

Silverdale Elementary Newsletter



September 2017

Principal: Rob Clark Tel: 604-826-2526

Dear Silverdale Elementary Families,

Welcome back everyone to what will be another great year at Silverdale Elementary and a very special welcome to our new families who are joining us this year. The first day of school will be fun, exciting, and maybe a little stressful. To make things run as smoothly as possible we will have interim class lists posted at the front entrance (the list are interim in case there is an unexpected influx of students that requires a rebalancing of classes). Students will report to their class for attendance, to organize whatever materials they have brought, and begin the process of adjusting to a new classroom environment. At 10:00 am, we will be having an assembly to welcome students back to school, introduce some of the new staff members, go over playground rules, and introduce students to the W.I.T.S. program. The W.I.T.S. program is an excellent way to build and foster resiliency in our students that they can use when they find themselves in peer-to-peer conflict while at school or at home with their siblings. Further information about the W.I.T.S. program can be found on the bottom of this page. After the assembly students will return to their classes and prepare for dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 11:00 am!

Silverdale Elementary is a fantastic place to work and learn. I look forward to connecting and reconnecting with as many of you as I can over the next while. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself when you see me out supervising in the morning or after school; or as always, you are welcome to stop by the office if you ever have any concerns or questions.

Rob Clark
Principal

W.I.T.S. Program

Standing for **W**alk Away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it out and **S**eek Help, W.I.T.S., originally developed by a Principal in Victoria with support from the University of Victoria and the Rock Solid Foundation, has evolved into a nationwide program. While we expect all of our students will treat one another in a respectful manner, we are all well aware that from time-to-time most students will find themselves in conflict and giving them a simple strategy to deal with that conflict will build the foundation for immediate use and lay the groundwork for more sophisticated strategies that they can adopt as they get older. For further information on the W.I.T.S. program log on to the W.I.T.S. website at www.witsprogram.ca

Welcome Back BBQ

On September 19th from 4:30 to 6:00, Silverdale Elementary school and the PAC are co-hosting a welcome back BBQ. The BBQ is a terrific opportunity to connect with the school community as we all work to support each child's educational journey.

Volunteers and Visitors

Parent volunteers are invaluable and make a significant contribution to student learning. All parent volunteers need to complete an application form and a criminal record check through the Mission RCMP. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. All parent volunteers need to check in at the office when they arrive.

Attendance

School is a preparation for adult life and job experiences. Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is vital for student success. Students who arrive late disrupt the classroom and the student misses important instructional time and information. If circumstances prevent your child from arriving to school on time, please have them report to the office so that we can adjust their attendance record.

Student Verification Forms



Student verification forms will be sent home with your child in the first week of school. It has your child's demographic and contact information on it. Please check this information carefully and be sure it is correct and up to date. Make any changes right on the sheet and send it back to us so we can update our records. We need to have this information accurate in case there are any emergencies that happen while your child is at school.

Organization and communication begins with student planners

Studies show that people who plan are more likely to reach their goals. To help students plan, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 are required to purchase a planner from the school in September at a cost of \$8.00. Planners will be used for daily communication between teachers and families, a place to record homework as well as reminders. Please check your child's planner each night.

Office Telephone

Just a reminder, that our office phone may be used by students for emergency situations only. Arrangements for after-school care or visiting friends needs to be made prior to school. This will help us keep our phone available for real emergency situation or school business. Thanks for your cooperation in this.

Professional Development Day - Friday, September 22nd

Research around brain development and how children learn best is continually evolving. Teachers are always trying to seek out different techniques and strategies to increase student learning. To this end, throughout the year, our teachers and support staff participate in a variety of professional development learning opportunities. On September 22nd, all of our staff (teaching and support) will come together to continue the conversation around the Jump Math Program and its application to the new curriculum.

Terry Fox Run



Silverdale Elementary students will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 28th. One of our goals with respect to the Terry Fox Run is to build awareness in our children as to the history and national pride associated with Terry Fox and this national event. Of course, this event is also a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. To date, students across Canada have raised millions of dollars for cancer research. If you wish to donate money to this cause, please send your donation to the school with your child. We will forward all donations to the Terry Fox Foundation and report the total amount to you in a future newsletter.

Limiting Screen Time

Too much screen time can interfere with activities such as being physically active, reading, doing homework, playing with friends, and spending time with family. Try the following tips to reduce screen time:

- Set limits on screen time.
- Your children should spend no more than two hours a day watching TV, surfing the internet and/or playing video games.



Parent Advisory Counsel

*****Next PAC Meeting is September 19th 2:30 *****

The Silverdale Parental Advisory Council (PAC) meets once a month. All parents of Silverdale students are encouraged to join us and have a say in activities happening in the school.

If you haven't already, please consider joining the PAC's Facebook group: Silverdale Elementary Parents. It's another great resource for information.

Community Events Board

Many visitors stop by to post information about community events on our Informational Bulletin Board outside the Strong Start Room. Be sure to stop by and take a look!

Club Kids

Club KIDS is an afterschool program offered at Silverdale. The program runs from 2:15-6:00 pm on school days. Please refer to our school website or contact Club KIDS Coordinator, Nicole Spooner at 604-820-5360/nspooner@mission.ca for more details about the Club KIDS program.

