

September 17, 2021

Newsletter # 1

We Are Nut Aware!

We Are Scent Aware!

EDGEWOOD NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Sept. 20th
Federal Election

Friday, Sept. 24th
Non-Instructional Day
No school for students

Monday, Sept. 27th
Grade 6 Immunizations

Thursday, Sept. 30th
National Day of Truth and
Recognition
School Closed

TBA
Terry Fox Run

Monday, Oct. 4th
Monthly Assembly 8:45

Monday, Oct. 11th
Thanksgiving
School Closed

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

Friday, Nov. 4th
Monthly Assembly
8:45

Thursday, Nov. 11th
Remembrance Day

Friday, Nov. 26th
Non-Instructional Day

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

PAC Spirit Wear Order
Information will be coming
from PAC

Office Hours

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

[September Start Up Information](#)
[Included With This Newsletter!](#)

Principal's Message

Dear Edgewood Parents,

Hadih! We are back together, and it feels GREAT! We recognize the world is still in a Pandemic which requires important protocols for everyone's health and safety. We are grateful some previous restrictions from last year have eased, but we are still mindful of what we need to do to be safe, kind and respectful. We have said from the beginning of the Pandemic, we are stronger together. This is most important now more than ever.

We would like to welcome **new to the staff** team this year, Ms. Lutz, grade K/1, Mr. Mansell, grade 4/5, Mrs. Braraten, grade 1/2 (teaching with Mrs. Krauskopf), Ms. MacDonald, Counsellor. We would like to welcome Ms. Dmitrasinovic who is teaching K/1 as we start the year and Ms. Peters who is teaching English Language Learning (ELL) to start the year.

Our **custodian**, Mrs. Graham worked very hard over the summer to make sure our school was clean and ready for the start of this new school year. We thank her for all the hard work put into making our school beautiful and safe. We will miss not having her onsite with us during the day and are very much appreciative of her dedication to cleaning and sanitizing our school daily.

We currently have 205 students **enrolled**. Our classes are very full. We have worked very hard as a team to build classes that will be positive learning environments for all students. There are a lot of factors that need to be taken into account when creating classes including a number of students in a grade, gender balance, learning needs, social considerations, peer relations, etc. Combined classes (aka split grades) often result due to numbers, but also for the reasons mentioned above. There are many "myths about splits". Please know, your child's learning needs will be met in whatever class and grade combination they are in. This is a Ministry and District mandate we are committed to meeting. **Please know, things could still change** with our school organization (class placement and grade configurations). This is the case in all schools in the District.

Communication between home and school plays an important role in your child's success with their learning. Students will have a planner that you are encouraged to look at daily to help stay informed of your child's learning as well as any up and coming events and activities. Having your child be responsible for showing you their planner teaches them ownership and value of the planner as well. These planners are integral in communication and help teach students organization skills and responsibility. As the planner is highly valued, this year our PAC has once again sponsored the purchase of planners for all students. Thank-you PAC!

This will be the only newsletter you will receive in paper form unless you request otherwise. The school is `` **green** `` with its **bi-weekly newsletters**. Please ensure we have all necessary and correct emails so that our newsletter makes it into your inbox. The email sender is sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca. **Please DO NOT reply to this email**. It is used for sending the newsletter only. Ms. Blanchard's email is rblanchard@sd57.bc.ca. You can also find the newsletter on our website. Please let the office, or your child's teacher know, if you want a paper copy sent home with your child. We are happy to accommodate.

We look forward to a **SOARING** great year ahead! Students are so excited to be back. Our school community was strong before COVID. We are even stronger now. I feel privileged to lead our eagles along side a staff that is second to none, and along side a parent community like no other. For me it's year 5! Whoo-hooo! Let's do this! Here's to an amazing year together.



Edgewood Eagles
SOAR
Safety, Ownership,
Achievement, Respect

Theme of the Month

Safety
 (= Self-Control)

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
 2:27-2:42

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
 @ edgewoodelementarypp

Health and Safety Need to Knows:

Student Drop-Off and Parking
Important Reminders

Craig Drive and the surrounding area is a school zone. By law, drivers **MUST** abide by the **speed zone**. Please adhere to this signage for the health and safety of our students. **You will notice** there are 4 cross walks at the end of Craig to help students and families access the school yard safely when on foot or bike. Please review proper road rules for this with your child. Students must use the sidewalk to access the school. A good resource to help you work with your child about road safety can be found on the ICBC website. The **bus and daycare drop offs** are in front of the school in the morning and afternoon. You will see painted lines and orange cones where the busses will park. Please, no cars are to use the bus lane to drop students off between 8-8:45 am and 2-2:45 pm. **Please drop off and pick up students** along the sidewalks on Craig Road, and preferably not the parking lot, so that students can have safer access to cross walks and the school grounds. The parking lot is available for special needs requirements. **Please, please**, ensure your child is using the **designated crosswalks and sidewalks** when being dropped off. **Please, please** drive with care and be aware of our students at all times of day. **Please, please** be good role models for your children so they can develop positive and lasting road safety habits. **Parent parking** is on the right side of the parking lot when you enter. You will notice we have **two designated special needs'** parking spots. It is very important that these spots are reserved for those drivers with special needs and parents of students with special needs who need to access the building. It is not meant to be a parking spot for someone with a decal who is just waiting for their child. Thank you for this important understanding.

Current Supervision for 2021/2022

Regular Morning Supervision – 8:15-8:30
After School Supervision – 2:27-2:42

Parents and families can help avoid congestion outside by ensuring proper, physical distancing is being practiced. This helps model for our students the importance of this practice. Masking is not required but encouraged when proper distancing can not occur. Again, we are the models for our children. Let's model the right behaviour.

School-Wide Expectations

Please take the time to go over the pages in the front of the planner with your child. Here, the expectations for student behaviour are outlined along with other important details about the daily running of our school. By doing so, this helps keep all of us on the same page with regards to general expectations at school. With everyone working together, Edgewood can be a safe and respectful place to learn and work.

Medical Alerts

Please inform the school of any emergent medical issues regarding your child **ASAP**.

District Safety Procedures

We are now in year five of the School District's **Emergency Procedures**. Please review the orange letter coming home in our start up package along with this newsletter. It contains all the language and procedures every District school will be using and following. At Edgewood, we take the safety of students very seriously. We will practice these safety procedures with regular drills throughout the year. Practicing such drills can be stressful, especially for our youngest and most sensitive children. We encourage you to help at home by discussing procedures and experiences of these drills with your child. Schools are also required to practice 6 Fire Drills in a school year, 3 in the fall and 3 in the spring. We will let you know in advance of when these drills will occur.

Important Bussing Update!

Diversified Transportation has the District contract for school busses. As mentioned in previous communication, there has been some changes to this year's routes. There was a bit of confusion last week, but things seem to have settled now. Seating plans are coming. These will be created collaboratively with bus drivers and Mrs. Bryce. The job of the bus driver is to ensure students are safe while they ride the bus. Appropriate conduct during these rides is the expectation of all riders. Drivers need to concentrate on driving, not on managing behaviour challenges.

More Health and Safety Need to Knows:

Daily Health Checks

Please continue to do daily health checks are being done at home prior to arrival at school. It is **VERY important** that a daily health screening is done by parents before sending children to school. Staff have the same expectation. Any visitor entering the school is also expected to complete one. To keep everyone safe, **we all must be diligent and do our part.** There are convenient Apps available through the Ministry of Health and the Center for Disease Control.

Fire Drills

Each school is required to have 6 Fire Drill practices per year. A fire can happen at any time, and we want to be prepared. This year at Edgewood, we will practice Fire Drills at all times of the day and during all seasons. During a drill, students exit the building quickly and quietly, led by their teacher. Students are expected to follow all adult instructions, be orderly and take the practices seriously. We had our first drill this past week. It went very smoothly. Ask your child in grade 1-7 how the experience was for them.

Theme Of the Month: Safety

This seems rather fitting as we continue to live in a pandemic. Students' understanding of "bubble space", "physical distancing", and "hands to self" continues to be of the utmost importance. Our approach at school is with a learning mindset. Supporting students to correct their behaviour will be done in kind and respectful ways. We ask the same of our students, and this is where they will need our help. Please have conversations, or even role plays with your child on what the above things need to look like and not look like as well as how to kindly and respectfully communicate with their peers should they be uncomfortable.

Parent/Adult Visitors to the School

This year's Communicable Disease Plan (former the COVID Safety Plan) of our District and Province has eased the restriction of school doors being locked. Visitors are welcome. As we are a small school with over 230 staff and students, areas can get congested easily. We ask visitors to please continue to call ahead and utilize our main entrance doorbell. (The white one on whiteboard outside the main door.) We prefer to meet and greet you. We like to be friendly. 😊 The hallways can be busy at all times of day. We know both adults and students have different comfort levels in crowds. We want to be respectful of that. Thus, we prefer to greet you at the door.

We are asking that students and families **try to reduce the need** to bring "forgotten items" by working together to have everything ready at home before the next school day. This is an important life skill when not in a Pandemic. It is expected that students will bring their **snack, lunch and water bottle daily**. **Birthday treats for classes** and special occasion treats need to be pre-packaged, and preferably individually packaged for now. Please let your child's teacher know if you would prefer them to not have a shared treat as described above.

Thank-you for helping us stay safe and comfortable at school.!

Edgewood Teaching Staff for 2021/22

Mrs. F. Anderson Grade K/1 (Ms. Dmitrasinovic currently)
Ms. K. Anderson Grade K/1
Mrs. T. Krauskopf Grade 1/2 with Mrs. Braraten
Mrs. S. Mann Grade 2/3
Mrs. C. Branigan Grade 3/4
Mrs. G. Mansell Grade 4/5
Mrs. K. Zogas Grade 4/5
Mrs. N. Gabriel Grade 6/7
Mr. L. Geisler Grade 6/7
Ms. Peters ELL(English Language Learning and Support)
Mrs. Hedley PHE and Music Prep
Mr. R. Hooker Support Teacher
Ms. Hall Learning Commons (library)/Learning Assistance
Ms. MacDonald Counsellor

Edgewood Support Staff for 2020/2021

Secretary, Ms. Blanchard Custodian, Mrs. Graham
Educational Assistants and Supervisors
Mrs. Solmonson, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Buehler,
Mrs. Morris
YCW, Mrs. Turner IEW, Ms. Gould
Youth Care Worker Indigenous Education Worker

School Start Up Information Package

This year we will once again provide a school start-up package of information with this first printed newsletter for parents. In the package, you will find many necessary forms requiring signature and other beginning of the year "need to knows" to help us all get off to a great start.

Please take the time to review the forms that need signatures and return these with your child to their teacher at your earliest convenience.

This was well received last year. The information will help families stay informed and organized during this very busy time of year.

Teachers may have additional requests for school supplies or their own classroom specific information for you. Please check your child's backpack and planner daily for such items.

2020/21 Current Bell Schedule

8:25 warning bell
8:30 morning begins
10:20 recess begins
10:35 recess ends
11:50 lunch begins
12:35 lunch ends
2:27 day ends

Please Note:

To help reduce congestion inside and out, we are doing a "flipped" lunch

11:50 – 12:13
Divisions 6,7,8,9 play
Divisions 1,2,3,4,5 eat

12:13-12:35
Divisions 6,7,8,9 eat
Division 1,2,3,4,5 play

August Birthdays

We would like to wish everyone celebrating a birthday in August a belated happy birthday

Daxton D., Hudson R., Evy C., Thomas C, Allie Y., Natalie W., Heatley C., Jayden H., Tamia H., Kailey S., Jaxen B., Logan B., Lila B., William W., Micaiah K., Roger J., Owen M., Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Mann

Students and staff having birthdays will be recognized at our monthly assemblies and receive a special birthday pencil.



September Birthdays

We would like to wish everyone celebrating a birthday in September a very happy birthday

Adelynn M., Leela W., Ethan D., Jason F., Alex S., Ryah D., Ava M., Carter H., Kaya M., Kaden K., Violet M., Khloe S., Connor D., Emma A., Zion H., Mrs. Graham, Ms. Blanchard

Students and staff having birthdays will be recognized at our monthly assemblies and receive a special birthday pencil.

Learning Groups, Lunch Play, Recess, Masks, and More

As stated in the Ministry and District protocols, learning groups are not required this year. Many of our older students have asked about "Big/Little Buddies" as this has been a big part of our community building at Edgewood. Again, we want to be mindful of the fact we are still in a Pandemic. We are not going to rush into everything all at one. The comfort of students and staff of such reintegration will be the driving force behind the return of such programs along with Ministry protocols. Baby steps!

Lunch Play

Zone restrictions are not in place at the moment for most of our students. Our youngest learners (K, grade 1) do have more play restrictions due to their age and size. They can be hard to see 😊. We allow as much space for their play as is safe to do so.

The only space restriction we currently have due to limited supervision at lunch and in the morning is the black top area. This area is closed until staffing situation changes. During class outside time, teachers are able to utilize this area if it fits with their programming.

Recess

Recess is back! It does look a little different this year. One important learning from last year was the importance of "time to stop and eat". Pre-COVID recess breaks often resulted in students eating on the fly, or sometimes not at all, in a rush to play. The focus on health and mental health that has resulted from this Pandemic has brought the importance of slowing down and taking more time for stillness. Our pilot project this year to have the 15 minute recess break be focused on nutrition allows students to take more time and focus on eating and hydrating their bodies. Less "hangry" students are happier students.

Masks

As we all know, facial masks are required for students in grades 4 to 7 and optional but encouraged for students in grades k-3. Having reusable masks labelled is very helpful. Ensuring these are washed regularly is a healthy practice. The school does have disposable masks available should students forget theirs or are in need. This year, unlike last year, students will not receive a reusable masks from the school.

Hygiene

Hand hygiene continues to occur regularly throughout the day, especially before and after eating and after using the washroom. Reviewing this at home along with proper coughing and sneezing practice is very helpful. With practice, these will become good habits.

Communication

We will continue with our bi-weekly newsletters as a means of communication. We will also provide weekly email updates as needed, keep our website updated, and use our school Facebook to keep you in the loop. It is recognized the amount of information and communication can feel, at times, overwhelming. The District website will have the most recent and timely updates for our District.

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, deer during the day. Should this occur, we will monitor the situation carefully. Should we need to, 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 for students to get to the nearest door to come into the building immediately. Students were informed of this emergency procedure at this week's assembly. If you see wildlife in the neighbourhood, please let us and Conservation Officers know. We have had reports as recent as this week regarding bears in the area. If you see wildlife in the area during school hours, please inform the school so we can take precautionary measures to keep students safe.

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program & Milk

Thanks to dedicated PAC parent, Mrs. Berg, Edgewood is once again part of the BC Agriculture in the Classroom program. A negative response letter is included in this start up package. Parents are asked to only send this back if you do not want your child to participate in the program, or, if your child had allergies that we needed to be aware of. If we do 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 a delivery of fresh milk along with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack. Mrs. Berg and her team prepare the snack for students to enjoy. Milk is provided free of charge for students in grades K to 5. We will share this with our older grade 6/7 students when possible.

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.