SEPTEMBER NEWS

September 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to our split grade 1/2 class at Vedder Elementary School! Thank you for your patience this week as we waited for classes to be set-up. We would like to officially welcome your child to our classroom! We are excited to work with them this year. This class will be shared by two experienced primary teachers- Mrs. Guthrie (Mon, Tues, alternate Wed), and Mrs. Parker (alternate Wed, Thurs, Fri). This is the second year that Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Guthrie have shared a class together. Last year they shared a class at Little Mountain Elementary, and they are looking forward to sharing at Vedder Elementary this year.

Mrs. Parker is beginning her 15th year teaching in the Chilliwack School District! She received her degree from UFV and her teaching certification from SFU. She has also completed a master’s degree in Educational Leadership through City University of Seattle. Her teaching experience includes all levels of elementary education from kindergarten to grade 6, including 9 years of grade 1/2 and 4 years of grade one summer school. Her favorite hobbies are playing team sports and family bike rides. She lives in Chilliwack with Mr. Parker and their two daughters- Alison (4) and Kennedy (2).

Mrs. Guthrie is beginning her 16th year teaching in the Chilliwack School District! This is her first year teaching at Vedder Elementary. She taught at Little Mountain for 9 years, and previous to that she taught at the middle school level. She is very excited to job-share with Mrs. Parker again! Mrs. Guthrie thinks it is especially fun to share with Mrs. Parker because when they were elemetary age students, they used to perform piano duets together during their private lessons. They have known each other for a long time! Mrs. Guthrie’s favourite hobby is competitive running. She lives in Chilliwack with Mr. Guthrie and their two children – Quinten (10) and Arlie (8).

**Vedder Elementary is a nut-aware school. Several students have severe nut allergies and cannot have any interaction with nut products. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to keep all students safe by not sending nut products to school. Please check for “nut-free” labels before sending snacks to school.**

The bell schedule for Vedder Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year is:

7:52am-8:07am supervision begins

8:04am- warning bell (line up at classrooms)

8:07am- classes begin

9:20am-9:35am recess

11:25pm-12:10pm lunch

2:00pm- dismissal

2:00pm-2:15pm after school supervision

Vedder Elementary is a ‘closed campus.’ In order to maintain a safe school environment, all visitors are asked to use the front office door, sign in/out at the office, and wear a red ‘visitor’ badge. Supervision is provided in the morning beginning at 7:52am so students can play on the playground until the bell rings. All students will line up at our outside classroom door (room 148, facing the front parking lot) in the morning, at recess, at lunch, and after school. If it’s raining there will be an announcement for students to come into the school early. Please pickup/drop-off your child at our outside classroom door or let us know if other arrangements are being made (daycare, bus #, care-giver, walking, or other).

School supplies have been provided for all grade 1/2 students at a cost of $40.00. Please send cash or cheque (payable to Vedder Elementary School) the second week of school. Please let us know if you have already paid at the office. Grade 1/2 students have also been provided with a school planner. Planners are used daily in the classroom and contain important information regarding fieldtrips, school work and school events. Please sign your child’s planner and return it to school each day. Planners are a great way for both teachers and parents to communicate – feel free to include any comments or questions and we will do the same.

Breakfast is important for healthy brain function. Please send breakfast with your child if they won’t eat it at home; they can eat breakfast at the breakfast program before school if needed. Healthy lunches and snacks would also be greatly appreciated. Please avoid sending the following items to school: pop, powerade, gatorade, and candy/treats to share with friends. Microwaves are not available for student use. If your child forgets their lunch or snack, we will help them call home. There is a “bowls of hope” school lunch program available for those students who need a lunch.

Sharing occurs daily in our classroom. Each child has a scheduled sharing day (once a month); please see attached calendar. Sharing is a great way for students to practice oral language skills in front of an audience. Sharing items must fit in the students backpack. Please do not bring live animals. Clues are needed so the class can guess what they have brought. Please help your child write 3 or 4 clues so they are prepared on their sharing day. We can help them read the clues. There will be a “free sharing” day (see calendar) for anyone who missed their monthly sharing time.

Each student in the class will get the opportunity to be the classroom SUPERSTAR (special helper) for the day, several times through the school year. SUPERSTARS get to do all the calendar jobs and help the teacher for the day. We will rotate through the class list each day. If your child is away and misses their turn, they will have it when they return.

Scholastic Canada book order magazines will be sent home near the end of each month. If you wish to purchase any items from Scholastic Canada, please cut the order form off the magazine and return it with payment to the teacher on time- the due date will be printed on the front of the magazine. Orders will arrive sometime early the following month. If you are paying by cash, please include as few coins as possible. If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to Scholastic Canada. Cheques are the preferred method of payment. You can also pay by credit card if you order online at <http://www.scholastic.ca/>

There are many opportunities to volunteer in your child’s school and classroom. As a parent of a child attending Vedder Elementary School, you are automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and are invited to attend their monthly meetings to be involved in the planning and organizing of school events. There are also many opportunities to volunteer in your child’s classroom. Some of these opportunities occur on a regular basis and some are special opportunities, like fieldtrips. If volunteers are required for a special fieldtrip you will notice a note on your child’s permission form requesting volunteers. All school volunteers are required to complete a criminal record check which can be obtained from the office. Please pick one up if you are interested in volunteering at Vedder Elementary School.

You will be receiving many forms in the coming week. Please ask your child to show you what’s in their backpack and initial their planner each day. We have included a checklist of things to be completed.

* + Payment for school supplies- $40.00 (cash or chq- payable to Vedder Elementary School)
	+ “Getting to Know You” form- for all students in our classroom
	+ “Classroom Volunteer” form- for any parents interested in helping in our classroom
	+ Criminal record check- all volunteers do this at the office if you haven’t already; expire every 4 years
	+ Indoor athletic shoes (for gym); laces only if your child can tie
	+ check your email for “permission click” notices (walking fieldtrips, computer agreement)

All school information can be found on the school website: vedder.sd33.bc.ca. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding your child. You may call us at the school 604-858-4759, print a short note in your child’s planner, or email us (see below). We will post newsletters and classroom information (weekly sight words) on our classroom website: <https://guthrie-parker.weebly.com/>. We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nicola Parker (Nicola\_parker@sd33.bc.ca) & Mrs. Lana Guthrie (Lana\_guthrie@sd33.bc.ca)