

June 2019

Hello Dog Owner!

We know school playfields are a perfect, nearby place for neighbourhood dog owners to provide their cherished pet some much-needed exercise and fresh air.

And when the school is closed and nobody is using the field, it seems a harmless and time-saving way to get the dog out for a run.

However, increasingly our students are coming into the school office during recess or lunch breaks, or in the midst of afterschool sports games to clean up after stepping or falling in dog feces.

Beyond the potential health risks, as you might imagine, young children particularly, get very upset and emotional when this occurs. Students also seldom have clean clothes they can change into.

While we know there are many more responsible dog owners than there are those that don't clean-up after their dogs, unfortunately, with the increasing frequency of dog feces-related issues facing our students, the school district is forced to step up enforcement of its bylaws prohibiting dogs from school property at all times.

In addition, many school neighbours—who likely have children attending the school—have been sending photos of violators to the school district asking that we enforce our bylaws, which allow for fines of up to \$500.

While you may be a considerate and conscientious dog owner, we have no practical way of singling out those who leave their dog droppings behind.

So at least initially, we are promoting awareness of the real hazards to our students and ask for the cooperation of all dog owners to avoid taking their pets onto school property. However, if this approach isn't successful in reducing messy, embarrassing and potentially hazardous incidents for our students, the district will enforce its bylaws.

Thanks for your consideration and cooperation!

The Surrey School District

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING