



OPPENHEIMER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new students and families! The first month of the new school year is behind us and we hope you are all having a great start at school.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Friday was Orange Shirt Day and we were proud to be a bright sea of orange on the playground. All of our classes embraced unity and recognized the national day for Truth and Reconciliation by remembering together on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm| Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh| Squamish & səliwətəł |Tseil-Waututh Nations.

The orange shirt, a powerful symbol, represents the experiences of Indigenous children who were taken from their families and communities. It stands for the acknowledgment of the harm that was done and the collective commitment to healing and reconciliation. We wear orange at the end of September to demonstrate our solidarity and to show that we are actively working towards a better, more inclusive future for all learners. It is crucial that we engage in open conversations with our children about the significance of this day and together teach them the values of equity, understanding, recognizing wrongs, and acceptance. By nurturing empathy and compassion in the hearts of our young ones, we are sowing the seeds of a future built on equity, acknowledgment, and respect.



SCHOOL UPDATES

At the end of this first month, our enrolment has settled down to 425 students. We have welcomed 15 new students to Oppenheimer this fall, 58 kindergarteners, and are looking forward to getting to know them and their families over the coming months. Classes are set, and students have settled well into new routines and friendships, including getting to know their teachers.

We have a number of new staff and students. We have teachers teaching combined grade classes, and some teachers who have changed grade levels (Ms. Lopez is now teaching 1/2, Ms. Patel is teaching Gr. 6/7). Please welcome our newest staff members to the Oppenheimer family:

TEACHING:

Jessica Wilkes – Kindergarten - Division 17

Tiffany Nguyen – Resource (Th/F)

Mannu Basra – Grade 2/3

Jesseca Eng – Vice Principal, Grade 4, Resource

Kiki Jiang- Grade 2, Welcome Back!

Mona Francis- DRT Literacy

NON-TEACHING:

Suki Kaur – Evening Engineer

Carolyn Morgan-Chan – School and Student support (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

All staff names and classes are posted on the Oppenheimer website. Thank you to our new VP Jesseca Eng for updating the school information for us!

Thank you to staff who are leaving us - Charlene Myers (student support) and Chloe Sinclair (Grade 2/3) who is making a big move across the pond to England.

Thank you to PAC for working hard behind the scenes to start up our PAC hot lunch program and assisting us with hot dogs and serving at our Welcome Back Barbeque! We are looking forward to working with you to make this the most successful year yet for fundraising and all the other ways you support our school.

We are now looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year ahead and to working with our students as they explore curriculum and new learning experiences. We are excited to see where this year of changes and new opportunities will take us. Stay tuned for more information on how our students will explore, create, and dive into new learning and experiences in the months to come. GO ORCAS!

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to seeing all families October 25th and 26th for goal setting conferences as well as other opportunities to connect with us at school this term.



OPPENHEIMER'S SHAPE OF THE DAY

Bell Schedule

As some parents have been asking about the daily bell schedule here are some clarifications for you. The bell schedule remains the same as last year with staff members on supervision beginning at 8:40 a.m., a warning bell at 8:55 a.m., and a 9 a.m. start bell. Recess has changed from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. and lunch is from 12:10 – 12:57 p.m. Our dismissal bell rings at 3:03 p.m. and after-school supervision is available outside until 3:20 p.m.

Lunch and Lunch Monitors

We have one K and one Gr. 6 class eating in the lunchroom/activity room with supervision. The rest of our classes are eating in their classrooms from 12:10 – 12:30 p.m. We have a lunch monitor program for Gr 7's supporting our primary classes and support staff to assist us with supervision while the students are eating. At 12:30 p.m. a bell rings for outside play. Students play outside until 12:57 p.m.

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| 8:40 a.m. | Outside supervision begins, students wait outside until their teachers pick up their class |
| 8:55 a.m. | Warning Bell |
| 9:00-10:30 a.m. | Instructional Time |
| 10:30-10:50 a.m. | Recess |
| 10:50-12:10 p.m. | Instructional Time |
| 12:10-12:57 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:57-3:03 p.m. | Instructional time |
| 3:03 p.m. | Students Dismissed |
| 3:20 p.m. | Outside supervision ends, students head home or wait in the office to be picked up |

Enhanced Services

As a VSB Tier 3 enhanced services school, Oppenheimer receives a few extra resources around food and programming from our District Community Schools Team. This includes our subsidized Food for School's lunch program, after-school programs that are free or discounted like Young Rembrandts and Game On, and later on, we will have Arts Umbrella. Please stay tuned as classes will be chosen by lottery to participate in our October and June sessions for Arts Umbrella.

Enhancement resources include our service from Brenda Hobbs, the youth and family worker. She sponsors after-school programs and has a 'Snacks for Kids' program running out of her office at school each day. She provides supplemental snacks to kids who may need that bit of extra food or nutrition or may have forgotten their snacks. Ms. Hobbs also supports the school with friendship groups, programs around anxiety and social skills, and social-emotional learning. If you have any questions or inquiries about food or other programs that Brenda runs, feel free to reach out to her via email at bhobbs@vsb.bc.ca.

A new addition to our team includes our Literacy Enhancement teacher, Mona Francis joining us two days per week. She comes to us from District Learning Services and provides support to teachers to enrich their literacy programs and to reach vulnerable learners. She shares resources, and assessments, and teaches alongside teachers to help enhance and boost the literacy experiences of the kids in our school.

Safety Patrol

As our neighbourhood crosswalks are getting busier, we are seeing an increase in students walking and crossing at intersections around Oppenheimer. Currently, we do have a rapid flashing beacon to help students cross the intersection at Muirfield and Scarboro. This location has become a very busy intersection in the mornings and as students leave the building to meet parents or walk/bike home to the river district. In order to increase visibility and safety at the intersection, we would like to add a safety patrol for students who are interested in helping us with cross-walk duty. For all interested Grade 6 and 7 students, we will be sending a notice home this week. This is a chance for them to participate in school service in a planned, trained, and proactive manner to keep our intersections orderly and safe. Please sign and return the forms to school by October 13th so we can schedule safety patrol training as soon as possible. In addition here are some tips on the VSB website around safe travel to and from school for students and parents to follow when walking or driving around our school zones.

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5043/traffic-safety>





HEALTH & HOUSE KEEPING FOR PARENTS

Absences and Safe Arrival

Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is important if your child is to gain full benefit from the school program. Parents should email or call Safe Arrival as soon as they know their child will be absent or late (prior to 9 a.m.) and provide the following details:

- Child's first and last name (please spell last name)
- Division and Teacher
- Reason for Absence (Date & Length of Absence)
- Late (Please give the anticipated arrival time)

To report your child's absence:

Safe Arrival #: 604-713-5159 ext. 62

OR

Email: OPPattendance@vsb.bc.ca

If we do not hear from you, we will email or call home to ensure your child's safety. If your child arrives at school late, please have him or her sign in at the office so we do not have to bother you at home or at work.

Leaving Early

If you will be picking up your child early, please let the Teacher know in advance if possible. When you arrive, please pick up your child at the main office so that we are aware and can facilitate a safe handover. Please notify our OAA, Debbie, or another staff member so they can ensure that your child is accounted for in the case of an emergency.

Sick Students

For the protection of your child and other children, please keep your children at home if they show signs of illness. Please keep your child home until they are no longer infectious and are feeling rested and well. Let our office administrator Debbie know of your child's absence.

If students show signs of being unwell at school, parents will be contacted to bring them home as soon as possible.

All information pertaining to our current Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, including current measures can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5011/communicable-disease-prevention-plan>

Medical Alerts

We will soon be updating our medical alert information at the office. If you are a new parent with a child who has a medical alert or a returning family with a child who has recently developed a medical condition, please contact the school office so that we can update our information and ensure we have all the necessary paperwork. Medical alerts are typically those with a life-threatening diagnosis such as an anaphylaxis allergy or asthma, for example. Any other medical concerns can be shared with the classroom teacher, and you will then be directed to the office to complete paperwork if necessary.

Student Forms

Student forms are now ONLINE! Please go to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> if you have not yet completed your child's forms for this school year. These include CASL, External Media Consent, VSB Media Consent, and Neighbourhood Walk.

The yellow Emergency Reunification and grey Student Verification forms have been sent home as paper copies. Please complete the return to your child's teacher.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>2 <i>Day in lieu of Truth and Reconciliation (NO SCHOOL)</i></p> | <p>3 8:20-8:45 Cross Country Practice 12:10 Glee Club</p> | <p>4 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A) 3:30-4:30 Cross Country Meet (Champlain Elem)</p> | <p>5 <i>World Teacher's Day</i> 8:20-8:45 Cross Country Practice 6:30-8:30 pm SVFP Evening Parent Presentation (Opp Library)</p> | <p>6 PAC LUNCH: Papa John's 9:00 Individual Photo Day 1:30 Assembly 2:00 Terry Fox Run</p> |
| <p>9 <i>Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)</i></p> | <p>10 8:20-8:45 Cross Country Practice 12:10 Glee Club</p> | <p>11 PAC LUNCH: Bittersweet 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A) 3:30-4:30 Cross Country Meet (Champlain Elem)</p> | <p>12 8:20-8:45 Cross Country Practice</p> | <p>13 PAC LUNCH: Papa John's</p> |
| <p>16 PAC LUNCH: Sushi</p> | <p>17 12:10 Glee Club 8:20-8:45 Cross Country Practice</p> | <p>18 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)</p> | <p>19 1:00-3:00 Cross Country District Meet (Trout Lake)</p> | <p>20 <i>Professional Day (NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS)</i></p> |
| <p>23</p> | <p>24 12:10 Glee Club</p> | <p>25 PAC LUNCH: Kernels Popcorn <i>Goal Setting Confer. EARLY DISMISSAL 2PM</i> 12:10 Student Council 2:05-3:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)</p> | <p>26 <i>Goal Setting Confer. EARLY DISMISSAL 2PM</i></p> | <p>27</p> |
| <p>30 PAC LUNCH: Sushi</p> | <p>31 <i>Halloween</i> 12:10 Glee Club</p> | <p>1 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> |

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT FLYERS

Please see attached for: Soccer Dogs, UBC Study, and SVFP Presentation