



École Christine Morrison Elementary



32611 McRae Avenue, Mission, BC V2V 2L8 P: 604.826.6528 F: 604.826.9175

Principal: Shirley Gibson Vice-Principal: Shannon Greig
September 22nd, 2020 – Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our first complete week has finished, and it has been wonderful to see so many families and meet our new families as well. The school staff have worked hard to ensure that everything is in place for a terrific year ahead. The children are really doing well working within their learning groups and hopefully, the weather this week will have everyone outside enjoying the beautiful fall weather.



I would like to thank you, our school community, for following our guidelines of physical distancing and ensuring that your children are arriving within the 'soft start' times versus arriving early and being on the playground. We have worked very hard creating two separate schedules for recess/lunch where learning groups are able to enjoy being together safely which includes the use of playgrounds. We have also noted that families who pick up their child between 2:00 and 2:23 are promptly leaving grounds which is greatly appreciated.

As of **Monday, September 28th**, we are reducing our soft start **to 8:30 – 8:45** in the morning and **2:10 for the early dismissal in the afternoon**. We have noted that most families are arriving at school by 8:35 or so, and by 8:40 on most days, the students are all in class.

At ECME, we value our partnership with our parent/guardian community. Clear communication and involvement in the school creates a strong partnership. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher or administration, this year we require appointments to be made ahead of time versus dropping in as we have always done. Please email your child's teacher directly or the admin you wish to meet with, and a time will be found that is convenient for both schedules. At this time, most meetings will be held over the phone or virtually. Newsletters will be issued during the last week of each month with email updates throughout the year as well. Newsletters will be sent to our families as well as posted on the website.

West Coast Recess and Lunch Breaks



Living in a rainforest climate, we are all very familiar with the amount of rain we receive throughout the year. At ECME we believe in the importance of having children outside, getting fresh air and playing, for the recess and lunch breaks even in the rain. The students are very accustomed to donning their boots and rain jackets and heading outside. Please ensure that your child has boots and a rain jacket as well as a change of socks if their feet become wet. For safety reasons, students are not to bring umbrellas to school.

While it will be a different year, it will be a terrific year as we will continue to plan events differently but that everyone will still enjoy. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you,
Shirley Gibson, Principal



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Bell Schedule

- 8:25 School Entry Bell/students enter through outside doors
8:30 – 8:50 Morning session begins until Thursday, September 24th
8:30 – 8:45 Morning session begins – *please note the soft start change in time*

Group #1

Recess: 9:50 to 10:05 Lunch: 11:30 – 12:15

- Div. 1 (Mrs. Vroom/Ms. Djordjevic)
- Div. 2 (Mrs. Buchanan)
- Div. 7 (Mrs. Brooks)
- Div. 10 (Mme Lanzellotti)
- Div. 11 (Mme Dery)
- Div. 12 (Mme Palmer)
- Div. 17 (Mme McKinnon/ Mme Treanor)

Group #2

Recess: 10:10 to 10:25 Lunch: 12:15 - 1:00pm

- Div. 3 (Mr. McAuley)
- Div. 4 (Ms. Edmondson)
- Div. 5 (Mrs. Portman)
- Div. 6 (Mrs. Desormeaux)
- Div. 8 (M Tessier)
- Div. 9 (Mme Coulter)
- Div. 13 (Mme Morin)
- Div. 14 (Mme Pouyol)
- Div. 15 (Mme Osborn)
- Div. 16 (Mme Paul)

2:23 pm Dismissal/Students leave through outside doors *Please note that students may be picked up by their parent between 2:00 and 2:20, but are to go to the classroom window, ensure the teacher acknowledges the parent and the student will be dismissed directly to the parent.

As of Monday, September 28th, the early dismissal will change to 2:10

*Please note that supervision begins at 8:10 and ends at 2:40. Students are expected to enter and leave the building through their exterior classroom doors.



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Thursday, September 30th Orange Shirt Day:

September 30th falls during the time of year when Indigenous children were taken away to residential school.

The “orange shirt” in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given to her by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph’s Mission residential school in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, “how my feelings didn’t matter, how no one cared, and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying, and no one cared.” Please see the CBC link for more information:

Friday, October 2nd Terry Fox Run



On Friday, October 2nd we are having our Terry Fox Run! This is the 40th year anniversary which has raised, to date, over \$750 million worldwide for cancer research in Terry’s name through the annual Terry Fox Run, held across Canada and around the world. The students will participate in a virtual assembly before the run and we will be organizing the students to run in their learning groups. We are encouraging each student to bring a Toonie to donate. These will be collected in each class versus a central location. We will send more information closer to the run.

Parking

This is just a reminder that our school parking lot can become very congested before and after school. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the drop-off zone as buses and emergency vehicles must have access without being blocked.

The side parking lot is reserved for district and school staff as well as vehicles which have a parking pass only. If you require a parking pass, please contact the office. Please do not park or drop off in the side parking lot.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

We will be sending out the date of our first PAC meeting as soon as we have everything confirmed. This is a wonderful way to meet other parents, learn about the incredible opportunities and programs the PAC is organizing as well as becoming involved with the school community. We hope to see you there!



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We have received questions regarding the ECME Hot Lunch Program and when it will be running. This program is completely organized and run through our PAC. Last week, Mme Shannon and I met with our PAC Chair and Hot Lunch Coordinator and we will have information regarding this program out to our school community as soon as everything is finalized.

ECME STAR CODE of CONDUCT



- S. Safety
- T. Trustworthy
- A. Accountable
- R. Respectful

At Ecole Christine Morrison Elementary, our student body is responsible, considerate and very quick to help when needed. The students take pride in following the S.T.A.R. Code of Conduct and we will often receive compliments as to how well behaved our students are to guest presenters and visitors. Please see the details of our Code of Conduct in the Student Planners.

Well done ECME students!

Parent Welcome Café Usually, we have our Parent Café before classes begin, towards the end of September where parents come to see their child's class. This year, we are thinking of different ideas as to how we can share your child's school environment with you but following all the safety protocols. (Perhaps virtual?) We will keep you up to date with this.



Attendance and student appointments or late arrival

If you are picking up your child during the school day, before 2:00, please call the office and we will either call into the class and request that your child comes to the office or will go to the class and bring your child to the office.

If your child is late in the morning, the students will need to check into the office, have their name and division recorded and will be walked to their class

Please do not hesitate to call the office at any time to let us know that your child will be absent. The answering machine receives calls from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.