



# Vedder Elementary School Newsletter



September 2023

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[Vedder Elementary School Website](#)

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Hello Vedder Families,

We are so excited to see you all again on September 5, at 8:05am! Thank you in advance for your patience and perseverance as we sort through the logistics of our first week together. Please see below for important details on how to drop your child off each morning and pick them up at dismissal. Our second week of school will be much easier as classes will be set and kids will know what class they are assigned to for the year.

We look forward to creating and sharing a memorable school year. Our District has identified 4 areas of key priority for this school year: annual growth planning; high quality instruction; inclusive education; and Truth and Reconciliation. In September, at Vedder, we **will be focused on creating a supportive, safe, and caring school culture**. Our staff has many things planned to help our students navigate their way toward reaching this goal. We will be asking for your involvement as we continue to enhance our sense of community. Please watch for upcoming learning sessions, volunteer opportunities, and social events that you can play a key role in helping to build our capacity at Vedder Elementary. Our Administration Team will be putting an increased emphasis on ensuring that our students are regularly attending school AND arriving on time. One of the easiest ways for kids to feel included, make new friends, lessen their anxiety, and increase their ability to learn is to simply have them show up to school each day. If there is an extenuating circumstance that requires your child to miss school, please inform your child's teacher to make us aware.

September promises to be full of learning, friendships, and fun. **Thank you to our parents and our staff for being partners in learning.** Together, we will help our students further develop “**kind hearts and curious minds**”.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Tracy Wagner, Principal

All newsletters will be published online at the website, on the **first Friday** of every month.

### First Week Drop Off and Pick Up Routines

- **Kindergarten students do NOT attend school the same as grades 1-5.** They will have their own **gradual entry** to school. If you are the parent of a kindergarten student and you did not yet receive start up information, please email our wonderful Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Pilling at: [shelley\\_pilling@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:shelley_pilling@sd33.bc.ca)
- **If your child will need to take the bus, please register them ONLINE at:** <http://www.sd33.bc.ca/>.

#### Grades 1-5

- **Tuesday, September 5 – first day of school**
- School starts at 8:09am. **It is an EARLY DISMISSAL DAY!!**
- **Dismissal on this day only will be at 10:09am. Busses will be running**
- Supervision starts at 7:54am (except for bus students)
  - **\*\*please do not drop your child off at the school prior to 7:54am**
- You can use the **drop off lane** to drop your child off in the front parking lot, **AT THE GREEN LINE**, see instructions below

#### Drop off:

- ALL GRADE 1-5 students will go to the **BACK FIELD of the school, beyond the gazebo**, to reconnect with their **LAST YEAR'S TEACHER** (if the teacher is no longer at Vedder, their name will be on a sign and a new teacher will be there)
- There will be signs posted and teacher's will be in grade level order (e.g. all gr. 1's first, then grade 2's etc.)
- Parents are welcome to stay for a very short assembly we will have at 8:25am

#### Pick Up:

- **Dismissal will be at 10:09am for this day only**
- Students will be dismissed from the **same spot you dropped them off at in the morning**, on the back field
- For more independent, older students, it is really helpful to have an agreed upon pick up spot to lessen congestion – e.g. meet me at the flagpoles out front or the gaga ball pits or gazebo, or hockey court....or GREEN LINE if you are using the drop/pick up lane.
- **\*\*please note – our new grade 1 kids are still too young to just be dismissed, you will need to pick them up from the teacher for this first week, until routines are fully set. Thank you.**

**Wed., Sept. 6, Thurs, Sept. 7 & Fri. Sept. 8:**

Drop off

- These dates will be full days: 8:09am-2:05pm

### Pick Up

- Students will meet in **NEW GRADE LEVEL GROUPS** in the same spot as the day before – there will be signs.
- Students will be **dismissed from the back field** from their grade level group
- We are hoping to have classes set on **Friday**, you should get a **letter from your child's new teacher** on this day.

### Parking

Please remember:

- **The bus loop is for busses only**
- **Handicap parking** is in the front parking lot (**permit holders only**)
- **Drop-off/pick up lane** - pull all the way up to the front spot on the **GREEN LINE**.
- Once at the **GREEN LINE**, up to three cars can unload their children.
- **Parking is at the front, to the left, and back of the school in our old lot.**
- **The parking lot by the shopping center is STAFF ONLY – this helps avoid cars entering the bus loop**
- The Tzeachten lot is not accessible due to construction.
- Our **full-stop, crosswalk** is in front of the school on **Promontory Road** – please be sure to use it to stay safe.
- When entering and exiting the parking lot, **please ensure watch for pedestrians on the sidewalk** – we have an increased amount of people walking to school from the Iron Horse and Base 10 communities.

### Fees

Thank you for waiting until classes are set to send in your fees for supplies. You can pay the **SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL** by sending cash or cheque (made out to Vedder Elementary) to your child's classroom teacher.

#### Fees are:

- **Kindergarten, grades 1, 2 and 3 = \$45.00**
- **Grades 4 and 5 = \$65.00**

### PAC Hot Lunch and Lunch Drop Offs

Our first PAC Hot Lunch will be on **September 22**.

### Breakfast and Lunch Program

Vedder Elementary is dedicated to ensuring that our students are ready and able to learn while at school. This year, we are able to provide breakfast and lunch to our students who arrive to school hungry. This program is available to all students, whatever the reason. We are looking for volunteers to help serve breakfast and lunch to our students. Please come see Tracy in the office if you are able to help out.

### Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting – Sept. 19

Vedder Elementary PAC welcomes all families back to school! Please join our **PAC Facebook group Vedder Elementary PAC** for all things Vedder Elementary School related. We keep things updated and bring you information that will help us all along through the school year.



If you are a parent or guardian of a child at Vedder Elementary, then you are a member of our PAC. PAC Meetings provide the space for our parents and school Administration to come together and discuss the many ways that parents can support our students and our school. There are limitless ways that you, as a parent, can help our school, not to mention that it's a fun way to connect with other parents. We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30pm for our first PAC meeting of the year**. **We will meet in the school library**, enter through the main, front doors. **We hope to see you there. Your PAC Executive is in the photo above, they will be hosting the meeting.** 😊

### Cops for Cancer – Tour de Valley Visit

We are fortunate to have the Cops for Cancer Team stopping by Vedder Elementary on **September 18**. Cops for Cancer is an annual event where law enforcement and emergency services personnel cycle across the Fraser Valley raising money for **childhood cancer research and support services** at the Canadian Cancer Society. Donations raised are used for life-saving pediatric cancer research and caring support programs like Camp Good Times. Our students will decorate inspirational posters and decorations to welcome the team. Riders will roll into our parking lot, greet students, and share some singing and fun. I'm certain our kids will love to see the team again this year. **If you want to donate to this team that supports childhood cancer patients, please send your donation to school with your child by Sept. 18. We will also be selling Caring Caterpillars (\$2each) as a fundraiser for this event from September 13 – 15.**

### Welcome Back BarBQ – Sept 20

We are so excited to invite you all to our annual Welcome Back Bar-B-Q on September 20. This is a casual event that provides a are looking forward to providing tours of our school expansion as well.

- **Food will be served from 5:00-7:00pm.**
- **\$5 = hot dog, chips, and a drink**

- Staff will be barbequing and serving up the food as well as mingling in the crowd.

#### **Photo Day – Sept 22**

- Bring your smile and avoid wearing green clothing on this day. Individual photos will be taken.

#### **Orange Shirt Day Assemblies and Walks – Sept 29**

On **Friday September 29**, we will be hosting an assembly and community walk to learn about Phyllis's Orange Shirt and its relevance in regard to residential schooling in Canada. Parents are invited to attend the assembly and join us on our walk. Please don't forget to wear an orange shirt.

- **Please note that there will be no school on October 2, 2023** as this day is in lieu of **National Truth and Reconciliation Day** which is **September 30**. We hope everyone takes time September 30 to reflect on the importance of our learning and pursuit towards Truth and Reconciliation.

#### **Paperwork Coming Home with Students:**

Please watch for, complete, and return the following paperwork that will be coming home with your child this week.

##### **Verification Forms**

A blue student verification form will be sent home this week. **Please update, sign and return these forms by Friday, September 15th.**

These forms are very important as the school depends on the information you provide to us to contact you or your designate in the case of an emergency.

##### **Medical Alerts**

If you require the school to administer any kind of medication to your child, an authorization form must be completed first. Please see the office to get the forms, which must be signed by the family doctor and parent. **Please notify the school office and your child's teacher if there are any health issues that we need to be aware of.**

**As we have students with severe allergies to nuts, our school is Nut Aware.**

##### **Indigenous Ancestry Letters**

Indigenous Ancestry letters will be sent home Wednesday, September 14. Please look for these letters in your child's backpack. Once you have completed the form, please send it back to the school to Mrs. Surman. Thank you.

#### **September Events**

Sept 5 – first day for students

Sept 12 – Classes are set for the year – students go to their new class to start the day

Sept 15 – Fire Drill #1

Sept 18 – Cops for Cancer Tour stop

**Sept 19 – PAC Meeting** – library – 6:30pm – everyone welcome

**Sept. 20 – Welcome back BarBQ** – food is 5-7pm, tours of expansion at 4:30pm

Sept. 21 – Spirit Day – Wear Red and Black

Sept 21 – Fire Drill #2

**Sept 22 – Photo Day**

**Sept 22 – Hot Lunch**

**Sept 25 – Bus Evacuation Training, Grades 1-5**

Sept 25, 26, 27, 28 – IEP meetings (if needed, you will be phoned for a meeting time)

**Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day Assembly and Walk** – parents welcome to join us

**Sept 30 – School Closed** – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation