



**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4**

**Grade 1-7 Students:** Will attend a FULL DAY of classes. Students will return to the same grade group classroom each morning until permanent classes are made. They will be dismissed from that same classroom.

**Kindergarten Students:** Will follow the Gradual Entry Schedule that was mailed out.

September 3, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to another wonderful school year! Welcome all returning families, and on behalf of our school community, I extend a special welcome to the children and families who are new to our school and to our Kindergarten students who are entering school for the first time.

Please help extend a welcome back to our staff. We have some new staff this year in addition to our returning staff. We are all looking forward to working together to make the year ahead one that is challenging and rewarding for all of our students.

Students in Grades 1 – 7 attended classes in their grade groups today. For the remainder of the week students will start and end the day in their grade group classes. When the exact student numbers are finalized, we will assign children to their respective homeroom teachers. Although we would like all students to be in their permanent classes as soon as possible, we need to wait until numbers and staffing are firm before making final placements. Until that time, Kindergarten students will be working in groups (outlined in your Kindergarten letter) and Grade 1-7 students will work in Grade groups with various teachers. This allows the students to get to know all of the teachers at their grade level, and the teachers to learn more about the students, which will help us with class placement decisions.

Please be assured that when we form classes we will do so in a very thoughtful manner. We try our best to balance boys and girls, student ability levels, as well as peer relationships. *Be advised, however, that we cannot reasonably place every child in a class with his/her best friend.* Please help us remind the children that school is about academic learning, as well as developing the skills needed to work successfully with all kinds of people.

## **NEW BELL SCHEDULE**

Entry Bell:	8:28 a.m.
Classes Start:	8:33 a.m.
Recess:	10:05 – 10:20 a.m.
Lunch:	11:40 (15 min. eating time, followed by outside play time)
Classes Resume:	12:25 p.m.
Classes Dismissed:	2:25 p.m.

## **WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE AFTER THE STARTING BELL**

Pupils are asked to be at the school by 8:28 a.m. At this time a bell will ring to indicate to the students that they should enter their classroom. The morning session will commence at 8:33 a.m. Students arriving after 8:33 a.m. must report to the office to obtain a “Welcome Slip” before they will be admitted to their class. Please make a habit of getting your children to school on time as learning starts right away in classrooms and arriving late can often make it more challenging for students to transition into the day. School is over at 2:25 p.m. and students are dismissed from their outside door. Please ensure to pick them up promptly at the end of the day.

*We must speak to a parent/guardian whenever a child is absent to ensure he/she is safe. We have voicemail at the school and the messages are checked every morning. If you know your child will be absent, you can call throughout the night and leave a voicemail message.*

## **NEW STAFF**

We would like to welcome the following staff to Coast Meridian:

Ms. Parampreet Jhajj (Classroom Teacher)  
Ms. Rowena Sahota (Classroom Teacher)  
Ms. Heather Hurt (Intensive French Teacher)  
Ms. Chelsea Nichol (LST Teacher)  
Mr. Keith Honeywell (Band Teacher)  
Ms. Taranjeet Lalli (Integration Support)  
Ms. Gurdeep Ghuman (Child Care Worker)  
Ms. Daljit Ghag (EA)  
Ms. Mary Lee (EA)  
Ms. Roseline Agodzo (EA)  
Ms. Marilyn Del Val (EA)  
Ms. Eileen Cabrera (EA)

## **FAREWELL**

We would like to wish a fond farewell to Mrs. Sara Neufeld (Kindergarten Teacher), who has accepted a position in another School District. Mrs. Neufeld has been at Coast Meridian since it opened and will be greatly missed by the staff and the community.

## **STUDENT PLANNERS**

Coast Meridian school planners will be used in Grades 1 to 7. In the past, students, parents, and teachers have found them to be a valuable communication tool. Please take time to review the planner as it contains information about the school, including the Code of Conduct, and the school calendar. Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner each night for information, homework, and comments from the teacher. The cost of the planner is \$5.00 per student, please use the School Cash Online System to pay for this planner at your earliest convenience. Registration for School Cash Online can be found on our school website: [www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian)

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

For the first week of school students should bring a pencil box with writing and colouring items only. Please leave all other supplies at home until students are in permanent classes.

For those families who ordered, the Creative Pack supplies have arrived and will be distributed this week. Kindergarten parents will receive information about supplies from the teachers. Should you require a supply list for your grade 1-7 child, please drop by the office or look on the school website. Your child's teacher will let you know if any extra supplies are required now or during the year.

## **LUNCH BREAKS**

Most students stay on the school grounds during lunch. Students are allowed to go home for lunch but only if they have written parental permission. If your child is planning to go home for lunch for one day only, please send along a note to his/her teacher to confirm this. If your child will be going home for lunch daily, there is a permission form that needs to be completed at the office, and the child would still be required to sign in and out from the office each day. If you are bringing lunch for your child, there is a table outside the office, along with a note paper and pens to add your child's name. We recommend you label your child's lunch bag.

## **PARKING AND DROP OFF**

If possible, we encourage all students to walk to school. The lower parking lot in front of the school is for staff parking, busses and truck deliveries only. **Do not use the lower lot as a drive through area for dropping students off.** The street parking directly in front of the school is a drop off/pick up zone and has a 15-minute maximum parking. The upper parking lot is for parent parking, and student drop off. Students are encouraged to use the upper parking lot entrance to access the school. PLEASE DO NOT STOP TO DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD OR ACROSS ANY OF THE DRIVEWAYS.

Your children will enter and exit their classroom from the classroom outside entrance/exit doors. If you are planning to enter the school for any reason, please register at the office and obtain a visitor's badge before going to your location in the school.

During the recess break, teachers supervise our school grounds. During the lunch break paid Supervisory Aides supervise students. Our playground supervisors have walkie-talkies that can be used in emergency situations.

Overall, we would like to thank parents for their co-operation with adhering to these security expectations and procedures.

## ON-LINE SCHOOL COMMUNICATION TOOLS

**Website:** Please visit our school website often as we add upcoming announcements and newsletters on a regular basis. Our school newsletters will be sent home via e-mail only (no paper copies after this one). To sign up and receive the school newsletters, please follow these directions:

1. Visit [www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian)
2. Find 'E-Mail List' at the bottom of the page.
3. Enter your e-mail address, check the "Terms and Conditions" box and hit 'submit'.
4. Check your e-mail (inbox or junk mail) to verify your sign up.
5. Please click on the 'click here' link, which will take you to the Surrey Schools Website confirming your subscription.
6. You will now receive an email whenever a newsletter is uploaded.

**School Cash OnLine:** We ask that you pay for your child's school fees and field trips using our School Cash OnLine system. Once registered you will receive automatic notifications about upcoming school fees and activities. You may choose to pay for these fees using your credit card, through an electronic transfer or by loading *myWallet* with money to use throughout the school year. The link to sign up can be found under the *Parent Tab* on our website: [www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian)

**School Link App:** The Surrey School District has an app which alerts you whenever the school website is updated.

1. Go to the App Store and search for Schoollink. Download the Free App.
2. Click 'Add School' and find Coast Meridian Elementary and click 'Add this School'. Multiple schools can be added should you have students in high school or other Surrey schools.
3. Check off the alerts you want to receive.
4. You will now receive notification whenever the website is updated.

## UPCOMING DATES:

Sept. 04	Full day of classes for Grade 1-7, these students attend from 8:28 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.
Sept. 16	Individual Photo Day
Sept. 24-26	Bookfair in the Library
Sept. 26	Meet the Teacher Night (6:00 – 7:00 pm)
Sept. 27	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 30	<b>Pro D. Day: students not in session</b>

The full school year calendar is attached to this newsletter.

## ALLERGY AWARENESS

Coast Meridian has many students with life threatening allergies to nuts. We try to make our school safe for these students by making sure they are not accidentally exposed to any products containing nuts. We ask for your cooperation in reducing the risk for these students and encourage parents not to send foods made with or containing peanuts and nuts to school. Please remind your children to eat only the food you send from home, rather than trading or sharing lunch items. Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after they eat. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation in this very serious matter. We would also like to remind you that Coast Meridian is a scent-free environment.

## THE OFFICE

Mrs. Neidig and Mrs. Grigoletto are our office clerks. They are more than happy to answer any questions you may have, so please don't be shy to call or drop in to ask your questions. The school phone number is **604-574-6036**. I am also available to answer questions, respond to concerns, talk about your child's education or help facilitate problem solving.

## COAST PAC

Our PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is made up of parents of students from our school. This year's council is eager to begin a new year and have planned many events. Please watch for their first newsletter, which will outline how you can be a part of the Coast Meridian PAC.