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Port Kells Elementary

Principal:
Mrs. Tammy Stubbings
Secretary: Ms. Cocar

September 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First off I would like to thank all of our families for your patience and understanding as we worked through the changes with the upcoming school year in order to ensure a safe and welcoming return to school for all of our students and staff. It has been so great to see your children back in our building again – our school is not the same without the sound of students chatter, giggles and energy. We missed them all so much.

Our teachers, EA's and support staff worked tirelessly over the past couple weeks on professional development, Health and Safety Training, setting up safe physical spaces in our school while also preparing health and safety orientations for our students. Please talk to your children about what they have learned and how things may be different this school year.

Late in the afternoon Friday, we found out that we were losing a division at Port Kells due to declining enrolment. This upcoming school year, we will have 5 divisions. This meant that we needed to say good-bye to a member of our teaching staff, which is never easy to do. Ms. Boyanton will no longer be teaching at Port Kells and has accepted a position at Woodland Park. While Ms. Boyanton was only with us for a short time, she had become part of our Port Kells family and team and it was hard to say good-bye. We wish her all the best in her new assignment, and we hope that she finds her way back to us in the future.

Our teachers worked late into the afternoon/evening on Friday to finalize class organizations and our learning cohorts for the upcoming school year. Our teachers were thoughtful and purposeful in this process in our efforts to ensure safe, caring and engaging learning environments to meet the needs of all of our learners as well as meeting the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education.

For the upcoming school year our Learning Cohorts and Divisions will be as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|------------------|
| Cohort 1 | Division 1 | Grade 7 | Ms. St. Jean |
| Cohort 2 | Division 2 | Grade 5/6 | Ms. Fox |
| | Division 3 | Grade 4/5 | Ms. McMahon |
| Cohort 3 | Division 4 | Grade 2/3 | Ms. Peters-Singh |
| | Division 5 | K/1 | Ms. Fraser |

We will continue with a staggered start for Tuesday, as we finalize our line-up and entry areas. Grades 1 – 3 with an 8:35am start ; Kindergarten with an 8:45am start and Grades 4 – 7 with a 9:00am start. Wednesday morning we will be on our regular school start time for all grade levels (Kindergarten students are to follow the gradual entry schedule sent home).

As with many other things this year, my admin time at Port Kells has been decreased by 40%. While I will still be at the school 5 days a week, I will also be taking on a teaching component. Part of my role here at the school will be Integration Support Teacher. I am excited to take on this role. While my time may be decreased, please do not think that you cannot reach me should you need to. My main goal is always our students and their well-being and I will continue to give our school community a 100%.

While the year ahead brings so many unknowns, I know we will get through it together. Please stay safe, stay calm and always be kind to one another.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stubbings

Our bell schedule for the 2020-2021 school year:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Welcome Bell | 8:30 |
| Morning Session | 8:35 |
| Recess | 10:15 – 10:30 |
| Lunch Playtime | 11:50 – 12:10 |
| Lunch Eating | 12:10 – 12:30 |
| Afternoon Session | 12:35 |
| Dismissal | 2:35 |

Communication

Please make sure that you are still subscribed to our email list. If you have not been receiving our regular emails and newsletter over the past few weeks, please go to the school website and subscribe (again).

<http://www.surreyschools.ca/portkells>

Go to the bottom of the website. Enter your email address, you will then receive a confirmation email to complete the process. You MUST confirm your subscription to receive emails. To read what has been sent, click on VIEW ALL to see previous notices. We will not be sending home paper copies of our newsletters or notices. It is important to check our website regularly for updates.

What Happens if a student gets sick?

Extra health and safety measures are being taken at our schools such as hand washing, masks, daily screenings, and increased cleaning in the building, which will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our schools safe.

If your child has any symptoms of COVID or is not feeling well, please do NOT send your child to school. You must call 8-1-1 or a health care provider and get further assessment before sending him/her back to school. Please see the attached "Daily Health Check" as a guideline. If there is a case in a school, Fraser Health has the responsibility of informing parents/families they deem to know.

Wearing Masks

Students in elementary schools are not required to wear masks. However, students are welcome to wear a mask if they choose or if their parents would like them too. Our staff will be wearing masks around the school and within our common areas each day. Any adult that enters our building needs to be wearing a mask.

Other Reminders:

- During this time parents/visitors are not enter the school without an appointment. Please call the school office if you need to come in. Please send all snacks, lunches, water bottles, supplies, etc. with your child in the morning.

- We are a nut aware school. We have many students with peanut and tree nut allergies that range from mild to life-threatening. We ask that you not send your child with snacks and foods that contain these products. Teachers may send foods that contain these products home for your child to eat. We want to ensure that all our students and staff are safe within our building.
- We are a SCENT FREE school, as are all district properties and buildings. Some members of the community have scent allergies, so we ask that you not wear scented products such as perfumes, cologne, scented hair products, hand lotions, etc. On that note, please be aware of the hand-sanitizers that you may be sending to the school, and ensure that these are scent free.

School Supplies

You can still order your school supplies from School Start by going online at www.schoolstart.ca The supply lists are available on our website under newsletters. Teachers may ask for additional supplies on top of what is on the supply list. If you have any questions about supplies please talk to your child's teacher.

Student Absences and Lates

If your child is going to be absent from school, we ask that you please call the school to let us know. We have a call home program to ensure student safety on the way to and from school and, if we are not informed of student absences, our office staff must call a student's home to inquire.

If your child is going to be late, we also ask that you call the school to let us know that you are on your way or what time your child(ren) will be arriving. Once you arrive to the school, we ask that you call the office to let us know your child has arrived so that we know to keep our eyes open for your child to enter the building. We do remind parents that you will not be able to enter the building to sign your child back in.

If you are needing to pick your child up early, we also ask that you call the school to let us know that you are here, and we will have your child meet you in the undercover area.

Your help in these areas is greatly appreciated.

School Planners and Fees

We will be again having school planners available for a cost of \$5.00 per student planner. We are still waiting for these to arrive to our school and will let families know once they do. These are a great method of communication between home and school and also a useful tool for students to assist with organization skills.

This year our school will be cashless. Due to COVID we will no longer be accepting cash and will only be accepting payment for planners, school fees, fundraising, etc. through our cash online service. Please be sure to set up your school cash online account. Please contact this school if you have questions about this.

