC fundraiser.

We appreciate your support for our hot lunch program as the funds go towards needs of the school and general fundraising within the school. We are love having parent volunteers, but due to COVID restrictions this will be paused for now.

**If you have any questions, please email the following:**

Hot Lunch Coordinators -Karmen - [promontoryhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:promontoryhotlunch@gmail.com)

Fundraising Coordinator - Leah Shields - [lshields@gmail.com](mailto:lshields@gmail.com)