



October Newsletter – Friday October 9

Many are wondering what happened to the month of September. It has been a busy and often a hectic start up returning to school after six months and adapting to new schedules, new systems, new safety protocols, and reestablishing routines for learning. By the end of week two, we were settled in and now we are half way through the first quarter, or as a student noted, that we are 1/8<sup>th</sup> through the school year.

With staff and students back in classes, the “magic in the classroom” has returned as well. The empty school of last spring is no longer and we have lots of energy and excitement for learning and creating social connections that were difficult to make last spring.

This message home is to highlight other changes with our regular “systems” and remind families, parents, and students on where to get information and upcoming dates. Please see the important information below about our new format for COVID protocol update, report cards, MyedBC Login (new students), Early Dismissals, Semester Completion Days, Graduation Assessments (Grade 10-12), Counsellors, and Grade 12 Information.

### COVID-19 in the Community

Our staff and students have adjusted to the new safety protocols very well. Students are following the arrows in the halls, frequently cleaning their hands, wearing their masks in common areas, and adjusting classes and learning during the midday cleaning. Students are doing a better job of physical distancing, but this is an area we need to continue to remind our students. Hugs and handshakes are not appropriate at this time. Please join us in reinforcing these safety habits at home.

One reminder is to ensure students have a mask and a back-up mask. We are providing over 30 masks a day for those who forget. Please ensure your child has a mask and an extra one in their back pack. Thanks for your cooperation.

We often get phone calls with inquiries whether a family should send their child to school or not. We are educators, not doctors, so please refer to the Daily Health Check. This checklist will determine whether someone is to stay home and when to return to school. The checklist is available on the link below.

At this time, the Surrey School District has had over 50 COVID exposures in school settings. This means that a person (staff or student) has tested positive. Those schools are provided a letter that goes home to inform the school community. It also seems that out of the 50 cases so far,



there has not been any transmissions in a school. The case was contracted within the community. For more information on this process, please check the District Website and click on Communications or Health and Safety for more information from the videos from our Superintendent, Jordan Tinney.

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Elgin Park has been fortunate that we have not yet had a positive case. Unfortunately, it may be just a matter of time that we get a positive case in our part of Surrey. Our school and our homes reside in the Fraser Health Region, the area that has the most cases in our province. Our collective effort to wear masks in common areas, wash our hands, practice physical distancing, and follow the daily health check will help ensure we do not get a positive case in the community that Elgin Park is located.

#### Communicating Student Learning (Report Card Process)

With the change from semesters to quarters we have had to alter our reporting dates and have also had to alter how we communicate student learning. For example, we are not hosting parent teacher interviews due to safety restrictions. We will have four report cards, each at the end of a quarter, which will be viewable on MyedBC. Instead of term or interim reports, teachers will be communicating student progress in a variety of methods (Teams Call, phone, email, or letter home). Please see the attachment for more information.

#### Early Dismissal Days

Please note that we have four early dismissals in a school year for reporting purposes. Our first date has been selected for Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We will end school at 1:55. Please make note of this change. For students who use Surrey School bussing, the Transportation Department has been informed and the schedules will be altered on these day. Students who ride the Coast Mountain School Special will have to make alternate arrangements to get home on these days.

#### **Early Dismissal Schedule**

Grade 8/9		Grade 10-12	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Block</u>
8:30-10:55	A	8:30-9	Blended
10:55-11:45	Lunch	9-10:45	A
11:45-1:55	B	10:45-11:45	Lunch
		11:45-1:25	B
		1:25-1:55	Blended



### Quarter/Semester Completion Days

The Surrey School District provides Semester Completion Days at the end of Semesters to allow students more time to work on essential learning to complete a course. These days are very successful and essential for students and staff. With the transition to a quarter system, the district has scheduled additional completion days. Teachers will ask students to attend on those days and students may choose to meet with their teacher as well. These days are not for long weekends, students are required to attend if asked by their teacher. Please note that the completion days below:

- Quarter 1      November 13
- Quarter 2      January 28 & 29
- Quarter 3      April 16
- Quarter 4      June 21-24

### Graduation Assessments: Grade 10-12

The Grads of 2021 were supposed to write the Graduation Literacy Exam in Grade 12. The Ministry of Education has cancelled this exam for this year's Grad Class. Any grade 11 or 12 student who has not yet written the Numeracy Exam will be scheduled to do so on one of the following dates: November 3, 4 or 5 from 12pm-3pm. Exams will take place at here at Elgin Park. This exam MUST be completed in order to graduate.

We are aware of which students have not yet written and are working with counsellors to communicate that to individual students. Families should expect to know the date and time to write by the end of October.

Later in January, April, and June, the Grade 10's will be writing the Literacy and Numeracy exams in their A Blocks Classes. More details to come after the winter break. Again, these exams are required for graduation.

### MyedBC Login for New Families

At Elgin Park, we use the Portal as a primary source of communication. All families who are new to Elgin Park were sent an email on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> regarding how to set up an account on MyedBC. Through MyedBC, you will be able to access your child's report cards,



attendance records, schedule, and also refer to the school page for up to date information on various events going on at the school. Therefore, it is crucial that you set up your account. Please email [elginpark@surreyschools.ca](mailto:elginpark@surreyschools.ca) if:

- **you do not** receive an email from MyEdBC by October 13, 2020 with the initial login information
- you are having difficulties creating an account

### Counselling “Corner”

The Counselling Department is looking forward to supporting our Elgin Park Secondary students and families!

#### Elgin Park Counselling Team and Contact Information:

- Here at Elgin Park, Counsellors are assigned to students based on their last names. Please refer to the chart below listing alpha counsellors and contact information.
- Students and parents can reach the Counsellors via email, TEAMS or book an appointment directly online with Calendly.

Student Last Names	Counsellor	Email/ Online Scheduler Link
A to G	Ms. Kim	<a href="mailto:kim_a@surreyschools.ca">kim_a@surreyschools.ca</a> <a href="https://calendly.com/kim_a">https://calendly.com/kim_a</a>
H to Li	Ms. Hogan	<a href="mailto:hogan_l@surreyschools.ca">hogan_l@surreyschools.ca</a> <a href="https://calendly.com/hogan_l">https://calendly.com/hogan_l</a>
Lia to Sa	Ms. Hundal	<a href="mailto:hundal_jenny@surreyschools.ca">hundal_jenny@surreyschools.ca</a> <a href="https://calendly.com/hundal_jenny">https://calendly.com/hundal_jenny</a>
Sc to Z	Ms. Gill	<a href="mailto:gill_mini@surreyschools.ca">gill_mini@surreyschools.ca</a> <a href="https://calendly.com/gill_mini">https://calendly.com/gill_mini</a>

### Grade 12 Information

We are excited for the Grad Class of 2021 to be back at school. It's nice to reconnect with this class in person in the halls and in class. Many of our staff and the administration started at



*Home of the Orcas*

---

Elgin Park with this class in the fall of 2016. Obviously, this year will be much different for this group of graduates. We will do our best to work with the Grad Class to provide everything they need to graduate and be prepared for their plans for next year. A big part of Grade 12 is accessing all the information and most of this will be online or virtual this year. It is very important for Grads to seek information and access the tools we have for them. Grads must check the Orca News App, websites, and most importantly the MS Teams Elgin Park Grads of 2021 Team.



## **Elgin Grads 2021**

All Grads should be part of this team to access information about POD Talks, Scholarship Information, Grad Photos, Post Secondary Information, Transcripts and much more. Last night was supposed to be our Grade 12 Information Evening. We would have had 100 parents and students attending the presentation. Instead, we have posted the Power Point with the information on the Elgin Grads 2021 Team.

Ms. Janzen, our Scholarship Committee Chair, held a virtual Scholarship Information Meeting and we had over 50 students attend last night.

All this information is in the Team, please ensure you Grad is part of that Team to access the information. On top of working hard on their classes, Grads have lots to do outside of school to prepare for their applications for post secondary in the fall. The next few months will be very busy and it is best to prepare early and not wait till the last minute to apply.

The office sent home an email recently about Grad Photos that are coming up already. Please see the email or the information below. The link is how to book the appointment for Grad Photos

<https://artona.com/schools/ELGI/programs/graduation>



*Home of the Orcas*



Hurry over to  
[www.artona.com](http://www.artona.com)  
to book your Grad Session

Reserve today!  
Get the time and day  
that works best for you

Reserve your personal  
Yearbook and Composite Session between:

**October 31,  
November 1-8, 2020**

BOOK TODAY AT [WWW.ARTONA.COM](http://WWW.ARTONA.COM)

As for Grad events, many of our traditional school sanctioned events such as Horri-Bowl and the Winter Dance are events that are currently not allowed. We can't host a dance with 400 students in the cafeteria. We know this is disappointing for our Grads. We will do our best to provide various school celebrations for the Grads in new and creative ways that meet the safety guidelines.

We do need to prepare ourselves and our Grads that it is very likely that our Commencement ceremony for the Grad Class of 2020 may be the "new normal" for this year and future grad classes. We will work with the Grad Council and the Dry Grad Parent Committee to provide the best celebrations we can for our Grads.

#### Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

We have been given permission from the district to restart some of our clubs and teams. It is important to ensure students and families have the Orca News App on their phones to get the daily announcements that will be starting as well.

The District and BC Schools Sports have guidelines for the restart of various sports. We are starting our Cross Country and Volleyball Teams. The focus for now will be on skill building in these sports. At this time there will NOT be any games. All our sports will have various safety



*Home of the Orcas*

---

protocols. Please check the Elgin Park Athletics website for more information.  
<http://www.elginparkathletics.com/>

Some of our clubs will be starting as well. There will be many safety restrictions on these clubs, such as masks, physical distancing, and max of 10 members in a room. Clubs will have to create proper plans and have a permission form completed by parents for students to participate. More to come on the announcements.

We are excited to get some of our clubs and sports up and running in a safe manner, to create more connection to the school for our students and to enhance and enrich our students experience at Elgin Park.

On behalf of the entire Elgin Park staff, we hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. Enjoy the family time and find some time to relax. Take care Elgin Park Orcas!

**#ORCAPRIDE #PARTOFTHEPOD**

From your Administrative Team,

Jeff Johnstone, Teresa Beck, Virginia Allard