

October 4th, 2021

Newsletter # 2

We Are Nut Aware!

We Are Scent Aware!

EDGEWOOD NEWS

Together We SOAR!

Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Oct. 4th
Monthly Assembly 8:45

Monday, Oct. 11th
Thanksgiving
School Closed

Oct. 12-15th
Toonies for Terry
Fundraising Campaign

Thursday, Oct 14th
Terry Fox Run – tentative

Wednesday, Oct. 20th
Early Dismissal – 1:30

Thursday, Oct. 21st
Early Dismissal – 1:30

Friday, Oct, 22nd
Non-Instructional Day
No School For Students

Monday, Oct. 25th
Early Dismissal – 1:30

Tuesday, Oct. 26th
Early Dismissal – 1:30

Friday, Nov. 5th
Monthly Assembly
9:00 am

Thursday, Nov. 11th
Remembrance Day

Friday, Nov. 26th
Non-Instructional Day

Every Friday!
Spirit Day
Wear Your Spirit Wear or
Black!
(our school colour)

Office Hours
8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Monday to Friday

Principal's Message

Hadih - Bonjour Parents!

Happy October! Yes, September has disappeared, and we are beginning our 2nd month of this school year. Can you believe it? Hello October! Aren't the fall colours a delight to the senses?

September was a month of settling in, reconnection with each other and to our SOAR, as well as building community, all the while working hard to stay safe and healthy. The Pandemic is still with us. Our priority continues to be wellness, health and safety for all. As the world climate can feel hostile and divisive, here at Edgewood we strive for compassion, kindness and staying strong together.

Our "flipped lunches", change to a recess Nutrition break this year, individual class morning play breaks, social connection at class doors over play first thing in the morning and using individual class doors for exiting and entering the school continues to help address congestion and distancing. One additional change we will make starting this month is reducing our capacity for assemblies. We will return to using Zoom and "in the gym" assemblies for primary and intermediate groupings while our community COIVD numbers continue to be as they are. It is easier to space out less students and staff in the gym, helping everyone feel more comfortable.

Our front door is open. We prefer to greet you by having you use the doorbell or call ahead before your arrival, again to help manage congestion, as there are times in the school day where the front foyer and hallways are busy. Also, we like to personally connect. If you are coming into the building in any capacity, please sign in at the front door, hand sanitize and mask up. Masks are available should you need. Please note: the door bell must be held for 3 seconds, and it is on the white sign. The black box with the button is NOT the doorbell.

Health and Safety Need to Knows:

Safety Drill Update

We have had our first of 6 Fire Drill practices. This was done during gradual entry, while the Ks were not here. This decision was made to reduce what was already a stressful time for our newest eagles and their families. We have 5 more required drills throughout the year. This month we will embark on the necessary Emergency Procedure Drills from the orange sheet that went home in the start up packages.

Did You Know?

Each school in the District is required to have a Joint Health and Safety Committee (JOSH). This committee comprises of teachers and support staff, and its purpose is to address any concerning health and safety matters that come up at school. This committee meets monthly.

Bus Safety Expectations

Our District promotes safety, respect and responsibility among all riders of District school buses. Students riding the bus are expected to:

- follow all driver's directions and requests
- keep hands, feet, objects to self
- stay in assigned seat unless directed to do otherwise
- talk quietly, using appropriate language
- smoking, drugs, alcohol are prohibited
- no eating or drinking on the bus
- students are expected to remain inside open windows
- students are to remain seated when on the bus, facing front

This year the school will be creating the seating plans for the bus, and again, the school will collaboratively deal with bus issues. Seat assignments this year are based on a "first on - first off" premise.



Edgewood Eagles

SOAR

Safety, Ownership,
Achievement, Respect

Theme of the Month

Respect

Safe Start

If your child is going to be **late or absent**, please call the school and leave a message, complete with your child's full name, grade, and teacher. Calls home are made for those students not in attendance to ensure their safety and whereabouts

Supervision

Morning supervision
8:15 – 8:30
After school supervision
2:12-2:27

4440 Craig Road
Prince George, BC
V2K 3P5

PHONE:
(250) 562-5381

FAX:
(250) 562-4204

WEBSITE:
www.sd57.bc.ca/school/edge

FACEBOOK
@ edgewoodpac
@ edgewoodelementarypg

PAC News

Meet our new executive for this school year. We thank the following parents for taking on these important leadership roles for your child's school. **TREASURER NEEDED!**

Chair: Danielle Bellamy
Co-Chair: Meghan McGibbon

Secretary: Marian Berg
Treasurer: Needed!

Being a part of PAC is one important way to be involved in your child's school experience and help build community. There are many ways to be involved.

Please visit our school website for updated meeting minutes, financial reports, and meeting agendas.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 12th, 7pm via Zoom and Onsite

Everyone Welcome!

PAC Clothing Orders Due

Friday, October 15th

Sizers will be made available to check out this week, Monday and Friday after school outside or in the gym from 2:20-3pm. Please access the gym through the outside doors by the blacktop, rather than through the main front door.

Clothing Orders are via Munch-a-Lunch, an on-line ordering system used by PAC. If you have any questions regarding this or the clothing order, please contact PAC at

edgewoodelementarypace@gmail.com.

Save-On Foods Helps PAC

Don't forget that purchasing Save On gift cards (GCs) from any Save-On Foods brings money to our school. Consider using a GC to pay for your groceries, or if you are purchasing any for Christmas gifts, go to the Customer Service counter at any Save-On to purchase your GCs. Be sure to say you are with Edgewood and PAC receives a percentage of all sales of GCs.

PG Bottle and Return it Center (aka BBK Bottling)

.....has an Edgewood PAC account and student leadership account. You can donate any returned bottles and drink container refunds by simply telling them when you return your items that you wish for the refund to be given to our school. It is that easy!

Daily Health Check Reminder

It continues to be **VERY important** that a daily health screening is done by parents before sending children to school each day. Staff have the same expectation. Any visitor entering the school is also expected to have completed one before entering. To keep everyone safe, **we all must be diligent and do our part**. If you are unsure of symptoms or need assistance on what to do in case of illness, call 811 or your physician.

It is best we all err on the side of caution in order to keep everyone safe.

Home will be contacted if students are feeling ill at school.

Thank you this safety mindset.

District Policies to Know

There are many important **School District policies** for parents to be aware of and review each school year. These policies can be found on the School District Website or right click on the links below and follow the prompts.

[Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct](#)

[Policy 6179 Acceptable Use of Networks](#)

[Policy 3541.35 Winter Weather](#)

[Policy 3542.3 Healthy Food Choices in Schools](#)

[Policy 5101 Financial Hardship](#)

These policies are just a few of the many important policies for our District. Please take the time to review those above as well as those on the District Website. It's good to be in the know.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

Grades 4 and 7

This year, the Ministry's FSA will occur during the month of October. Information is coming home with students today.

School Start Up Information Package

Thank you for taking the time to go through this year's school start-up package. We know it was a lot.

The **student verification** forms are extremely important for parents to review and return as these are the foundation for our contact information. Please make sure everything is current. If your child is in a **dual home** situation, it is important that both parents review this.

The **field trip form** that went home allows staff and students to enjoy the beauty of our neighbouring trails and be off site for such things as our upcoming Terry Fox Run. Your signature is required on this form for such activities.

If you have any questions about anything in the package, please contact the school.

What is SOGI?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity. School District 57 has a SOGI policy, policy 4117. Our District, and our school, are committed to students and staff working and learning in a safe and accepting environment that is free of discrimination, focuses on human rights and is understanding of all cultures. Gender identity can be a sensitive topic. The curriculum provides educators the opportunity to focus learning time on topics such as equality, inclusion and acceptance for others. Parents play an important part of this learning journey with their child.

Parents, we are in a time where children are exposed through the media, social media, their peers to language and terms related to sexual orientation and gender identity. This can be very confusing for them.

As well, students start to experiment with language they are exposed to, often not really understanding what they are saying.

We need to work together to help children learn and be comfortable with all aspect of equality as well understand what is appropriate to say and what is not. This is continuing to change as we recognize past practices with a new lens to ensure what we say and do are kind, compassionate and reflect equity and inclusion.

New Masking Mandate K-3 Beginning Monday, October 4, 2021, all students (K-12) will need to wear a mask at school.

Friday it was announced by the PHO and Minister of Education that Kto3 students will now be required to wear masks while inside a school building, including while at their desks and on buses.

Masks will be available at the school. In circumstances where a child cannot wear a mask due to health or behavioral reasons, schools will work with these individuals (and their parents/caregivers) to explore [other measures](#) to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Here at EW, we will embark on this new mandate with compassion and understanding. These developmental ages make this request challenging, but it is also a learning opportunity and an expected health and safety measure. Please refer to the "other measures" link above if you have masking concerns. Let's work together and do our collective best to keep related stress and anxiety over this to a minimum.

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program & BC Dairy Foundation

Edgewood is once again part of the BC Agriculture in the Classroom program. A negative response letter went home with your child in the start up package. **Parents were asked to only send this back if they did not want their child to participate in the program, or, if their child had allergies that we needed to be aware of.** If we did not receive the form back, we are assuming you are supporting your child being part of this initiative. Each month throughout the school year, schools involved in this program receive deliveries of fresh milk along with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack. PAC has continued to support this program in our school.

As our District supports healthy schools (policy 3542.3 Healthy Food Choices in Schools), this program aligns with that policy.

If you did not receive an information letter, please contact the office. We thank PAC parent Marian Berg for her leadership with this program.

We received our first delivery of plums and milk in September to kick start this program for the year.

Tonnies for Terry October 12-15th

Terry Fox Fundraiser and Run October 14th - (Hopefully ☺)

Our staff and student leadership would like to once again support the Terry Fox Foundation this year by promoting a "Toonie for Terry" fundraising campaign. Our goal, once again, is to raise a toonie for every student and staff member in the school. That equals approximately 240 individuals for a total of \$480. As in typical Edgewood fashion, we hope to meet or beat this goal. The campaign will begin next week, Oct. 12-15th. Donations are welcome earlier.

Terry Fox Run - Help Needed

Our school-wide run is scheduled for Thursday, October 14th. We are still working out the details, as we will want this event to adhere to COVID safety protocols. We will most likely have students participate at different times to avoid congestion. We are seeking parent helpers. Please contact Mrs. Bryce (lbryce@sd57.bc.ca) if you are available to help be a safety spotter along the route. Intermediate students are hoping we can use the running route through the trails, but we need parent volunteers to make this happen. Families will be able to join us this year, but we will ask that you come only during the assigned times of your children. More details to come.

Wildlife in the Area

Being nestled around nature, our school grounds can have, and in the past have had, special animal visitors such as bears, moose, fox, and deer during the day. Should this occur, we will monitor the situation carefully. If needed, we will hold and secure students inside the building. If students are outside playing, and there is a wildlife sighting that is threatening their safety, 3 bells or three loud whistles in succession is the signal to come into the building immediately. Students have been informed of this emergency procedure, and we will practice it. If you see wildlife in the neighbourhood, please let us and Conservation Officers know. Thank you.

Teachings and Values That Guide Us at Edgewood

As many of you know, students and staff worked together to develop our SOAR: Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect. Together with students, a matrix was developed to outline how we can all SOAR in the various areas of the school and with each other. This matrix is once again printed in this year's planner and displayed throughout the school.

The values that guide our matrix are rooted in the Aboriginal 7 Sacred Teachings as well as the virtue work done by educational researcher Michele Borba. Each month we will focus on a theme or themes, often a combination from both sources that fit together. Students will be introduced to these theme/s at our monthly assemblies. Tips for parents will be provided in our newsletters. Together we can help instill very important, life-long qualities in our students to help them grow into responsible and caring adults.

The **Aboriginal 7 Sacred Teachings** are: love, respect, honesty, humility, courage, wisdom and truth. Our beautiful new, front entry mural showcases these teachings.

Michele Borba's **7 essential virtues** that teach kids to do the right thing, from her book, *Building Moral Intelligence*, include: empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, fairness.

September, **our theme traditionally is safety and self-control**. The two go hand in hand and are the foundation for the rest. Now, as we continue to live in a Pandemic, these are at the forefront of everything, both at school and beyond for children and adults alike! Children are not born with self-control. They learn it. They learn it from being taught. They also learn it from watching the words and actions of those around them. As adults, we play a vital role in shaping this in our children. Our own self-control has never been more important. That said, we are not always in control, and that is ok. Children need to see that when adults do lose control, that they have strategies to deal with it. They need to see the use of appropriate strategies to deal with emotions. This is vital, as children will often mimic what they see and hear. The Pandemic has made this virtue most challenging for many as conditions of high stress directly affects self-control. Children will sense the stress of the adults around them. As they have the least skills and strategies for self-control, this makes their ability to show it that much more difficult.

According to Michele Borba, self-control must be developed, inspired and encouraged. Poorly developed self-control puts people at a huge moral disadvantage. She describes self-control as the moral muscle that temporarily stops potentially hurtful words and actions. She emphasises that the best way for children to learn self-control is through watching others. Self-control is what helps a child modulate or restrain their behavioural impulses so that they really learn what it means to be morally right in the heart and mind. Children with good self-control know that their choices control their behaviour, not the other way around.

Borba lists the following as indicators a child has healthy self-control. Take the test.

5 = always 4 = frequently 3 = sometimes 2 = rarely 1 = never

1. Rarely interrupts or blurts out
2. Is able to manage impulses and urges without adult help
3. Easily calms down when excited, frustrated, or angry
4. Rarely blows up, has angry outbursts, or loses control quickly
5. Refrains from physical aggression, such as hitting, kicking, fighting, or pushing
6. Rarely acts without thinking or behaves recklessly
7. Has the ability to wait for something
8. Rarely needs reminders, coaxing, or reprimands to behave appropriately
9. Has little difficulty bouncing back from an upsetting or frustrating situation

Scores of 40-50 = the child is in great shape. Scores of 30-40 = the child would benefit from virtue enhancement. Scores of 20-30 shows signs of potential problems. A score of 10-20 reveals dangers and parents are encouraged to consider getting help to increase this essential virtue for their child. There is no shame in the latter. We don't know what we don't know.

Borba offers 3 steps to building self-control.

1. Model self-control and make it a priority for your child - how well are you modeling this - reflect.
2. Encourage your child to be their own motivator - to reinforce in themselves a job well done - praise and nurture self-reliance
3. Teach your child to control urges and think before acting. Often this takes teaching, learning language so kids can identify feelings.

All of these tips and more can be found in the book, [Building Moral Intelligence: The Seven Essential Virtues That Teach Kids to Do the Right Thing](#).

The theme for the month of October is Respect. This virtue will be highlighted throughout other newsletters this month. A way you can help is to review the Matrix in the planner with your child throughout each month, focusing on the themes already covered and the new themes each month.

Meet Effie - Lynn

Effie-Lynn Peigi is a 2 year old springer spaniel and enrolled in level four therapy dog training. Effie-lynn likes to cuddle, play with her stuffed toys and go for walks. Effie does shed when being petted. Her fur removes easily with lint roller.

Effie belongs to Ms. MacDonald, our school Counselor who is onsite every Wednesday and alternating Friday. We are hoping Effie will be joining her onsite starting next week.

Schools are expected to inform parents when a Therapy dog is being considered for the school and give parents the opportunity to give feedback and voice any concerns. **Please let us know if your child has any dog related allergies or fears, or if you have any concerns with having a Therapy dog onsite.**

Our school has had Therapy dogs in the past. We have been able to work around allergy issues with parents.

Effie, will primarily reside in the office area, where Ms. MacDonald works from. She will be outside on breaks and may visit classrooms as needed. Effie will not be near children during eating times.

Therapy dogs are a valuable resource for students and staff. There is nothing like a dog to help regulate the unregulated and bring a smile when that is hard.

When Effie is onsite, there will be a notice at the main doors to indicate she is here.

Acknowledging Indigenous Ancestry

Recently, in our start up package a form went home giving parents the opportunity to self-declare Indigenous Ancestry for their child.

This is a yearly opportunity. As well, the forms need to be completed each year. Currently the number of forms returned does not match the number of Indigenous students we know we have.

If you are able to return this form at your earliest convenience, that would be great. If you have any questions, please contact our Indigenous Education Worker, Victoria Gould, or Mrs. Bryce.

Extra forms are available should you need.

This self-declaration does help support Indigenous learning and activities throughout the year for the school, for all students.



Did You Know? Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

Did you know, in the 95 Calls to Action, ___ are specific to education? As with all the 94 Calls to Action, these are actions all governments, courts, businesses, schools, and people living in Canada can do to help understand the past and present so that history does not repeat itself.

Calls to Action: About Education

6. We call on Canada to change the law that says it is ok for teachers and parents to hurt kids when they are not following the rules.

7. We call on Canada to work with Aboriginal people to make sure that all kids in Canada are getting a fair education and chances for jobs.

8. We call on Canada to give schools that teach First Nations kids enough money for those schools to give a fair education.

9. We call on Canada to tell us how much money they give to schools that teach First Nations kids and if Aboriginal kids are getting a fair education.

10. We call on Canada to make a law with Aboriginal people to make sure education for aboriginal kids respects culture and language.

11. We call on Canada to help First Nations students to go to College or university.

12. We call on all governments in Canada to make sure there is daycare for Aboriginal kids that respects Aboriginal ways of life.

Source: Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada - First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. www.fncaringsociety.com

