



# Whonnock Elementary

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Principal: Mr. Stuart Richardson T: 604 462 7612

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## Message from the Principal:

### Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe September 2020 is over already and we're into the Thanksgiving/Hallowe'en/Fall season. It's been a month of many unknowns and even more questions but I'm pleased to report that things are now humming along nicely at school and we're all settling into our routines, albeit with lots of COVID adjustments. On that note I want to assure you all that our staff and students are following all Ministry of Education and Fraser Health guidelines carefully and have adjusted to the 8 or 9 handwashings among other things very well.

A few reminders for parents to review with your children if you don't mind:

- We would like to request that the few students who climb the concrete school sign, electrical box, and tree at the front of the school refrain from doing it please.
- **Wednesday is Orange shirt** day in memory of the residential schools legacy so please have your child wear one and discuss the details of it if you wish.
- This Friday at 1:00 we will have our COVID style Terry Fox run. We'll have the primary students walk/run two laps while the intermediates will do three of the perimeter along the inside fence. Unfortunately parents and guardians can't cheer us on this time.
- We are hoping to still find a safe and appropriate way to celebrate Thanksgiving as our beloved (33 year history!) feast of soup, bannock, and pumpkin pie can't happen in the COVID world. Watch for details.
- We haven't heard about Hallowe'en options at school yet but expect that students will be able to dress up as usual on Friday, October 30.

Our staff had a productive day on Monday, learning about and trauma informed classrooms and social emotional wellness. It can't be overstated, but these times we're all living through can be particularly challenging for some families in many different ways and we are hoping that at school, we support you and our kids and don't cause any extra stress in your lives. Please feel free to reach out if you wish to discuss any aspects of our school or your child's education.

Respectfully,

Stuart Richardson 604 626 1772 srichardson@sd42.ca

## Upcoming Events

September 26

### September 30

Orange Shirt Day

### October 12

Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL

### October 23

Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL

### October 29

PAC Meeting

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**NOTE:** READ newsletter carefully and keep as a reference as there are numerous important school information items. Many of these items will not be repeated in future newsletters.

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## PORTAL News

**District consent forms** have been sent out through the portal. Please complete them ASAP. Remember to click on each individual form to complete and sign, this indicates to the district that you have read the forms. Please let us know if you have any issues getting into the portal to complete.

## Important School News

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY:** Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. **Wednesday, September 30<sup>TH</sup>**, Whonnock Elementary will be recognizing this event by wearing the color orange.



**Westcoast Recess:** We strive to have 'West Coast' Recess/lunches (students outside on rainy days); therefore, sending your child with boots, rain gear, hats, gloves, is necessary and appreciated. Please ensure your child has a pair of dry indoor shoes and an extra change of clothes –just in case your child falls and gets wet. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL CLOTHING & SHOES.** Thanks for your assistance.

**BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLE:** Students are reminded to bring their water bottles every day. The office cannot supply cups to students all year, please remember



**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE:** Please remember to practice social distancing on the school grounds when you are picking up and/or dropping off your child.

**PARKING** – Reminder to all parents/guardians that we have a kiss and go policy when dropping off students in the morning and picking up at the end of the day. There is **NO** stopping or parking in the round-about and **NO** parking in the staff parking lot. This creates too much congestion in the mornings and afternoons. Please be considerate of other families and staff coming and going at these times of days.

## At Whonnock we CARE

At Whonnock, we CARE about ourselves, each other and our school. We use our **Common Sense**, have a positive **Attitude**, **Respect** ourselves, others and the environment, and put forth our best **Effort**. We would like to thank the following students for demonstrating our Code of Conduct for the Month of September 2020.

### Division 3

Lenny  
Wyatt

### Division 4

Ronan  
Mackayla  
Gemma  
Raquel  
Kenzie

**STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS:** YELLOW student verification forms were sent home with all students this week. These forms are important for keeping student information and emergency contacts up to date. Please return to school as soon as possible.

**DAILY HEALTH CHECK:** Thank you for doing the daily health check each morning for your child(ren). We ask that you continue to do so as we try and get through this ‘different’ school year.

**STUDENT ABSENCES:** Thank you for remembering to phone in or mark your child’s absence on the parent portal when your child is going to be late or absent. We are also asking this year that where possible, you let us know the reason for your child’s absence. As you know, this year is a little different with attendance, so please keep us as informed as possible.



**VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS:** Due to the current Health Protocols put in place, there is limited access to the building. We ask that all parents/guardians call the office before entering the building. You are welcome to make an appointment to come in, but we will need to complete a health check for everyone that enters. We thank you for your patience and understanding with this change this year.

**LIBRARY NEWS:** Whonnock families, I am thrilled to be spending even more time with the wonderful students of Whonnock as their Teacher Librarian! Classes are beginning to visit the library to do book exchanges. If you have any books to return from the springtime, please bring them with you during your class visits to the library. Stay tuned for information throughout the year regarding literacy activities and challenges. I am looking forward to another exciting year at Whonnock!

Megan Emond  
Teacher Librarian



**P.A.C. Meetings:** Our P.A.C. meetings are held once a month. This is your opportunity to find out what’s happening at the school, meet other parents, address any concerns regarding the school community and, if you choose, participate in our fundraising activities by volunteering. Everyone is always welcome. We look forward to meeting you.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 29, 2020

**P.A.C. FUNDRAISERS:** We acknowledge there are several items we will ask you to fundraise/donate to throughout the year. All support is greatly appreciated, but don’t feel obligated to participate in every fundraiser.

<b>Tanya Grange – President</b>	<b>Lisa Groeneveld – Vice President</b>
<b>Amy Bontron – Secretary</b>	<b>Beeuwke Dangerfield – Treasurer</b>

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# I ♥ TRANSIT

## October 5–9, 2020

Take learning beyond the classroom with I Love Transit! We're back for our 11th year with three opportunities for Metro Vancouver kids and teachers to share their creativity and learn about their transit system:

### 1. K-12 Students Ride the Bus for Free, October 5–9

*Tip:* Beat the rush by riding the bus during off-peak hours, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Note: SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express travel are not included. Regular fares apply to adults accompanying students on the system.

### 2. Win a Visit from a TransLink Bus

Have transit come to you! We'll visit your school with a bus where kids will discover how to ride transit in a safe and fun way. Plus, learn how TransLink moves half a million people a day across Canada's largest transit service area.

### 3. Win Transit Passes for Your Class

Enter to win DayPasses for up to 35 students in your class to take transit for free on any day of their choice.\* A DayPass provides unlimited transit use on all buses, SkyTrain and SeaBus for one day.

To purchase tickets for your entire class, please send an email request to [bulkorders@translink.ca](mailto:bulkorders@translink.ca).

**HURRY! CONTESTS CLOSE ON OCTOBER 13, 2020**

**\*To enter and for more information, including contest rules and eligibility restrictions, visit [translink.ca/ilovetransit](https://translink.ca/ilovetransit)**

#### What is I Love Transit?

TransLink's I Love Transit is a week-long celebration of its customers and all things we love about transit.

It takes place each year during the first full week of October.

**#ILoveTransit**

