



Don Christian Elementary School
6256 - 184 Street
Surrey, B.C. V3S 8E6
Phone: (604) 576-1381 Fax: (604) 576-0382
<http://www.surreyschools.ca/donchristian>

Newsletter #2

September 11, 2018

Messages from the Principal, Mr. John Morrison

We have organized our classes. We have done our best. We ask that you give students and staff time to settle into routines and have an opportunity to establish relationships. As stated earlier, all schools in our area have experienced growth these first few days. At Don Christian, we are no different. We now have 378 students. We are above physical capacity with one portable.

I thank our staff for their professionalism and diligence as we built the classes. We gave as much attention as possible to your parent requests. However, we could not meet them all. The collective needs of our community is also important. We thank you again for your patience and understanding as we make important decisions now that affect the community and your child(ren) until June, 2019.

Below are some requests to help promote and maintain safe and caring schools. Safety for our learning community members is always important. Please help maintain and model safety by following these district- and school-wide expectations:

- All visitors on school property should report to the office during instructional time.
- Everyone wears an ID badge; visitors get one from the office when they enter the school.
- Walk to school whenever possible – drop off and pick up zones are crowded.
- Please use the designated crosswalk to cross 184th Street and for following directions from our crossing guard, Cathy Brady. Students need to walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards as they cross the street onto school property. Remember to wear a helmet. It's the law.
- Drivers, please observe the vehicle speed limit of 30 km/hr in school zones from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm on weekdays. The parking lot speed zone is 8 km/h.
- The staff parking lot is NOT a student drop-off and pick-up zone. With school and district staff coming and going in their vehicles, this area poses a significant safety concern for students. As an alternative, please use the Surrey Park & Recreation Centre's parking lot next door.
- Please respect our neighbours by not blocking their driveways.
- Please do not make illegal U-turns in front of our school on 184th Street. This is a dangerous situation for pedestrians and vehicles alike. Working together, we can keep everyone safe!

Finally, some courtesies go a long way. If you wish to speak to a teacher or anyone on staff, please make an appointment. This helps us be prepared and better able to answer your questions. Using the planner as a communication tool also works very well.

Please see the attached September calendar and page 2 for more upcoming school-wide events. In the near future teachers will be sending out much information as well. Please check those backpacks.



Terry Fox Week

This month marks the 37th anniversary of Terry Fox's dream, the Marathon of Hope. On **Friday afternoon, September 21st**, Don Christian Elementary will run in Terry's honour. Donations will be collected all week; these donations will be accepted at the school until October 12th. You may also donate online by following the link below. You will need to enter the school's name (Don Christian) and the province (British Columbia). Our goal is donations of \$3,000 or more. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more. Donation link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/DonChristianElementary>

Orange Shirt Day Friday, September 28

Orange Shirt Day is a nation-wide event aimed at recognizing Truth and Reconciliation, particularly bringing awareness to the history of residential schools in Canada. All learning community members are encouraged to participate by wearing orange shirts. Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May, 2013. The date was chosen because it was the time when children were taken from their homes to residential schools. It is an opportunity to remind everyone about anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the school year. If you wish to purchase an orange shirt, you're in luck. An order form goes home tomorrow, Wednesday, September 12.



Student Absences



If your child is going to be away from school, it is greatly appreciated if you would inform our head secretary, Ms. St. Marie. Please call the school at 604-576-1381. This is a 24-hour line. If it is after school hours, please leave a clear message stating the absent student's name and division. If your child is going to be away from school for an extended time, please inform both the teacher and the office in writing.

Open House



We are hosting our Open House on **Thursday, September 27th**, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The Open House is an opportunity for family members to come into the school, see your child's classroom and meet the teacher. Just a reminder, this is not a time to ask specific questions about your child's learning nor is it a time for teachers to report on student progress.

Back to School Tips

- Find a safe route to and from school and practice the route with your children.
- Let your children see you read, and set aside time each day for family reading.
- Insist on breakfast. It helps maintain a healthy weight and provides necessary fuel for the brain to learn.
- Talk to your child about our Code of Conduct.
- For older students, set up a homework area away from the radio or TV, with adequate supplies and lighting.





September 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 First day of school 10:00 am to 11:00am 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 PAC Meeting 6:30pm - Library	18 Cross Country 	19	20	21 Terry Fox Run 	22
23	24 Pro-D (students do not attend) 	25 Cross Country 	26 Individual student photos 	27 Open House 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm 	28 Orange Shirt Day 	29
30						

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL