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Discovery School News

September 8, 2015

Parent Paperwork / Important Dates

- Post-Dated Tuition Cheques Due by September 11th
- **Paperwork Past Due:** Conditions of Enrollment / Carpool Survey

Parent Paperwork Due On September 11th

- Certificate of Parental Authority for Regular School Journeys
- Emergency Release Form
- Student Medical Information / Emergency Release Form
- Waiver of Liability
- Parent Information / Input for IEP Development (ALL Grades)
- IEP Transition Plan—Parent Form (Grades 9—12 ONLY)
- Fundraising / Volunteer List
- Volunteer / Volunteer Driver Information Form with Copy of Insurance **
 ** *Optional Volunteer Criminal Record Check Form*
- Discovery School Science Lab / Safety Contract / Agreement (Grades 8—12 ONLY)
- Expectations for Students Using Electronic Communication Systems
- Emergency Comfort Pack and Tag
- Personal Information / Consent

DATES TO REMEMBER

Family BBQ	September 11th
Hot Lunch Form	September 14th
PRO – D DAY— SCHOOL CLOSED for Parent IEP meetings	SEPTEMBER 21st
Hot Lunch Day—Pizza & Future Career Day	September 24th
Terry Fox Run	September 30th
Annual General Meeting—AGM	September 30th
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED	OCTOBER 23rd

Dear Discovery Parents and Guardians:

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our parent meet and greet this morning. On behalf of the staff and Board, I welcome both new and returning families to Discovery! We look forward to a great year for everyone! We hope to establish positive relationships with all our Discovery community members, so if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to pass them on to any staff member or myself.

For those of you unable to share in our coffee morning, let me share with you that we have had many upgrades to our building over the summer ranging from flooring upgrades to gym and playground repairs. Many thanks to the parents who have volunteered and shared their expertise this summer, especially Barry DeBlois, who has practically lived here during the month of August! Another big change to our school this year is due to our ever-popular graduation program. Our school now has a new Division 8 homeroom to accommodate the growth in the upper grades!

We hope to keep you all well-informed of our school events through our emailed newsletters. If your email has changed over the summer, please call Mrs. Hamilton in the office. 250-595-7765

TAX INFORMATION

We remind everyone to save any receipts pertaining to their child's learning needs. Around tax time, discuss tax credits with your tax advisor in relationship to your child's needs and tuition.

Reminders & Guidelines

ALLERGIES



We are requesting students refrain from bringing any food to school that contains nuts (including peanut butter). There are several children and adults at Discovery, who have severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts, walnuts, and various other nuts. Although we can't guarantee an "allergy-free" environment, we hope to develop an "allergy-safe" school by creating a nut-free environment. The following precautions have been put in place, and we ask that you support us in our endeavours:

- Discourage children from sharing food, knives, forks, spoons, cups, drinks, or straws.
- Encourage students to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Students who inadvertently bring peanuts or peanut products are asked to return the item to their lunch kit unopened and to immediately inform the teacher, who will give further instructions after reviewing the lunch options.

Please encourage your child to support our efforts to make classrooms as safe as possible for those with life-threatening allergies or medical concerns. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to ensure the safety of all our students.



For similar reasons we aim to be a scent free environment. Anyone arriving at school with heavy scents, will be asked to wash, or return home to shower as needed.

ARRIVAL TIME

The school has one duty SEA providing outdoor supervision before school, from 8:30 — 9:00 am. As we now have several classes in session at 8:30 am, the hallways and classrooms must remain quiet. Unless students have earlier classes, they will not be permitted access to the inside of the building earlier than the morning start bell.

From 8:30 – 8:55 am there is a crossing guard on duty.

LATE ARRIVALS

Students arriving late must first report to the office to obtain a late slip, sign in, and then quietly enter the class so as not to interrupt classroom teaching. If lateness becomes a chronic issue, the student will be required to make up class assignments during prep time.

ABSENCES

We are requested annually by the auditor to submit our parent notes explaining each student's absences/lateness. Although we do request you to phone in when your child is ill / late etc. and the office records it, this does not satisfy the auditor. I know this may seem redundant, but we do need both a phone call and the note.

TRAFFIC

Please turn off your engines while waiting for your child, in order to keep car emissions to a minimum. To alleviate early morning and late afternoon traffic congestion, we ask that you park only in the designated parking slots or on the street along the portable side. We request you never block our neighbor's driveways and respond politely to requests they make of you. **Speed in and around the parking lot should be minimal at all times.**



We have a duty person at the front door after school. Their role is to stop young children from darting out amongst the cars. Please review with your child that they should not run out to your vehicle as soon as they see it arriving. They must wait until you are parked and either you walk to the front door to collect them, or the duty personnel tells them it is safe to cross to you. Please be aware that at the corner or Altamont Avenue parking is prohibited.



STUDENT DRIVERS

Along Altamont and Santa Rosa Avenues, there is very limited parking space for student vehicles. If student drivers are bringing vehicles to school, more space is available at Rosedale Park.

LUNCHES



We have school microwaves in each of the classrooms. It would be appreciated if the items brought are already in microwavable dishes and don't take more than 1 - 2 minutes to heat up, otherwise the line-ups become too long and students won't get a chance to eat before the outdoor bell rings. We do encourage healthy nutritional lunches - no candy or pop is allowed.

We also promote garbage free lunches. Your help in achieving this goal is greatly appreciated. Please send a zip lock in each lunch to house waste that may soil lunch bags and back packs.

Please note the school does not provide students with bowls, utensils, etc. Please help your child remember to pack these important items each day.

STAFFING FOR 2015-16

This coming year the primary staff for each class will be as follows:

Division 1	Mrs. Mathews	
Division 2	Mrs. Evans	
Division 3	Mrs. Silvester	
Division 4	Mrs. Ellison / Mrs. Wood	
Division 5	Homeroom: Mrs. Humphreys/Mr. Hazeldine	
Division 6	Homeroom: Miss Raine	
Division 7	Homeroom: Mr. Cunnington	
Division 8	Homeroom: Mr. Welch	
Student Educational Assistants:	Mr. Johl	Mrs. Ellison
	Mrs. Booth-Johnson	Miss Dittmer
	Miss Teit	Miss Trogi
	Ms. Vaughan	
Special Educational Consultants / Learning Assistance	Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Ko, Miss Goodwin, Mrs. Evans	
Vision Support	Mrs. Evans, Miss Dittmer	
Fine Arts	Miss Raine	
Relief Principal	Mrs. Fraser	
Principal	Mrs. Ko	
Secretary	Mrs. Hamilton	
School Counsellor	Mr. Mathews, Ms. Vaughan	
Occupational Therapist	Mrs. Reelie	
Speech and Language Therapist	Mrs. Boon	
Physiotherapist	Mrs. Rathbone	
Janitor	Mr. Hepas	
Police Liaison Officer	Constable Egli	

Events and Important Dates

FAMILY BBQ DINNER



Friday, September 11th is the date set for our family potluck dinner. You don't want to miss this get-together. Information has been sent home; if you have not received the forms please call the office. I hope to see everyone there!



TERRY FOX RUN

Our students will participate in a school run on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 30th, at Rosedale Park. Parents are more than welcome to join our school run, which commences at 1:00 pm! The students are given the option of collecting pledges (sheets will be sent home soon) and / or bringing in change for our collection jar.

PARENT NIGHT/AGM

At the Parent Information Night on Wednesday, September 30th important school changes and classroom routines will be the focus of the evening's presentations. This is your opportunity to look at the materials / texts your child will be using and to ask any questions you may have of the teacher. The teacher presentation portion begins in your child's classroom at 6:15 pm. **NOTE**—this meeting is for parents only.

The AGM follows the Parent Information Night, and this will be in the gym. Attendance at this is strongly advised for each family, by at least one parent.

CLUBS

We have a number of clubs for students to join this year. There will be individual notices sent home prior to the start of each one. The high priority form at the moment is Grade 3—7 Cross-Country Running commencing next week. Please watch the logbooks and your emails for notices.

WELCOME

Discovery School staff has changed! We have a new staff member to welcome and many returning familiar faces too.

Our New Staff:



Miss Trogi — Miss Trogi is our newest teacher / SEA who comes to us as a middle/ high school subject specialist. Although Socials, French, and Physical Education are her passions, she is very versatile and has the skills and teaching background to take on almost all academic courses. Miss Trogi will be working primarily with Divisions 5-8 as an SEA, and at times as a teacher. Miss Trogi is very excited to be at Discovery and enthusiastically waits to meet all of our families. Welcome, Miss Trogi!

Mrs. Mathews -Not new, but newly married this summer is Miss Orellana and Mr. Mathews. Congratulation and best wishes on your marriage!



DONATIONS

The **Public Employees Community Service Fund (PECS)** campaign usually begins the last week in September. Employees can make their pledge either through a written form or online. If you are a public servant or know one or many, please encourage them to donate to Discovery School Society when they participate. Our school charity number is 119229987RR0001. Last year we received over **\$2806.23** which helped us purchase workbooks and technology equipment the students needed. *A big thank you to all who directed donations to Discovery School!*

Alternatively, if you are not a public servant and would like to make a donation or know someone who would, we are linked to the site, www.CanadaHelps.org. Anyone wanting to donate to the school can do so and the process is simple, fast, secure and convenient. (You can also find this link on our school website.)

Similarly, if anyone makes donations to the **United Way**, please note you can ask for the donation to be directed to Discovery School Society!

FUNDRAISING

PENINSULA CO-OP

We have a school membership with Peninsula Coop. Discovery School will receive a rebate of 5% of grocery purchases and 6 cents per liter on gas. Just quote our number: **58703**

THRIFTY FOODS SMILE CARDS

Our school is in the process of renewing our participation in this program. As soon as our application has been activated we will send out an email. In the meantime if you have not received a card we do have them on file at the office. As you drop into the school please remember to pick one up.



At the AGM we will share of our many more fundraising opportunities!

BOTTLE DEPOT

The first Wednesday of every month we host a bottle drive here at the school. Just bring in your bottles as you drop off your child.

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL BY Friday, September 11th, 2015

Yes, I _____ have read the September Newsletter.

Please Print Name

Student's Name

All returned forms will be entered into a draw for a recreation admission pass.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015—2016

All tentative dates confirmed / changes announced a minimum of one month prior to the date.

September	Tuesday the 8th	½ Day of School, Parent Coffee AM
	Wednesday 9th	Bottle Drive
	Friday the 11th	Family Potluck / BBQ Dinner
	Monday the 21st	Pro-D Day – School Closed
	Wednesday the 23rd	Future Career Day and Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Wednesday the 30th	Terry Fox Run
	Wednesday the 30th	Parents Info Night / Annual General Meeting

October	Wednesday the 7th	Bottle Drive
	Monday the 12th	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
	Wednesday the 14th	Movie or Book Character Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Thursday the 22nd	Interim Progress Reports Go Home
	Friday the 23rd	Provincial Pro-D Day – School Closed
	Wednesday the 28th	Hot Lunch (Subway)

November	Wednesday the 4th	Bottle Drive
	Thursday the 5th	Individual Photo Day
	Tuesday the 10th	Remembrance Day Assembly
	Wednesday the 11th	Remembrance Day – School Closed
	Wednesday the 18th	Wacky Hair Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Friday the 20th	Pro-D Day – School Closed Tentative

December	Wednesday the 2nd	Bottle Drive
	Friday the 4th	Report Cards
	Friday the 4th	Graduation Photo Day
	Monday the 7th	Parent / Teacher Interviews – No School
	Wednesday the 9th	Crazy Sock & Slipper Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Friday the 18th	Family Breakfast & Christmas Craft / Concert
	Friday the 18th	Christmas Holidays – 2:00pm Closure

January	Monday the 4th	School Resumes
	Wednesday the 6th	Bottle Drive
	Wednesday the 13th	Backwards Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Wednesday the 27th	Hot Lunch (Subway)
	Thursday the 28th	Interim Progress Reports Go Home

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015—2016 Cont'd

February	Wednesday the 3rd	Bottle Drive
	Monday the 8th	Family Day – No School
	Wednesday the 10th	Class Uniformity Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	During last 1/2 of February	Exams Staggered for Divisions 4 and Up
	Thursday the 18th	Jump Rope / Hoops for Heart
	Friday the 19th	Pro-D Day Tentative
	Wednesday the 24th Friday the 26th	Hot Lunch (Sushi) Anti-Bullying Day (Wear Pink)
March	Wednesday the 2nd	Bottle Drive
	Wednesday the 9th	Mismatched Everything Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Week of 7th to 11th	2nd Term Report Cards go home
	Mon-Fri the 14th - 18th	Spring Break– school closed
	Monday the 21st	School resumes
	Wednesday the 23rd	Hot Lunch (Subway)
	Friday the 25th Monday the 28th Thursday the 31st	Good Friday – School Closed Easter Monday – School Closed Class Photo Day
April	Wednesday the 6th	Bottle Drive
	Wednesday the 13th	Twins and Triplets Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Friday the 22nd	Pro-D Day Tentative
	Wednesday the 27th	Hot Lunch (Sushi)
May	Wednesday the 4th	Bottle Drive
	Wednesday the 11th	School Colors Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Friday the 20th	Pro-D Day Tentative
	Monday the 23rd	Victoria Day – School Closed
	Wednesday the 25th	Hot Lunch (Subway)
	Tues the 24th – June 17th	Exams staggered for Divisions 4 and 5
June	Wednesday the 1st	Bottle Drive
	Wednesday the 1st	Hat and Sunglasses Day & Hot Lunch (Pizza)
	Wednesday 8th - Friday 10th	Year End Activities for Divisions 1 – 3 Tentative
	Friday the 17th	<i>LAST DAY OF CLASSES DIVISIONS 1 – 5</i>
	Saturday the 18th	Graduation / Awards Night - Tentative
	Wed the 22nd - Tue the 28th	Provincial Exams
	Friday the 24th	Report Card Pick up 9am-11am. Divisions 1-5 (Division 6 & 7 to be mailed out)
Wed the 29th & Thu the 30th	Staff Administrative Days Tentative	

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A VISION PROBLEM?

Eyes are very important. The following guide can assist you in determining if your child has a vision problem.

Do your child's eyes look abnormal?

Eyes turn in or out, eyelids that droop and pupils that are different sizes may indicate your child has a vision problem. If you notice swelling or crusting of the eyelids or pinkness in the eye itself, your child may have an infection.

What is your child saying?

If your child complains about headaches, sore eyes, blurred vision or words that jump or move around the page when reading, or not being able to see the board, your child may have a vision problem.

What are you and the teacher noticing?

If you or the teacher notices your child tilts his/her head, covers one eye, rubs eyes or frowns when concentrating on an object, has difficulty in keeping place when reading (tracks words with a finger) or holds printed material in an unusual position, your child may have a vision problem.

Other common signs of a vision problem include lack of interest in activities that include concentrating on an object, lack of interest in reading and daydreaming in class.

If you notice any of these problems or there is a family history of vision problems, see your optometrist.

For more information contact:

Your local optometrist

HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 (a free call) or www.healthlinkbc.ca

Health Units:

Esquimalt	250-519-5311	Salt Spring Island	250-538-4880
Outer Gulf Islands	250-539-3099	Sooke	250-642-5464
Peninsula	250-544-2400	Victoria	250-388-2200
Saanich	250-519-5100	West Shore	250-519-3490

BREAKFAST IS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY!

Breakfast boosts brainpower. Children who eat breakfast do better on math and reading tests. Overall, kids who eat breakfast eat better. They eat more servings of grains, vegetables and fruit and milk. They get more of the nutrients they need every day.

The brain uses carbohydrate as its main source of energy. The body's carbohydrate stores are low after a night's sleep. Include carbohydrate-rich grains, vegetables and fruit at breakfast to provide fuel for the brain so your child can do his or her best at school.

A balanced morning meal includes at least one serving of:

Whole grain products

Vegetables and fruit

Milk and Alternatives or Meat and Alternatives

Examples of healthy breakfasts:

A bowl of whole grain cereal with milk or a milk alternative and fruit

A fruit yogurt shake and a small muffin

Cereal bar, milk or fortified soy beverage and a piece of fruit

A slice of cold pizza and a small glass of juice

Banana dog: a hot dog bun spread with peanut butter and a banana inside

They say one should breakfast like a king, lunch like a duke and dine like a pauper. So start the day like a king and fuel the brain!