

Thursday, September 14, 2023

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Friday – Sept 22 – Terry Fox School Run  
Friday – Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day  
Monday – Oct 2 – No School – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
Thursday – Oct 5 – Welcome Back BBQ hosted by PAC  
Monday – Oct 9 – No School – Thanksgiving  
Tuesday – Oct 10 – Individual Photo Day  
Friday – Oct 20 – No School – Pro-D Day  
Monday – Oct 30 – Photo Retake



### **Twelfth Avenue Motto**

Our first week of classes are progressing well. Students are meeting new staff and enjoying their playtime outside with some new peers. The School Meals Program is running seamlessly as students seem to enjoy the meals provided. Classrooms are setting up, reviewing the Positive Behaviour Support goals and they met our new mascot, Mr. (Astro) Naut. Please expect students' PBS Passports to come home on Tuesday, October 3 to be signed by parents and then return it to school for Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>!

We continue to encourage students to **S.O.A.R** to SUCCESS!

- I will make sure I am **safe** and I will provide a safe environment for others.
- I will take **ownership** of my behaviours and my learning. I will learn from my mistakes.
- I will learn and work with a positive **attitude**. I will approach tasks with a growth mindset.
- I will make decisions and take action that is both **respectful** and **responsible**.



### **Illness and What to Do?**



In the school setting, we try to create conditions to prevent the spread of illness in our school. **This begins with staff, families and students not coming to school if feeling unwell.** As a parent of two children, I remember the difficulty and scramble of trying to find childcare when your child awakens ill. Please trust this information from your child and see if symptoms progress at home (not at school) as often people are most contagious in these beginning stages of illness.

Families need to have a back-up plan to ensure someone can care for the student if they are ill and/or if they become ill at school, pick them up immediately, and stay with the student for the necessary recovery days.

If a staff member or student is concerned about their symptoms, please use this resource [BC Center for Disease Control website](#) to get information.

If a student is unwell, and they cannot manage the personal hygiene of their symptoms (running nose, sneezing and coughing etiquette), and/or cannot participate in regular school activities and outdoor play, then they should remain home until well enough to participate in all activities.



## Welcome New Staff

We would like to welcome a number of new staff members to our Twelfth Avenue community:

**Teachers:** Ms. Sreeja Tirkey (Intermediate), Ms. Samina Edwards (Primary/Intermediate), Ms. Kayla Gataric (Primary), Ms. Alana Worsley (Band), Ms. Carol Lynka (Library), Mr. Waleed Kadray (Non-Instructional Support & English Language Learning teacher)

**Support Staff:** Ms. Tsamchoe Dolma (Education Assistant), Mr. Sky Lu (Food Service Worker), Ms. Pragati Pawar (Student Supervisor)

We are very fortunate to have filled all of our open positions this summer and continue to build on our exemplary staff.

## Bell Schedule/Lates/Appointments

A reminder that our first bell rings at 8:55 am and instruction begins at 9:00 am. There is no adult supervision outside before and afterschool unless students are participating in a school/sport or community program. We ask that students do not arrive earlier than 8:45 am.

Our lunch break begins at 11:33 am and students are allowed to go outside at about 11:50 am. They have 30 minutes of outside playtime before the 12:20 bell rings and instruction begins at 12:25 pm. We also have an afternoon recess from 1:45-2:00 pm, and school dismissal is at 3:00 pm.



If students are late, or are returning from an appointment, they must come to the office and sign-in with Ms. Crawford who records their attendance. If a student has a scheduled appointment and needs to be picked up early, please let the classroom teacher know and they will send the student to the office to be picked up.

## Terry Fox Run

This year, our school is participating in the **Terry Fox School Run** on **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It is a great way to get our students engaged and inspired to make a difference. Terry Fox once said, "Anything is possible if you try", so this year we are going to **"Try Like Terry and Bring a Toonie"** to honor his legacy. Terry's courage and determination is inspiring us to try as hard as he did.



During the week leading up to the run, **Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, your child can donate a 'toonie'. The money that we raise will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation to help accomplish Terry's goal of ultimately ending cancer. You are welcome to make a larger monetary cash donation but please do not send any other change.

Today, people all around the world have helped to raise over 850 million dollars in his name! Terry relied heavily on news coverage and used empty buckets to collect cash as he ran along the sides of the highways

across Canada. Now, in 2023, we are connected more than ever by our phones and the internet. So, this year, we encourage you all to donate online because it's so easy. Donations can be made at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/TwelfthAvenueElementary> .

## Healthy Drinks, Snacks and Lunches



We encourage healthy eating at Twelfth Avenue Elementary. Please encourage students to pack a healthy lunch/snack that includes vegetables, fruits, protein, and carbohydrates. We are seeing some students bringing cakes/cookies/chips/candy to share with others and would prefer that these treat items stay at home.

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. They can use the water bottle refilling stations, and this should be their drink of choice at school.

At the end of last year, we observed some upper intermediate students bringing pop and/or caffeinated drinks to school (a social media star created their own caffeinated drink and social status seemed to increase if you had this item). We discourage students from bringing pop/slurpees/caffeinated drinks to school. Please save them for home consumption too.

## Extra Lunch Program Food

Sometimes the lunch program will have leftovers. Our Food Service coordinator bags up this food and places it in the freezer. We have one staff member who sometimes can take this food to her church functions to feed some vulnerable people.

Do you think you could use this food too? If you are willing to take some frozen leftovers, please contact Mrs. Pitt at [lisa.pitt@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:lisa.pitt@burnabyschools.ca) and I will give your contact information to our Food Service Worker Mr. Lu. Together you can plan a way to get the food to you and/or your family.

## Birthdays

We celebrate every student and staff members' birthday with an announcement over the PA system and invite them to come to the office to get their Birthday pencil.

We ask that families do not bring cakes, cupcakes, loot bags, balloons to the classroom to share for a child's birthday. We do not do this because: it takes "teacher/class time" to disperse items, fairness (not all families can afford the time or means to do this), and food allergies/restrictions (some children may feel left out due to diet rules). We appreciate everyone respecting this expectation.



## Cell Phones/Toys At School

Personal cell phones and toys should stay at home. We cannot be responsible for these items being lost, stolen, or broken. If a cell phone is an important communication tool for your family, we ask that students lock up the item, and only use it during afterschool hours. We have a phone at the office that students can use with a phone pass from the teacher.

Phones being used on school site during school hours will be taken away and kept at the office until the end of the day.



## Dress For the Weather



We call it "Wet Coast" weather. Students should be prepared for rain and to be outside in the rain. Families can prepare in advance for these wet outside breaks by having a spare change of clothes at school, waterproof boots/shoes, and an umbrella and/or a waterproof coat.

Once the weather turns colder, it is always helpful for students to have mittens or gloves and a toque to keep them warm!

## PAC News

Every parent is automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council or PAC at our school. The PAC will have their first Executive meeting on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to begin planning a budget and ideas to share with the school community. We are looking forward to a great school year of working together.

Your PAC Executive Members are:

**PAC Chair:** Hisham Mansour

**PAC Treasurer:** Ben Chen

**PAC Secretary:** Tanushree Pillai

**Members at Large:** Kate Marasigan, Jessieca Pagaduan

If you are interested in being a member of this group, please email: [twelfthavepac@gmail.com](mailto:twelfthavepac@gmail.com)

## Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the school will be recognizing the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** which is on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of this National day, *schools will be closed on Monday, October 2, 2023.*

Students and staff will wear an orange shirt and gather for an assembly on this day. Our goals are to acknowledge the Residential School tragedies and ensure all Canadians are aware of this shameful chapter in our history. Schools will focus on the importance of establishing a new legacy for Indigenous peoples and that "Every Child Matters." September 30<sup>th</sup> was chosen for this National day as this was the time of year when children were collected from their homes, forced to leave their families and attend residential schools. By starting the school year this way, we hope to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies that inspire inclusion.

Orange Shirt Day is a day for Indigenous peoples to remember and/or recognize past trauma and their resiliency but more importantly it is a day for non-Indigenous people to work towards reconciliation. What will you do on September 30<sup>th</sup>? Here are a few ideas:

- Become educated on the history of Residential Schools in Canada
- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#)
- Confront racism, stereotypes and prejudices against Indigenous people and/or become aware of your own biases
- Attend a community event that recognizes the day
- Read Indigenous books and/or listen to podcasts
- Make posters, signs "Every Child Matters" for your windows to show your care
- Other ideas?

## Traffic Safety

**Please keep our students SAFE!** Mr. Ng works with some of our Grade 7 leaders who get trained for Crosswalk Patrol at the front of our school. We also have a Crossing Guard, Ms. Ly, who works at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Canada Way. **All families and students should be using the crosswalks!**

We also ask that parents **DO NOT drop students off or pick them up in our staff parking lot.** There is signage for No Parking along the curb and we must ensure safe passage for Lynch Bus Service to pick up and drop off some students.



## Optional Accident Insurance

Accidents happen. Families can opt into a Family Accident Reimbursement Plan. Please see the link below. This is an outside agency that provides an extra layer of insurance for families if your child gets injured on school property (dental surgeries, broken limbs, broken glasses are a few examples). The School District is not liable for these types of expenses. See below:

[https://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/StudentAccidentInsurance\\_2020\\_2021.pdf](https://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/StudentAccidentInsurance_2020_2021.pdf)

## Breakfast Club

We are excited to invite your children to become a part of the 12th Avenue Breakfast Club, an initiative organized by members of our staff. This club is designed to provide children with a nutritious start to their day while enjoying the company of their friends. We are pleased to inform you that there is no cost associated with joining the 12th Avenue Breakfast Club.

**Who:** All students, from Kindergarten to Grade 7, are welcome to join.

**Where:** Room 16 - Access through the back door, located near the Primary Playground.

**When:** The club meets every Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 8:50 am, starting on Monday, September 18th.

**Interested students can come to the office to pick up a permission form and/or access the form on our school website <https://twelfthavenue.burnabyschools.ca/>**

If you are a parent with Food Safe and would like to volunteer from 8:30 am to 8:50 am to help serve and/or clean up, please contact Mrs. Pitt at [lisa.pitt@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:lisa.pitt@burnabyschools.ca)

