



Aspen Park Elementary School Newsletter

Hello Aspen Park Families,

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

Week at a Glance

September 21	September 22	September 23	September 24	September 25
Pro- D Day (No School)	Universal Lunch Program Begins Field Trip D07 & D06 - Skating 1:00 – Earthquake Drill 2:30 – Open House	Open Gym	1:00 – Terry Fox Run	Open Gym
September 28	September 29	September 30	October 1	October 2
8:10 – Open Gym	School Wide Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day Field Trip D07 & D06 - Skating	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School)	1:00 – Assembly	10:45 – Hold and Secure / Lock Down Drill

Upcoming dates to note:

- October 5 – School Photo Day
- October 8 – School Photo Day for ENTER
- October 12 – Thanksgiving **(No School)**
- October 19 -23 – Consent Week
- October 23 – Pro D Day **(No School)**
- October 28 – Photo Retake Day
- October 30 – School Spirit Day (Halloween Costumes)

Universal Lunch Program – Ordering link: <https://munchalunch.com/>

The Universal Lunch Program replaces Hot Lunch and is available 5 days per week.

 Aspen Park Elementary School Feeding Futures Universal Lunch Program September 2026  Comox Valley Schools A Community of Learners INNOVATIVE • INCLUSIVE • INSPIRING	
A NEW UNIVERSAL LUNCH PROGRAM IS HERE! A new universal lunch program is now available at Aspen Park Elementary School, offering all students the opportunity for nourishing lunch, every school day, regardless of their ability to pay. Lunches are a suggested price of \$4 each. With support from provincial Feeding Futures funding, we are offering a pay-what-you-can model. This means you can anonymously pay the full balance, nothing, or anything in between, whatever works for your family.	What is a Universal Lunch Program? A universal lunch program provides all students equitable access to nourishing food, supporting better learning outcomes, focus, and overall well-being. By offering the same meal to all students, the program reduces stigma, encourages students to try new foods, and promotes food equity across the school community.
Questions? Please email Meghan Nesling meghan.nesling@sd71.bc.ca	
How will it work at Aspen? Monthly menus will be posted online around the middle of the previous month. (For September 2026, online ordering will open on September 14th, with food delivery starting Tuesday, September 22nd). Families will create a Munch a Lunch account, select the meals their student would like, make a payment at their discretion, and that's it! Meals will be delivered directly to students in their classrooms on the days they've ordered.	
Will I have to pay with a credit card? Yes, currently, we can only accept online orders paid by credit card. If using a credit card is a barrier, you can select \$0.00 as your payment amount. Cash or cheque donations can be made separately, but they won't be connected to your account or order.	How do I place an order? • Go to www.munchalunch.com • Click 'Parents – Register Here'. Enter your details and click 'Create account' • Click 'Add a school', filter town to 'Comox' and add Aspen Park Elementary' • Add your children to your account, making sure their grade and class/division are correct! • Click 'Place order' and make your selections from the menu • Follow the instructions all the way through until you see that your order has been submitted. • You will receive a confirmation email upon completion
Reusable Containers! Meals will be served in <i>Friendlier</i> reusable containers that will be collected from the school, professionally washed, and reused to reduce single-use packaging waste! 	
 Provincial Feeding Futures funding is provided so that 'students have access to food, daily, in an equitable, accessible, and non-stigmatizing manner' <i>Offering the same meals to all students helps create a school environment where everyone feels included and supported.</i>	

School Supplies

For the 2026-2027 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.

- Kindergarten to Grade 7 the fee will be \$40
- ENTER fee for Grade K/1 will be \$100
- ENTER fee for Grade 4-7 will be \$200
- The office will accept cash, cheque, or email transfer
- Fees will be due September 30th

The office will accept cash, cheque, or e-transfer. Fees are due no later than October 17th.

Those who are choosing the e-transfer option, you can send the transfer to AspenPark@sd71.bc.ca.

Please make sure you include the following message: **School Supplies-Student(s) Name**

Terry Fox Run – Thursday September 24

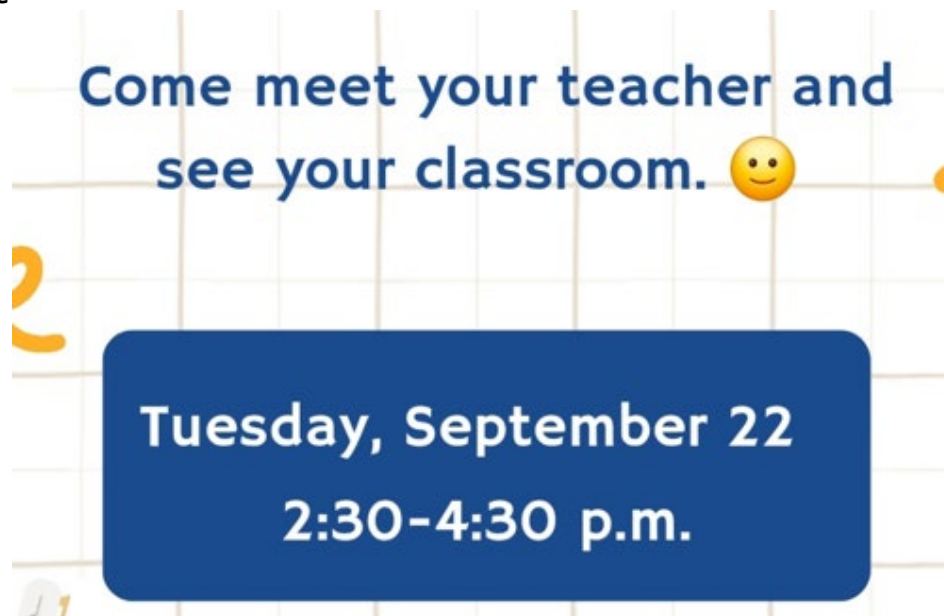
We are excited to take part in our annual Terry Fox Walk/Run on Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m.!

Students will learn about Terry Fox and his incredible Marathon of Hope before heading outside to walk or run together. Our intermediate students will complete a longer route, while our primary students will participate in a fun walk/run around the school field.

This year, our school goal is to raise \$1,500 for cancer research. Every donation, big or small, helps!

We will also have some fun fundraising activities along the way, including \$1 “Pie the Staff Member” tickets and Freezies for sale after school.

Open House



Pictures



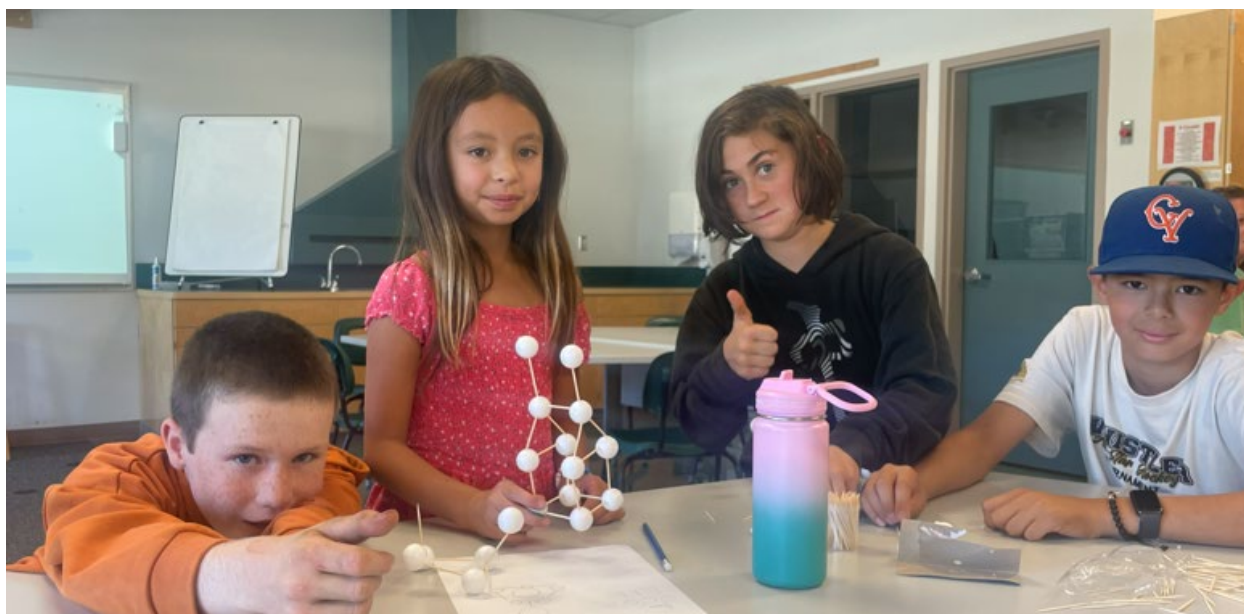












Community Information

parenting without power struggles

Navigate the pre-teen years with confidence and connection. Empower yourself to be the best possible parent for your youth!

**THURSDAYS from 7:30–9 pm
starting October 8**

Virtual Sessions
Accessible wherever you are!

Registration Required
Reserve your space today!

**bgccvi.com/pwps/
parentingprograms@bgccvi.com**

 **bgc** Central
Vancouver Island

**Next Session
starts October 8**




**opportunity
changes everything.**

Feel free to email me at zale.darnel@sd71.bc.ca if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

Zale Darnel

Principal, Aspen Park Elementary