Port Guichon Elementary
Week-at-a-Glance for Parents/Guardians
January 19 - January 23, 2026

Week-at-a-Glance on school website:
https://pg.deltasd.bc.ca/

Monday **January 19**	PAC Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser, Meridian Meats Gr 7 Grad fundraiser
Tuesday **January 20**	PAC Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser, Meridian Meats Gr 7 Grad fundraiser, Please check the lost and found!
Wednesday **January 21** **1:45 Dismissal every Wed.**	PAC Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser, Meridian Meats Gr 7 Grad fundraiser, **PAC Meeting at 6:30pm**
Thursday **January 22**	PAC Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser,Meridian Meats Gr 7 Grad fundraiser
Friday **January 23**	PAC Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser, Meridian Meats Gr 7 Grad fundraiser, District Pro D Day - No school for students

Upcoming Dates:

Jan 28 Hold and secure Drill @ 11:00am
Jan 30 PAC Movie Night
Feb 5 2:00pm early dismissal for Student Lead Conferences
Feb 6 2:00pm early dismissal for Informal Reporting
Feb 16 Family Day Stat Holiday
Feb 18 Earthquake Drill @ 10:15

Feb 20 Pro D Day
Mar 11 Term 2 Reports Posted, Lockdown Drill @ 1:15pm
Mar 13 Last Day before Spring Break
Mar 14-29 Spring Break

Daily Schedule

Opening	8:40 am First Bell 8:45 am Second Bell
Recess	10:30 am - 10:45 am
Lunch	12:10 pm - 1:00 pm
Dismissal	3:00 pm Mon,Tues,Thurs,Fri 1:45 pm Wednesdays
Office Hours	8:15 am - 3:45 pm M,T,Thu,Fri 8:15 am - 2:45 pm Wednesdays

2025/2026 Port Guichon Calendar: 2025 2026 PG Calendar

A Word from your Principal

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I am so grateful for the recent sunny days we have been having. We did take advantage of one of those nice days to have a fire drill last week. I am pleased to say that everyone did a great job and we got outside and were all accounted for in record time. Doing the various drills that we have scheduled throughout the year are so very important. It not only helps us all know what to do in the unlikely event that an emergency happens and it also is a good opportunity for our staff to talk to their students about why we do drills. The safety of everyone in our building is my highest priority.

As I mentioned last week, the students have been coming to see me and talk with me about having a variety of clubs in the school. I love this! Not only are the students advocating for themselves, but it also encourages and helps foster friendships and positive relationships around shared interests. I have formalized this process somewhat which, I believe, helps the students slow down and talk with me about the purpose of the club and helps those that are proposing to be leaders of the club, take that responsibility seriously. Each club has an application form for me to consider, and has to have a staff sponsor to oversee it. Now that I have several application forms in, clubs will be rolling out starting in February. Some of the club ideas so far….Star Wars Club, Choir club, French Club, Sports Club, Coding Club and Stuffy Club and this all in addition to our amazing Builders and Makers Club that Mrs. Granary and Mrs. Hutton is doing already. What an amazing student body we have here at PG.

I can hardly believe that we are about half way through our year. I am so excited for our grade 7s as they begin to think about next year and going to high school. It is an important year of transition for them and there is an amazing committee of Grade 7 parents working on the Grade 7 year end events including our Grade 7 Grad. Please consider supporting all the fundraising events they have planned which help to offset costs for end of year Grade 7 activities. **Currently there is a Meridian Meats fundraising campaign that ends on February 6th. Please go to the PAC Social media accounts and there is a link for the Meridian Fundraiser.** *@portguichonpac (Instagram), Port Guichon PAC (Facebook)*

Don’t miss the PAC news and fundraising notices in the PAC section further down in this newsletter. PG Staff are so grateful to our generous PAC. PAC funds that are raised are going to so many important things in the school including offsetting field trip costs at every grade level, helping to cover the costs of school enhancements that the staff propose and help to cover the cost of a new school mural at the front of the school, which has been a dream and a hope from last year. Their current fundraiser is with Westcoast Seeds and that ends on January 26th. A heartfelt thank you to all your generosity in supporting your school.

This upcoming Winter season can come with some challenging weather including cold days, wet days, windy days, snow and sleet. We want our students to get outside to get some fresh air and be able to get some exercise so we have very few inside days. Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather with regards to coats, footwear, hats and mitts when necessary. There may be the occasional day when we will have an inside recess or lunch and that decision to keep students inside is carefully considered and can be based on many factors. There also could be some adapted behaviour expectations outside on the playground due to the weather conditions and the conditions of the school grounds, such as, out of bound areas, no snowballs, or avoiding slippery and icy areas.

Continue to remind your children about playground and school behaviour expectations that include being kind, respectful, keeping their hands and feet to self, and following the direction of our staff. I am excited that we continue to have more lunchtime groups and activities happening that many students are participating in. Please encourage your children to seek out an adult at lunch or recess, or talk to their teacher, if they are feeling big feelings about something on the playground at recess or at lunch. Please also remind your children that they must listen and be respectful to our lunchtime supervisors or any adults in the school when they are spoken to.

A reminder that we would like students to line up in the morning at their pod doors to wait for their teachers to come and let them into the school. We certainly know that it can be hard some days to get to school on time and we do understand. Please know that our amazing staff is here to help in any way if you need some ideas. We are a compassionate and skilled staff, many of whom are parents too. Lining up in the back of the school by the pod door is an important part of the morning transition to school. Only if a child is late, are they to come in the front door where they must let Mrs. Ward know that they have arrived.

Once again this is a reminder that the District is committed to ensuring that no student of school age will be denied an educational program due to financial hardship and that charges will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities. At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to myself, Mrs. Callander, mcallander@deltaschools.ca, if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

I hope you all have a wonderful week ahead.

Take care everyone,

Mrs. Maggie Callander, Principal, Port Guichon

A Word from your PAC: UP and COMING PAC EVENTS!

First of all……Happy 2026 from your PAC!

- Starting January 12th is our Westcoast Seeds Fundraiser until Jan 26th
- January 30th - MOVIE NIGHT (Movie TBD)
- MORE TO COME…..

Check out our Social Media: @portguichonpac (Instagram), Port Guichon PAC (Facebook)

-Reminder that you have to opt-in to receive PAC emails. Please email PACportguichon@gmail.com and in the subject line please put 'opt-in'.

Hot Lunch: Munch a Lunch is open for ordering hot lunch. Our next one will be on January 16th and the deadline for ordering is January 11th.

Our PAC fundraisers help us fund things like new sports equipment, school initiatives, funding for teachers supplies, cultural performances and movie nights, to name a few.

Important Information & Other Notes:

1) International Department Notice for PG Community

"Tomorrow will be a sad day when we drop her off at the airport and hug her goodbye for the last time. But tonight was filled with laughter and joy celebrating accomplishments and a long successful future she has ahead! We hope our paths will cross but for now we leave with the best possible conclusion we could offer."

Hello Port Guichon Elementary School Families,

Delta School District International Programs is in the middle of placements for second semester students, and looking forward to September 2026 students, at Delta Secondary School. We have available space in the school but are in need of additional caring Ladner homes for international students arriving from all over the world. They have chosen Delta, and specifically Ladner, as their desired study abroad destination. They will stay and study in Delta anywhere from three months, to half a school year, to the entire school year, or more.

Delta School District International Programs provides you with access to a team of professionals that received an international award recognizing excellence in International Programs in 2025 and have been nominated for the same award in numerous consecutive years. Teri Gallant, our Homestay Coordinator for Ladner, is always happy to hear from you and discuss the program in detail. Please feel free to reach out directly to Teri if you have any questions. She can be reached at 604-319-2575. Her landline number is 604-952-5399. Teri, and the rest of our 17-person team, assist you in all aspects of

caring for your student, provide monthly activities for students to join, Homestay Newsletters with important information and tips, and are always willing to lend an ear and help out.

Reimbursement for hosting an international student is currently $1,200 per month and will be increasing to $1,300 per month as of September 1st, 2026. Students from different nationalities (fluent languages) can be hosted in one home, although they do require their own bedroom. The majority of students in the homestay program are from Germany, Japan, Spain, Italy, and Brazil. At the moment, more that 20 different countries are represented in the homestay program.

Many of our international students are looking for a family connection and being a part of a family during their stay in Delta. We find the best host families in the region are those already connected to our school district community, and we are looking for more families to join.

In addition to our school year programming, Delta School District International Programs runs two 3-week Summer ELL Programs to provide students, aged 10 to 17, a taste of life in Canada and in homestay. There is typically one school site for each summer program located in Ladner.

- **Program 1 is from July 6th to 24th**
- **Program 2 is from August 10th to August 28th**
- **Students go to school all day for the first two weeks, and then school in the morning and activities with our staff in the afternoon of the third week**
- **We reach out to our active homestay families in the spring to check who is interested in hosting one or both summer programs.**

We will have a new group of students from Korea joining our program for varying lengths of time. This group:

- **Will attend Delta schools during the day, mainly in Tsawwassen. They will require breakfast and a packed lunch like all of our students do**
- **After school, they will be picked up by their Korean teachers and transported to an afterschool program. They will be provided dinner by that program and dropped off at their homestay in the evening**
- **On Saturday, the Korean teachers will also be providing activities and supervision for them**
- **Students will spend all day on Sunday with their host families**

If you are interested in hosting, please reach out to homestay@godelta.ca or give Teri a call. If you are not able to host but know of a family who can, please send them our way. There are referral bonuses

available for referring families.

Thank you very much for your time,

Brent Gibson, Homestay Manager

Delta School District International Programs

2) Safe and Inclusive Behaviour:

Please teach and remind your children that making threats, inappropriate or discriminatory comments or racial slurs toward or about others undermines a sense of safety, comfort, and belonging at school and in the community and is **unacceptable**.

Although we realize that it may be a small minority of students who engage in this behaviour, it causes very strong feelings among students, families and staff. Our goal is to be a school that demonstrates kindness and fosters a sense of belonging and community for all. Students who make threats or use other violent words can face significant disciplinary consequences and possibly, criminal charges (12+yrs. of age).

Please take time to talk with your child(ren) and encourage responsible, kind choices regarding safe and appropriate language and actions, especially while at school or school-related events and/or while engaging with other students during online activities.
We really appreciate your partnership and ongoing support!

3) Road Safety Around Schools:

We are urging all parents and drivers to please slow down and follow posted signs in school zones. To ensure the safety of all when traffic is busy, please use the designated areas when dropping off or picking up your child. Please also use extreme caution at the nearby crosswalks. Let's keep students safe on their way to and from school. Delta Police School Liaison Officers and Delta Bylaw Inspectors will be working together over the coming months to increase enforcement and education at all Delta School zones.

4) Tardiness/attendance:

As we start the school year, we want to reinforce all of the good habits that help build success at school. Being present, on time and ready to learn are key elements for learning. Please work with your child to ensure they arrive at school with time to settle and be ready to start as the school day begins. Arriving

late can cause stress while also disrupting the day for both your child and other students. Thank you for your support!

5) Extended Absences:

Over the course of a school year, students may be absent for short periods of time for a variety of reasons. Extended absences, for reasons other than student health, should be carefully considered by families. To ensure that our students miss as little time as possible from school, we ask for parents' cooperation in scheduling family holidays outside of school time.

Schools are not in a position to approve or deny permission for student absences for family holidays or other extended absences. This decision lies with the parent/guardian. Please do inform the office and teacher in advance of the absence so they are aware. Should parents wish to remove their child from school for a lengthy period of time, consideration should be given to the implication this may have to their child's education. Important learning is missed by students during any absence which puts them at a disadvantage compared with those in regular attendance.

Should a family decide to remove their child for an extended absence, the school is not required to provide educational materials. Being present and engaged in the school setting goes beyond the materials provided. Teachers are not able to replicate the school experience by providing homework. Please note that teachers are not obliged to provide learning materials or assignments during an extended vacation absence. Should a student be absent for a significant period of time and therefore is not able to demonstrate the learning outcomes for a particular course, it may not be possible to provide an appropriate proficiency scale in reporting on their learning.

6) Field Trips:

If costs are prohibitive to your child's participation, please reach out to the school principal, Mrs. Callander, for support. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected.

7) Travel to-and-from School:

Please encourage students to use marked crosswalks and sidewalks whenever possible. Please encourage them to cross only after carefully checking for traffic and waiting until vehicles have fully stopped. Please drive with caution and abide by school zone speed limits. Let's help keep everyone safe.

8) Restricting Cellphone usage in elementary schools:

Please be reminded that students are not permitted to use cellphones or other personal digital devices at school and that includes Smartwatches. For more information, please visit:

Elementary school restrictions. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

9) "Wheels" on School Grounds:

Please help support safety on school grounds by partnering with us in reminding children to always dismount from "wheels" (scooters; roller blades/skates; bikes, etc.) upon arriving on school grounds.

10) Feelings First: NEW INFO

Feelings First is a new provincial initiative focused on strengthening the social and emotional health of young children—recognizing that it's just as important as physical health. A child's ability to express emotions, manage stress, build friendships, and connect with the world through stories, conversations, and play all stem from these early foundations. As part of this initiative, free, self-paced e-learning modules have been launched for early years professionals, educators, parents, and caregivers. The modules explore social and emotional development from birth to age five and include short videos, real-world examples, practical strategies and insights from child health experts. For more information, visit https://www.feelingsfirst.ca/

11) Guidance for families on establishing healthy screen habits at home:

Children are exposed to more screens than ever before, including television, computers, gaming consoles, smartphones and tablets. While quality media may offer benefits for learning and exploration, too much screen time can reduce the time children/youth spend engaged in activities that support mental health and physical health. e.g. in-person conversations with friends and family, being active outside in the fresh air and natural light, and getting enough sleep. Please see the following for more information:

Fraser Health Screen Time for Children
Fraser Health Healthy Screen Use

12) FamilySmart Events:

Please click the link for upcoming events: https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/ Every month, FamilySmart hosts in-person or online events for parents & caregivers who are parenting a child or youth with a mental health and/or substance use challenge called "In the know." We watch a video and share experiences and strategies that help in the hard moments and focus on strengthening our understanding and connection with our kids. Online events are facilitated by FamilySmart Parent Peer Support Workers. https://familysmart.ca/

10) The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP):

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) aims at reducing the costs of dental care for Canadian residents who have a family net income of less than $90,000 per year.

Applications are currently open for Persons with disabilities and children under 18. The program will then expand to all eligible Canadian residents as of 2025.

https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html

11) Fraser Health Information/FAQ:

https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and immunizations/illness-in-the-classroom

https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and immunizations/head-lice

https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/immunizations/children-and-youth immunization