




# Tillicum Community School

**September 2021**

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***Hello Tillicum students, families, and staff!***



We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits, and we are delighted to say that we are excited and ready for another successful school year at **Tillicum**! It has been our intent to have all students at our school feel like they belong here – it is their place! Our standards of behaviour and respect have been set high, all in an effort to create a positive, safe environment for teaching and learning.

This year's staff at **Tillicum** is committed to working with each and every student in our care. Of course, we strive to create a professional relationship with parents, as this is integral to the success of our work with our students.

Two very important school documents will be sent home with students during the next week. Please take the time to read, update, sign and return these to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. The **PINK** Student Information Verification Form is extremely important as it is vital that we have current contact information for you and your child on file. Please take extra care to review the verification form. The Student Emergency Release Form is also important to ensure safe release of your children during an emergency.

## **Parent Connect**

Each year, consent is required for use of digital/online tools used in classrooms for data privacy reasons, and for any field trips students may take. Our school district has created a way to provide consent using an online platform called **Parent Connect**.

To sign up for **Parent Connect**, please go to [parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca](https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca) and click, "Create an Account". The information used to create an account and verify your information comes directly from the contact information we have on file. If the information is outdated, you will need to contact the office to ensure all data is up-to-date.

After signing up, you will see on the homepage that there may be digital/online tools for you to consider granting consent or denying consent after reading the information regarding student data privacy. Anytime a new item is added by your child's teacher(s) you will be sent a notification to the email with which you signed up. If you deny consent for an item, please

Speak with your child's teacher for accommodations when the digital/online tool is being used or regarding any field trips.

### Safety Around Tillicum

Our school enrolls approximately 410 students and we have over 60 staff members. We are encouraging alternative forms of transportation to and from school, hoping to avoid congestion problems and excessive traffic.

**FOR SAFETY - PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILDREN OFF IN THE STAFF PARKING LOT.** The main entrance to the school from the parking lot on Albina Street is for staff and adult visitors to the school only. We ask that you practice having students come and go through the Orillia entrance or any of the smaller entrances in the fence around the perimeter of the school.



**We also ask that you respect our neighbours by NOT parking in or blocking their driveways.**

There is a designated bus drop-off zone along Orillia Street. This area must be kept clear for the school bus. You are reminded to observe the no parking signs in the bus zone for student safety. Please plan ahead, and give yourself enough time to park and walk a block or two if needed!

### New Elementary School Schedule

As you are aware, the School District has moved to common schedules across all elementary schools for the 2021-2022 school year. The reason for this change is that we previously had 27 elementary schools and a wide variety of schedules. Last year, with staggered start/end times and break times, highlighted an issue that the School District has wanted to address for some time. With a variety of schedules, it has been challenging for staff who work in multiple schools, TTOCs (Teachers Teaching On Call), and itinerant staff (OT, PT, SLP, etc).

#### Beginning September 2021

START	8:53 AM
Recess	10:05 AM – 10:20 AM
Lunch Eating Period	11:36 AM – 11:56 AM
Lunch Recess	11:56 AM – 12:31 PM
END	2:35 PM

### PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT

**Tillicum** is a “pack it in - pack it out” school. This means that whatever comes to school for packaging snacks and lunches, goes home with the student to be recycled. We encourage students to bring recyclable containers for their food which saves plastic wrap and foil from going into the landfill and the garbage. The District of Saanich has a great recycling and organics program, so all banana peels, apple cores, etc. should also be



taken home for home composting or for the green bin. This initiative encourages recycling and thoughtful use of what goes in garbage cans. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.

### **Nutritional Snack Program**

This program begins the second week of school. Forms can be given to your child's teacher. Each month a new permission form and menu will be available, OR you can sign up for the whole year. Additional menus and permission forms are available at the office. Information is also available on the school website.

### **Music News**

We are always delighted to see so many *Tillicum* students in our Sr. Choir, Jr. Choir, and music programs. Our music teacher, **Mr. Byron Lienard**, is looking forward to enthusiastic students and their commitment to music. Senior Choir will start shortly and will be held during lunch recess. All grade 3-5 students who love to sing are welcome to be part of the Sr. Choir. All grade 1-2 students who love to sing are welcome to join our Jr. Choir. We have a number of special performances planned this year. Our music program is one of the pillars of *Tillicum* Community School, and we are proud of all of our music students!



### **Athletics & Healthy Living**

Grade 4/5 soccer players, who are interested in joining our school team, listen for announcements in the second week regarding soccer practice with Ms. Easton. Practices will be happening at lunch recess.



Fall X-COUNTRY RUNNING for grades 3, 4, and 5 students will be starting soon. Please listen to announcements about before school practices! Races are held on Mondays after school. We will need volunteer drivers - Please fill out your driver forms on the Parent Connect App ([please click here](#)).

### **Individual School Photos**

One small change for September is a switch to move from a prepay system to a proof system. This means that families can order pictures after they see them. Families will have the option to order online (where there are many more background choices) or to order in the traditional method, using the form that comes home with the proofs. Proofs will arrive at school 2-3 weeks after picture day, to go home with students, and then families may order. Pictures are then sent to the school for distribution.

### **Before & After School Care Portables – UPDATE**

The new portables are ready to go! We have an agreement with Burnside Gorge Community Association to provide Before & After School Care! Before School Care runs 7:30-8:53AM and After School Care runs 2:35-5:30PM. If you are interested, please reach out to Burnside Gorge

(<https://burnsidegorge.ca/out-of-school-care/>) or call 250-388-5251 to reserve your spot. Burnside Gorge is also planning to open a daycare for 3 to 5 year-olds in January. Please contact Burnside Gorge to be placed on their “intentions” list. Our school will continue to offer programming through our Community School and a letter from our Program Coordinator Dianne Dennis will come out in September.

### **1000 x 5**

1000 Books by Age Five- Donate books to increase early literacy!

Do you know that reading books to babies and preschoolers is the most significant indicator of early school success? Cuddling and reading to your little ones shows that you value reading,



builds comfort, enjoyment and early skills that last a lifetime. As well as enjoying a new story with your child, please make an extra effort to drop off gently used picture books for babies and preschoolers in the brown drop box at the school office door. All children benefit from being read to – help make that a reality for more.

### **Family Accident Reimbursement Plan** (Message from voluntary insurance provider)

The voluntary Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is for supplementing costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate. This program could help many families, providing much needed reimbursements for out-of-pocket costs.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about or apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan, visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

### **School District Complaint Process (Policy 1155)**

The purpose of the Complaint Process is to ensure that any individual's concern will be given respectful attention while upholding the integrity of the educational system. The regulations provide clear procedures for the communication and resolution of any concern held by members of our Educational Community. The Educational Community includes parents, students, all Greater Victoria School District employees and members of the public.

### **Cops for Cancer & Terry Fox Run**

Starting on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> please send in coins for the Terry Fox Foundation (to raise money for Cancer Research) and Cops for Cancer. The monies raised will be split evenly between these two charities. We will be collecting:

<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Nickels &amp; Dimes</b>
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Quarters</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Loonies</b>
<b>Friday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Toonies</b>



Our school-wide ***Terry Fox Run*** will be Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 PM.

## **Meet the Teacher Night**

Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, is our annual Meet the Teacher Night. This year teachers will be introducing themselves to you in a variety of ways. If you have not received an email from your child's teacher by September 15<sup>th</sup> informing you how this will be taking place for their classroom, please reach out to them. This is a great opportunity to welcome new families to our school, "see" your child's classroom (in person, via Zoom, or other digital means) and talk with your child's teacher in an informal setting.



It is definitely our privilege to work with such a tremendous team of educators, students and parents again this year at ***Tillicum*** and we all look forward to a terrific year of learning. Please remember that our very dedicated staff are always open to discussing your child's learning.

Our office door is also open to discuss any concerns or questions you may have about our school or the programs/services we offer. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

***Jeff Duyndam & Rhonda Leduc***  
***Principal Vice-Principal***



# Tillicum Community School Calendar

## September 2021



For events specific to each Division, please speak with your child's teacher.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labour Day</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	7 <i>First day of school</i> <i>9:00 AM - 11:30 AM</i>	8 <i>First Day of Regular Hours (Gr 1-5)</i> <b>8:53 AM - 2:35 PM</b>	9 <i>Kindergarten Welcoming Conversations</i>	10 <i>Kindergarten Welcoming Conversations</i>	11
12	13 <i>Kindergarten Start</i> <i>Group A: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group B: 12:30 - 2:30 PM</i>	14 <i>Kindergarten</i> <i>Group A: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group B: 12:30 - 2:30 PM</i>	15 <i>Kindergarten Start</i> <i>Group B: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group A: 12:30 - 2:30 PM</i> <i>PAC Meeting</i> <i>6:30 PM - Zoom</i>	16 <i>PAC Info Tent - 8:53 AM</i>  <i>Kindergarten full day</i> <b>8:53 AM - 2:35 PM</b>	17	18
19	20 <i>Federal Election</i>	21 <i>Terry Fox: Nickels &amp; Dimes</i>  <i>Fire Drill 10 AM</i>	22 <i>Terry Fox: Quarters</i>	23 <i>Terry Fox: Loonies</i>  <i>Meet the Teacher</i>	24 <i>Terry Fox: Toonies</i>	25
26	27 <i>Pro-D Day</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	28 <i>Terry Fox Run</i>	29 <b>Orange Shirt Day at School</b>	30 <i>National Truth &amp; Reconciliation Day</i>  <i>School is not in session</i>	<b>Early October:</b>  <i>October 7 - Individual Picture Day</i> <i>October 20 - Early Closure (1:35 PM)</i> <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	