



September 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE –

welcome back

After an incredible summer of sun, sun and more sun, along with record breaking temperature, we are excited to welcome everyone to another wonderful year of learning together. Our aim is to provide all students with the best education that is both engaging and enriching. The goal is to have students be excited about learning, have them take ownership for their learning as well as seize the opportunities and experiences that await them at Promontory Elementary.

I'd like to welcome all our new and familiar families to our school, particularly our newest students and families of our youngest learners – our Kindergarten students! As well, I'd like to thank parents and students for the warmth, support and enthusiasm that the staff and I have felt this week.

We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,
Kim Kass

STAFF UPDATES

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

Mrs. Pierson (Grade 1)	Mrs. Litshauer (Music)
Ms. Pearson (Grade 4)	Mrs. Bohnert (ADST(Makerspace))
Mrs. Nelson (Grade 2)	Ms. Larsen (Kindergarten)
Ms. Rachael Fisher (Grade 5)	Mrs. Ross (Kindergarten)

CLASSES FOR THE YEAR

Classes have now been set for Grades 1-5 as of today. Our school has over 600 students and we are full at every grade level. Students have had time this week to be taught by all the teachers at their grade level. Your child will be share with you who their teacher will be for this school year. ☺

The class placement process that involves many conversations and careful planning among school staff. Staff put thoughtful consideration of each child's social, emotional and academics needs to do to create balance and effective learning environments. The placement of students into classes is a team approach which includes input by the child's current teacher, non-enrolling teachers, school-based team, support staff, the vice principal and principal. This team considers each placement carefully while being mindful that there are wide range of needs and students learn in a variety of ways. Some factors are out of our control such as allocation of number of classes we will have at each grade level, straight or combined classes, or the total number of divisions the school will have. Changes in staff and in enrolment numbers are also a component and can result in teachers teaching a different grade than they did the previous year.

There are many factors that are taken into account in the process:

- Academic achievement and needs
- Learning and Teaching styles

- Instructional groupings
- Social Compatibility of groups and students
- Degree of independence in student work habits
- Integration of children with exceptionalities
- Medical information
- Contractual language

Staff also place students with a compatible group that includes friendship and social dynamics, that will allow for optimal learning environment for each student. Please note that being with the same friend or group of friends, year after year, cannot be the main priority.

With classes now set for the school year, we wish all students a terrific year of learning!

School Supplies

Grades Groups have coordinated their Student Supplies in bulk order to keep costs to a minimum. It also ensures that students have exactly what is needed and allows for consistency. Staff worked hard to ensure little to no significant increase despite the rising cost of supplies. The following is the amount per grade group:

- Kindergarten - \$50 (\$40.00 supplies + \$10.00 for Emergency Preparedness Fund)
- Grade 1 - \$40
- Grade 2 - \$45
- Grade 3 - \$40
- Grade 4 - \$40
- Grade 5 - \$40



Students will also need a good quality pair of indoor shoes.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT & BBQ! - Thursday, Sept.21st @ 5:00-6:30pm



Please plan to join us and connect with your child's teacher and our admin team. We will provide you 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.

TERRY FOX RUN - Wednesday, September 14th(?)

This year, our Terry Fox Run will take place on Thursday, September 14th. Stay tuned for more information about our run and ways to donate.

POPCORN

Popcorn Tuesdays are back! Our first popcorn day will be Tuesday, September 19th. 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](#).

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.**

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.

***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.

Many children come to school with life threatening allergies. This can vary from food allergies to certain foods like nuts, fish, dairy etc. or it can be allergies associated with bee stings.

Children with severe allergies that require immediate medical attention should they come into contact with an allergen need to inform the office so the proper documentation and support protocols can be put in place.

Schools often have children with allergies to specific types of nuts such as peanuts and other nut products. For the safety of children, we are asking your cooperation in restricting the use of nut products in lunches or other food items brought to school.

We understand that it can be difficult to know what is in specific food products. For classrooms that have students with severe type of allergies we ask that parents refrain from sending items with these specific food products. It is understood that assuring that a school is absolutely "allergen free" may be difficult and instead ask that community be "nut aware" and identified classrooms be "allergen aware". Thank you for your understanding with this serious health concerns for students and families.

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 *NEW PROCEDURE*

For the safety and security of the children, **if your child is going to be absent or late, please use our NEW "Safe Arrival" program called School Messenger, located on the front page of our school website, or [here](#)**. This is a very user-friendly App that can be downloaded to both android and iPhone. This program can be accessed at any time of day. You are still able to report a late or absence over the phone if you prefer. Phone calls can now be directed to 1-833-698-6567 and you can follow the prompts.

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 sidewalk 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 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 14	- Terry Fox Run
Sept 18	- First Full Day for Kindergarten Students
Sept 21	- Meet the Teacher BBQ 5-6:30pm
Oct 2	- Truth & Reconciliation Day (No School)
Oct 6	- Pro-D Day (No School)
Oct 9	- Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct 19	- Early Dismissal @ 11:25 (buses will be running)
Oct. 20	- Pro-D Day (No School)
Oct 25	- School Picture Day
Nov 1	- Photo Retake Day

LIBRARY NEWS

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 in order 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 – 10 Books per visit.

DAMAGED OR LOST BOOKS

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 intended to help parents find the book, it is not a bill. 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. Last year we had many books that were damaged by food, pets, water, and writing. Please be extra vigilant.

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 11, 2023. This program is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, and Promontory PAC. Happy reading!

SUPER READER PRIZES:

50 Nights

- Primary- two stickers or a sticker and a temporary tattoo.
- Intermediate- 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 (**NEW** for 2021/2022!)

150 Nights

- Toy or Stationary Item – POKEMON Key Chains, Fidget Toys, Poppets, Snap Bracelets and other toys available but only while the supplies last.

200 Nights

- Book Prize – **NEW** for this year! (Scholastic Book Fair Credit from last year’s will be used to purchase new prizes for students).

250 Nights

\$8 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

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

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.

Putting books away at the end of the day

Beat after school traffic and get a parking spot! Every day at 2:00 (until the dismissal bell 2:21pm), 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.

Book Cleaners needed!

Looking for a low maintenance way to help out at the school? I have some opportunities to help clean some book covers and book bins around the library.

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 most Friday's during the school year. During our Family Library Learning Commons Access 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 15, 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 22 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. Bohnert or Mr. Mueller. **Please note that we do not accept Styrofoam **

- 1.) Beads
- 2.) Magnets
- 3.) Popsicle sticks
- 4.) Pipe Cleaners
- 5.) Elastics
- 6.) Toothpicks
- 7.) Gently used puppets
- 8.) Q-tips
- 9.) Old Lego, Duplo, K'nex, or Lincoln Logs
- 10.) 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

Please remember to get your criminal record check done ASAP 😊

FUNDRAISERS

Coupon Books!

Order forms have now been sent home with students. Orders are due back to the school by Tuesday, September 26th. Books will be distributed in early October.

Extra forms can be picked up at the school office if need.

HOT LUNCH

Stay Tuned for updated hot lunch dates!

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 Sawracki & Lisa Brine - promontoryhotlunch@gmail.com

Fundraising Coordinator – Bronwyn Wilson