



## Aspen Park Elementary School Newsletter

Hello Aspen Park Families,

Here are this week's information items. New items are in **Yellow**.

### Week at a Glance

September 22	September 23	September 24	September 25	September 26
Open Gym	KFN Lunch  1:15 – Assembly  Open House	Open Gym  Strong Start		Open Gym
September 29	September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3
Open Gym  Orange Shirt Day  School wide activities for National Truth and Reconciliation	<b>No School</b> – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Open Gym  Photo Day  Strong Start  Cross Country @ Puntledge Park Elementary	Full School SBT	Open Gym

Upcoming dates to note:

- October 7 to 9 – Cycling Program (Grade 4/5)
- October 13 – **No School** (Thanksgiving)
- October 14 – PAC Meeting
- October 22 – Phot Retake Day
- October 24 – **No School** (Pro-D)
- October 31 – Halloween

### Traveling to School Safely

As the school year gets underway, we want to remind everyone to stay safe when traveling to and from school. Whether your child is biking, walking, or being dropped off by car, please take extra care around crosswalks and school zones. Drivers are reminded to slow down, stay alert, and watch for students.

Families with children riding bikes or scooters should ensure they are wearing properly fitted helmets, and walkers are encouraged to use sidewalks and crosswalks whenever possible. By practicing safe habits, we can all help keep our school community safe.

### **Open House and Meet the Teacher – September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We are excited to invite all families to our Open House & Meet the Teacher event on Tuesday, September 23, from 2:45–4:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit classrooms, connect with teachers, and get to know our school community. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Hot Lunch**

Hot lunch starts on Friday October 10th!

We are looking for volunteers to help pick up orders as needed, organize and distribute on Fridays throughout the school year. Parent support is invaluable to ensure the Hot Lunch program is a success! Ideally, we need 3-4 volunteers per Friday. The time commitment is approximately 1.5 to 2 hours (10:45-12:15 and 10-12:15 on hot dog days).

If you are available and willing to help out, please let me know via email at [aspenparkhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:aspenparkhotlunch@gmail.com).

Helene Williamson  
Hot Lunch Coordinator

### **Photo Day – October 1<sup>st</sup>**

School photos will be taken on Wednesday, October 1st. Photos can be viewed and purchased online.

- Orders placed by the deadline will be delivered to the school in bulk for distribution (sorted by class) approx. 3-4 weeks after the deadline date.
- After the shipping deadline, a shipping fee is applied, and orders will be shipped directly to their address. Photos remain online indefinitely.

For questions or support, please contact Island Life Photographics at 778-420-2833 or [info@islandlifephotographics.ca](mailto:info@islandlifephotographics.ca)

### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Aspen Park**

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time for us to pause, reflect, and honour the children, families, and communities impacted by residential schools. It is also a time to learn together and to continue our commitment to reconciliation as a school community.

Throughout the week of **September 24–26**, students will take part in age-appropriate classroom learning and school-wide activities, including a story walk in the forest and a singing and drumming gathering. These experiences will help us reflect on the importance of truth, listening, and reconciliation.

On **Monday, September 29**, we invite **parents and families to join us before school** at a resource table in front of the school. Families will be able to pick up an **orange felt shirt with a safety pin** as a symbol of connection and commitment. Later that day, at **1:00pm**, every class will gather outside for their own reflection circle, while the whole school wears orange in solidarity.

We are grateful for the chance to share this important learning with our students and with you, their families.

### **School Supplies**

For the 2025-2026 school year Aspen Park Elementary will be providing basic school supplies to students in Kindergarten to grade 7. Instead of parents purchasing individual sets of supplies, families provide money to the school and the school will purchase supplies for each student. This approach will ensure equity and equality among all students and will save parents time (no shopping!) and money (ordering in bulk, our discount on school supplies is significant). The only items parents will have to provide are a backpack, a lunch bag, and appropriate shoes for gym.

Grade 1 to grade 7 the fee will be \$40  
Kindergarten fee will be \$30

The office will accept cash, cheque, or e-transfer. Fees are due no later than October 17<sup>th</sup>. Those who are choosing the e-transfer option, you can send the transfer to [AspenPark@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:AspenPark@sd71.bc.ca). Please make sure you include the following message: **School Supplies-Student(s) Name**

### **Pictures**







## Community Information





**COME TRY**  
*Ringette*

**RINGETTE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO...**

- ✓ BE PART OF A TEAM
- ✓ DISCOVER NEW SKILLS
- ✓ MAKE FRIENDS
- ✓ GET ACTIVE
- ✓ LEARN TO SKATE
- ✓ HAVE FUN



FOR GIRLS & BOYS



The rules of ringette make it a true team sport! In order to win, the whole team must play.

**FREE COME TRY EVENTS!**  
SUNDAYS SEP 14, 21, 28<sup>TH</sup> 12PM - 1PM AT SPORTS CENTER 1. AGES 5 - 12. RSVP VIA QR CODE →  
FREE SKATE RENTAL. HELMETS REQUIRED. OTHER PROTECTIVE GEAR RECOMMENDED.  
REGISTER FOR RINGETTE AT ANY AGE AND STAGE!  
FREE EQUIPMENT FOR THE SEASON!



comoxvalleyringette.com

**Thursday September 25th**

**6:30-8pm**

**2488 Idiens Way Courtenay**

**UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL**

**EDUCATION PLANS (IEPS)**

**FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS**

**WITH SD71 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

**AND SD71 DPAC**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

**FREE CHILDCARE OPTION**

**ZOOM LINK OPTION**

**Email: [dpac@SD71.bc.ca](mailto:dpac@SD71.bc.ca)**



Feel free to email me at [zale.darnel@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:zale.darnel@sd71.bc.ca) if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

**Zale Darnel**

Principal, Aspen Park Elementary