



PORT GUICHON Elementary School

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<http://pg.deltasd.bc.ca/>

NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - September 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Students are at the heart of everything we do

All of us at Port Guichon Elementary School extend a very warm welcome to you and your family as we begin the 2011-2012 academic year. It gives us great pleasure to welcome new students as well as our returning students. You are the lifeblood of the school and your energy, enthusiasm and pursuit of excellence are the essential ingredients that sustain our school community. To families who are new to our school community, we invite you into a partnership to support your child's learning. Furthermore, we encourage you to be a part of our PAC, a group of parents committed to building Port Guichon as a great place to learn.

DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT: Mission and Vision

Mission statement: To enable all learners to succeed and contribute their full potential to the future

Our Bold Vision: To be a leading District for innovative teaching and learner success

Last November, our School District began the journey of discovering a renewed vision, engaging more than 30 school communities in articulating an "inspired" and "inclusive vision". Many voices at all levels were heard and in May an impressive poster was created. All of the ideas were effectively captured and illustrated with images representing growth, roots and support. (You may find this poster on our District webpage as well as on Port Guichon's front office bulletin board.) In translating this vision - "a leading district for innovative teaching and learner success" into future reality, our District has begun to take steps in exploring innovative practices. (Stay tuned for more...)

WIZARD OF OZ – A MUSICAL PRODUCTION

(All of our students will gain experience both as performers and as audience.)

Once again, our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has supported this school initiative to have Al Pichler, an educator and an artist, work with **all of our students** in presenting a musical production – Wizard of Oz – for the whole school community. The performances will take place on the evenings of Tuesday, October 18th and Wednesday, October 19, 2011, respectively. Please mark your calendar! This is a unique opportunity for our students to discover and explore their knowledge and skills in:

- singing to a rhythmic pattern either as a soloist, or as a member of a group
- expressing ideas and feelings through a dramatic piece of work – Wizard of Oz
- retelling a classical story in a sequence – beginning, middle, and ending
- demonstrating leadership and responsibility within a group, e.g., being positive
- respecting contributions of all members through co-operative effort, e.g., lighting and sound, etc.

Following the above production, on December 7, 2011, our whole school will attend **Wizard of Oz performed at Carousel Theatre, Granville Island in Vancouver**. This will be an opportunity for our students to see a different interpretation of this musical production.

MEET THE TEACHERS ASSEMBLY, September 13 CANCELLED

STUDENT CONFERENCES: September 29 CANCELLED

Both of these events are cancelled. Originally these events were scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 13, and Thursday September 29, 2011 respectively. Please read the message from Ms. Dianne Turner, our Superintendent, on our School and District webpages.

IN CLOSING, A FEW REFLECTIONS...

September is a time of excitement and promise as our students begin a new adventure in a new grade with new learning opportunities. Our staff would like to challenge our students to try new things and stretch themselves to discover new things and reach new goals. We never know how high we can soar until we challenge ourselves. To our students: You can count on our continuing support, encouragement and hard work in creating the best possible learning environment. Be the best you can be!!

Grace Sproul
Principal

CALENDARS AND NEWSLETTERS

A calendar of important dates and activities at Port Guichon Elementary for the 2011-2012 school year is attached to this newsletter. Please keep this for reference throughout the school year.

Newsletters are published monthly and are posted on the school website <http://pg.deltasd.bc.ca/>. To be a part of the global movement in *supporting a sustainable environment* (Going Green), **we will only send a paper copy of the newsletter home if you request it on the attached form**. Please be sure to provide your email address on the attached form so that you can receive notification that the monthly newsletter is on the website.

Welcome Back to the 2011 – 2012 School Year.

Port Guichon Elementary School 2011-2012 Staff

Principal		Mrs. G. Sproul
Vice Principal		Mr. M. Douangchanh
Grade 7	Division 1	Mr. A. Sowden
Grade 5/6	Division 2	Mrs. N. MacLennan
Grades 4/5	Division 3	Mrs. M. Melan
Grades 2/3	Division 4	Mrs. S. Mitchell
Grades 2/3	Division 5	Ms. I. Tan / Mr. M. Douangchanh
Grades 1/2	Division 6	Mrs. Vinson
Grade K/1	Division 7	Ms. E. Van Iperen
Kindergarten	Division 8	Mrs. K. Hoskins
Resource Room	Division 9	Mrs. J. van Rhyn
Library		Mrs. A. Grannary
Learning Assistance		Mrs. D. Chan
Music		Mr. M. Douangchanh
Education Assistants		Mrs. J. Koleyak, Mrs. F. Antic, Mrs. J. Rosychuk, Mr. W. Giesbrecht, Mrs. M. Cotter, Mrs. I. Beeksma, Mrs. K. Tilsley, Mrs. S. Kurenov
Administrative Assistant		Ms. S. Richman
Psychologist		Mrs. J. Duke
Counsellor		Mrs. E. Switzer
Speech/Lang. Pathologist		Mrs. C. Stasiuk
Mainstream Support		Mrs. D. Chan
Public Health Nurse		Mrs. S. Williams
Police Liaison Officer		Constable S. Doolan
Custodian		Mr. T. Umali
Noon Hour Supervisors		Mrs. K. Elmer, Mrs. D. Crosby, Mrs. N. Wilde, Mrs. L. Tarumoto,

SAFETY

Providing a safe community is a high priority for both the staff and parents of Port Guichon. Thank you for doing your part to keep our children safe. **The following items are being sent home this week.** Please review them, complete them where necessary, and return them to the school as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CARDS - Emergency cards will be sent home with your YOUNGEST CHILD. Please make any necessary revisions and/or additions and return the card to the school by **Friday, September 16th**.

LUNCH-TIME PLAN - Every student will be bringing home a letter/permission form for your signature that enables you to give permission for your child to leave the school grounds and go home for lunch. Please review and complete this form for each of your children and return it to their classroom teacher by Friday, September 10th.

BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM ALLERGY REPORT – Once again, our school is participating in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program Sponsored by BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh fruit and vegetables to the students during classroom time. The students will receive picked, washed, and ready to enjoy produce approximately twice every other week at no charge! To ensure every student's health and safety during this program, please return the reverse consent form only if you DO NOT wish your child to participate or if you need to alert us to certain **food allergies**.

SAFE ENTRY INTO PORT GUICHON

We would like to remind our parents that Port Guichon Elementary places great emphasis of the safety of your children.

Morning arrival – We ask all students to line-up at the designated areas (outside their classrooms/pods). If students are dropped off at the round-about, please ask your child to **go around the outside of the school to their designated areas**. Your cooperation will reinforce the expectations held at school and at the same time reassure all students that fair practice is being honored.

On rainy/snowy/stormy days – We ask all students to line-up in the undercover area until the first bell.

Parents/Visitors – We ask all parents and visitors to sign in at the office and pick up a Visitor Badge. In this way we can help ensure that our school remains a safe place. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The traffic circle in front of the school is to be free of traffic between 8:30 and 8:50 am, and between 2:50 and 3:15 pm. It is to be kept clear for buses and emergency vehicles. Please pull into a parking stall at the end of parking lot when dropping children off and have them use the walkway in front of the parked cars. After school, please respect the bus zone by parking in a designated parking spot and walking onto the school grounds to meet your child. Please be very careful if you park along the south side of the parking lot, as this makes it difficult for cars to get in and out of the designated parking stalls. Thank you.



For those of you using Kelly Drive, please park your car before dropping children off. Children should not be dropped off at the crosswalk or in the middle of the road. The majority of Port Guichon students use this entrance to Port Guichon, so be on the look-out for bicycles and pedestrians. We all want to keep our students safe.

SAFE ARRIVAL

The Absentee Phoning Program, operated by volunteer parents, ensures that each child is accounted for each morning. We ask for your support by:

1. Calling the school at 604-946-0321 before 8:45 AM if your child is going to be late or absent. **Our answering machine is available 24 hours a day, so you can call the night before if you know your child will be away.**
2. Keeping your child's emergency card information up-to-date.

In the event that your child is absent from school **without prior notification**, a phoning volunteer will make a reasonable attempt to determine the reason for absence. For this program to be effective, we need volunteers. If you could donate approximately 20 minutes in the morning to help out, please call the office.

HEALTH AND MEDICATION

When a child complains of being sick, the office will make a concerted effort to contact a parent or the emergency contact person. With minor bumps and scrapes, we will administer first aid mixed with tender loving care. With any more serious injury, we will attempt to contact the home.



Should a child require medication at school, the School Board requires you and your doctor to complete a *Request for Administration of Medication Form* allowing us to administer the medication. Forms are available at the office.

If your child has a significant medical condition which the school should be aware of, please contact the office for a *Medical Alert Form*.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR SICK CHILD HOME

For the protection of your child, as well as other children, keep your child home if he/she:

- Has a fever
- Is too sick to take part in all normal school activities
- Has a suspected or known communicable disease (i.e. strep throat, pink eye, chicken pox, or any other undiagnosed rash). Keep them home until they are no longer infectious.

Please let the school know your child's symptoms.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Today, all students in Grades 1-7 will be bringing home a Port Guichon Student Planner. These have been purchased to encourage consistency throughout the school and to help students achieve the organizational goals of the Personal Planning curriculum. **We ask that you send \$8.00 to school as soon as possible to cover the cost of the planner.** We also believe that this will be an excellent tool for helping you to keep track of your child's assignments and progress.

ELEMENTARY BAND PROGRAM

Two levels of Band (Instrumental Music) will be offered once again for children in Grades 4 to 7 in Ladner. The teachers of the program are Curt Jantzen and Margaret Behenna. They have been teaching elementary band in Ladner now for several years.

Beginner Band: This program is for children in Grades 4 to 7. Parents can choose to enroll their child in classes offered at Ladner Elementary, Holly Elementary or Hawthorne Elementary schools

Ladner Elementary: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. beginning October 19

Holly Elementary: Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. beginning October 20

Hawthorne Elementary: Thursdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m. beginning October 20

The band teachers will make a presentation to all intermediate students in early October to demonstrate the instrument choices and explain the program. More detailed information about tuition cost and equipment requirements will be given to students at that time. Families can register and arrange for rental or purchase of an instrument at the **INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT** on Monday evening, October 17th at Holly Elementary.

Advanced Band: students from all our local elementary schools with **one or more years of band experience** are encouraged to continue on with their musical training in **Advanced Band** meeting at Hawthorne Elementary after school 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. on **THURSDAYS** beginning October 20th at 4:30 p.m. A registration notice will be emailed to all of last year's band students and/or distributed to all students at the information assembly that will be held at their school in the first part of October.

For more information, please contact Curt Jantzen cjband@telus.net, or Margaret Behenna mbehenna@dccnet.com.

HOW TO BE A GOOD FRIEND

To have good friends, you must be a good friend. Here are some of the ways good friends treat each other.

- ☺ Good friends listen to each other.
- ☺ Good friends don't put each other down or hurt each other's feelings.
- ☺ Good friends try to understand each other's feelings and moods.
- ☺ Good friends help each other solve problems.
- ☺ Good friends give each other compliments.
- ☺ Good friends can disagree without hurting each other.
- ☺ Good friends are dependable.
- ☺ Good friends respect each other.
- ☺ Good friends are trustworthy.
- ☺ Good friends give each other room to change.
- ☺ Good friends care about each other.

Remember: Dismissal is at 1:45 p.m. every Wednesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
PAC Meeting Monday, September 19	6:30 PM All parents and guardians are invited to join us at the school for the first PAC meeting of the year. We look forward to welcoming old and new friends alike.
Terry Fox Run Wednesday, September 21	11:30 AM All students will walk or run in our annual Terry Fox Run. Parents are invited to participate or volunteer to assist in this event. Please call the school if you can help.
Pro-D Day Monday, September 26	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL.
Individual School Photos Friday, September 30	Don't wear green! Once again this year, parents have the opportunity to select special backgrounds for their child's pictures. The photographer will be using "green screen" technology, so don't wear green! Ordering procedures will be sent home about 2 weeks after photo day.
Canned Food Drive For Delta Food Bank October 3 – 7	Once again this year, we will celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving by sharing with those in need. Canned goods will be collected in classrooms and donated to the Delta Food Bank. Thank you for your support.
Turkey Trot Wednesday, October 5	11:30 AM All students will walk or run in our annual Turkey Trot. Parents are invited to participate or volunteer to assist in this event. Please call the school if you can help.
Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 10	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

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Messages from your Public Health Nurse

Grab, Go and Grow: Healthy School Snacks

That time has rolled around again ... snacks need making and lunches need packing. With all the chores of the day, who has time to organize nutritious snacks? Today's parents are time-stressed and in many cases forced to be multi-taskers, but savvy parents also know that putting together healthy snacks is not rocket science. In fact, healthy snacks can be quick and easy!

Tips for Being a Super Healthy Snack Shopper

- buy an assortment of fruits and vegetables, cut them up and stow them away
- choose unsweetened applesauce or fruit cups packed in unsweetened fruit juice
- look for whole grain crackers or bagels to combine with nut butter or cheese
- select low fat cheese sticks or yogurt to accompany fruit
- choose pre-washed baby carrots or snap peas, add a yogurt dip
- accompany whole wheat pita with ready to serve hummus
- choose granola bars with dried fruits and nuts
- buy cereals low in sugar to snack on
- pick up some dried fruit, mini pretzels, nuts, seeds to add to unsweetened cereal to make your own trail mix
- stock up on yogurt & granola to add to fruit for a yummy parfait



Medicalert's NO CHILD WITHOUT Program

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

A Reminder to Parents of Allergic Children

- A single use auto-injector (EpiPen) is the recommended product for safe and effective administration of adrenalin (epinephrine) in the school setting.
- Public health nurses are available to provide EpiPen auto-Injector teaching to school staff.
- If an alternate auto-injector (Twinject) is being considered please check with the school administrator to see whether it may be administered in the school setting. If approved, school staff training must be provided by parents.
- Please ensure that the school receives an up-to-date medical plan for your child and that any medication(s) have not expired.
- Some providers of epinephrine offer an e-mail expiry date reminder service free of charge www.epipen.ca .
- Talk to your school staff or your public health nurse about having an extra auto-injector at the school, in case it is needed for any severely allergic student.
- For more information on allergies and anaphylaxis in schools, please see the School Health Resource link on the Fraser Health Web site <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/HealthInfo/PublicHealth/SchoolHealth> or contact your Public Health Nurse.

Delta Community Literacy Committee is co-sponsoring the
South Delta Baby Fair: Great Expectations

Saturday, October 1st, at Ladner Community Centre – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

This information fair is a one stop shop for new parents and parents of infants/toddlers. The Delta Literacy Committee is hosting a literacy corner to give parents-to-be, new parents and parents of infant/toddlers information on how they can support their baby's early learning. There will be a demonstration of a Parent Child Mother Goose Group and a book café for babies!! Grandparents and caregivers are welcome too.

**Delta School District's Continuing Education branch invites you to view the
Fall 2011 Course Catalogue on-line:**

<http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/coned/catalogue.asp>

Continuing Education on-line registration:
<http://ConnectandLearn.deltasd.bc.ca>

Registration phone: 604-940-5550



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PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Name of Port Guichon Student: _____ Grade: _____

Monthly Port Guichon Newsletter:

Yes, Please continue to send a paper copy of the Port Guichon Newsletter home with my youngest child attending Port Guichon

No, I don't need a paper copy of the Newsletter sent home. I will check the website. Please send me an email notification that the newsletter is on the website.

Parent's name: _____

Email address: _____