# Aspen Park Elementary School Newsletter

Hello Aspen Park Families,

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

**Week at a Glance**

| November 16 | November 17 | November 18 | November 19 | November 20 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8:10 – Open Gym<br><br>9:00 to Noon - Strong Start<br><br>12:00 – Choir Club | Strong Start<br><br>12:00 – Choir & Leadership<br><br>2:45 – Health and Safety Meeting<br><br>Book Fair in Library 12:30-3:30 p.m. | Open Gym<br><br>Book Fair in Library 8:30-3:30 p.m.<br><br>PAC Bake Sale in Foyer 2:30-3:30 p.m.-yum! 😊<br><br>Volleyball – Grade 6 @ Gaglardi, Grade 7 @ Home vs Puntledge | **Parent Teacher Interviews (No Classes in Session)**<br><br>Book Fair in Library 8:30-5:00 p.m. | Open Gym |
| **November 23** | **November 24** | **November 25** | **November 26** | **November 27** |
| 8:10 – Open Gym<br><br>9:00 to Noon - Strong Start<br><br>12:00 – Choir Club | Strong Start<br><br>12:00 – Choir Club<br><br>2:45 – Staff Meeting | Open Gym<br><br>Volleyball – Grade 6 @ Home vs Queneesh, Grade 7 @ Brooklyn<br><br>ENTER Open House for New Registrations 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Queneesh Elementary School | Strong Start<br><br>School Spirit Day – Dress Like a Celebrity Day<br><br>Grade 6/7 Toonie Treat Sales After School-just $2 each! | Open Gym |

**Upcoming dates to note:**

- November 25 – ENTER Information Session for 2027/2028, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Queneesh Elementary School
- December 1 – Green Thumb K-7 Theatre Performance
- December 1 – Immunization Clinic for Kindergarten and Grade 6 students

- December 2 – Entrepreneur Fair by ENTER Gr. 4/5 students 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- December 4 – Winter Concert 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- December 10 – ENTER Showcase
- December 8 – PAC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- December 9 – Aspen Park Regift Sale!
- December 10 – ENTER Winter Performance 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- December 18 – Last Day Before Winter Break
- January 4 – First Day Back After Winter Break

***A Reminder About Our Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zone** ⚠

A friendly reminder to please keep our school drop-off and pick-up zone moving. For everyone's safety, please avoid stopping or parking in the zone while waiting for students. If your child isn't ready and waiting to be picked up, please continue through and circle back when they are ready. Keeping traffic flowing helps make drop-off and pick-up safer and smoother for all of our Aspen families. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

***Universal Lunch Program:** – Ordering link: https://munchalunch.com/
Ordering for each menu day will close 3 days before the scheduled date. Be sure to place your orders before the deadline!

***Being Prepared for Winter Weather**



As the rainy weather continues and we head into the winter season, we encourage families to make sure students come to school dressed for the weather, especially on rainy days. Waterproof jackets, boots, and extra layers are always helpful!

We also recommend sending a spare set of clothes to keep at school in case your child gets wet while playing outside at recess. Having a change of clothes available will help students stay comfortable and dry throughout the school day and reduce the need for us to call home to request a change of clothing.

Thank you for helping our Aspen Yetis stay warm, dry, and ready to enjoy the outdoors, whatever the weather brings!

***Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 19 (No Classes)**
Parent-teacher conferences will take place on **Thursday, November 19**. There will be **no classes for students on this day** to allow families and teachers time to meet and discuss student learning, progress, and goals.
Families are invited to schedule a conference time with their child's teacher using the link below.
http://www.parentinterviews.com/aspenpark

***A Message from our Teacher Librarian Ms. Mathew regarding the upcoming Book Fair, organizing students going to The Views for their Remembrance Day Ceremony and the Gr. 6/7 Hackergirls Club:**
Ms. Mathew is looking for book fair volunteers on the 17th-19th. The shifts are anywhere from 1.5hrs to just over 2 hours. You can sign up using the following link.
Volunteer Schedule for Book Fair.docx

Four Grade 7 students from Ms. Tran and Ms. Hudson's class participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at The Views. The residents, staff and guests were all so appreciative. I would also like to thank Ms. Rehnby, Ms. Hudson, and Ms. Roberts classes for the great job they did on the Remembrance Day cards for the seniors. I got to see first-hand how much it meant to them to receive the handmade cards!

Our Grade 6/7 Hackergirls Club has begun this year. Hackergals has changed the format a little bit, the culmination will no longer be called a Hackathon but will focus more on the journey to the product in a format called the Innovation Lab!
The Innovation Lab is a nine-week, project-based experience where girls* and gender-diverse learners collaboratively identify a challenge in the community and use technology, design, collaboration, and creativity to build projects that make a positive impact!

This year's theme is **Reimagine a Greener Tomorrow**, which invites learners to think about and identify an environmental challenge in their community and create a technology-based project to help address it. The experience is all about **Turning Ideas into Action**, taking a challenge that they care about solving, turning it into something that they can create, test, and share with others, and helping learners see that technology can be a tool for creating meaningful change in the communities around them.

We still have space in our club should this interest anyone who identifies as female in Grade 6/7. We are going to start working towards our project next week.

***Morning Warning Bell Time Change – Starting November 9**
Beginning Monday, November 9, we will be making a small adjustment to our morning warning bell. Currently, the warning bell rings at 8:30 a.m., with classes beginning at 8:35 a.m. This five-minute gap has resulted in students waiting in line for their teachers.

To make our morning transitions smoother, the warning bell will now ring at 8:32 a.m., with classes continuing to begin at 8:35 a.m.

Please note that this change only affects the warning bell. Our school start time remains 8:35 a.m. Thank you for helping us make this small adjustment to our morning routine.

***PAC Holiday Art Card Fundraiser** 

The Aspen Park PAC is excited to bring back our Holiday Art Card Fundraiser!

Students will have the opportunity to create their own unique holiday artwork, which can then be turned into professionally printed holiday cards featuring their original designs.

Families can purchase bundles of **10 cards, including envelopes, for $20.00**. These make wonderful personalized holiday cards for family and friends!

Order forms and payment must be returned to the school office by **Friday, November 20, 2026**.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque (payable to Aspen Park Elementary PAC), or e-transfer. Please remember to include your child's name and division/teacher in the e-transfer memo, and return the completed order form to the school regardless of payment method.

Cards will be ready approximately 2–3 weeks after the order deadline.

Thank you for supporting the Aspen Park PAC and our school community!

* **PAC BAKE SALE on Wednesday, November 18th from 2:30-3:30** and some limited items will be available throughout the day on November 19th in the foyer. All baked items will be $2 - Cash only.

***The Aspen Park PAC Re-Gift Sale is coming Back!**

The Aspen Park PAC is thrilled to announce the return of our annual **Re-Gift Sale on Wednesday, December 9th!**

Every class will visit the sale during a scheduled time slot so students can pick out holiday gifts for their family and loved ones. This is a great fundraiser for our school PAC, but the best part is watching how excited the kids are to carefully choose their gifts. All purchases will be gift wrapped for students to bring home.

- Item Price: $2.00 each this year (purchases may be limited per student based on donation volume)
- New This Year - Family Shopping: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (open to all families!).

**Donations Needed!**

Donations can now be dropped off at the school office.

- **Great items to donate:** Pottery, mugs, scarves, mitts, ties, tools, costume jewelry, toys, complete board games, books, small framed art, home décor, craft kits, cozy throws, kitchen gadgets, LEGO sets, garden tools, and seasonal decorations.
- **Gift wrapping supplies:** Gift bags, tissue paper, gift tags, wrapping paper rolls, and sturdy small-to-medium boxes.
- ***Please skip:*** *Fast-food toys, incomplete sets, broken or heavily worn items, cosmetics, and personal care products.*

**Volunteers Needed!**

This beloved tradition cannot happen without our wonderful volunteers. We need hands to help sort, organize, and wrap gifts!

- **Set-up**: Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM
- **Sale Day:** Wednesday, December 9th from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Any amount of time helps—even an hour or two!)
- **Requirement**: Volunteers must have all standard district volunteer documents on file, including an up-to-date criminal record check.
- **Please sign up here:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-DePW4Dgs1tHlVMtALX7lnAXEdstBPn-pDPnvg1LjBs/edit?usp=drivesdk
- Email Luba at aspenpac@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for helping make this magical day happen for our students!

***PAC School Spirit Wear - Deadline November 14th**

Looking for something for your special student for the holidays? Surprise them with a cozy Hoodie, T-Shirt or Toque! Order by November 13th to ensure your order arrives before Winter Break! Don't miss out!" Get your Aspen Spirit Wear!

Order Here Aspen Park Clothing Order 2026/2027 – Fill out form

Payment is made by E-Transfer to aspenparkpactreasurer@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact aspenpac@gmail.com




***Emergency Preparedness**

At Aspen Park, we practise regular emergency drills, including fire, earthquake (Drop, Cover and Hold), and lockdown drills, to help ensure everyone knows what to do in different situations. These drills are introduced in developmentally appropriate ways to help students feel prepared and safe.

We encourage families to take a few minutes to review the Comox Valley Schools Emergency Preparedness information. The website outlines the different types of emergency responses, how families will be notified, and procedures for reuniting with children in the event of an emergency.

**Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these important procedures:**

Comox Valley Schools – Emergency Preparedness

***Planning for the 2027–28 school year? Save these dates!**

DEC. 1, 2026 TO JAN. 10, 2027

The Expression of Interest window opens earlier this year, giving families much more time to apply for Early and Late French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Kindergarten/Grade 1, Pathways Learning Community at Airport Elementary and ENTER at Aspen Park Elementary.

Entry is by lottery, not application order. Program priorities apply. Currently enrolled students do not need to reapply. Schools will conduct their lotteries and inform families prior to the opening of Neighbourhood Kindergarten registration.

JAN. 14, 2027: Neighbourhood Kindergarten Registration Opens (most students). Kindergarten Registration - Comox Valley Schools

November 25, 2026: Join our Kindergarten & District Programs Open House from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Queneesh Elementary gymnasium.

Do you know someone with a child who will be entering kindergarten next year? Are you interested in learning about some of the different programs offered by Comox Valley Schools?

Explore programs and connect with our teams

Come meet staff, ask questions and learn about:

- Kindergarten registration
- Indigenous K/1 and Indigenous Education Department
- Early and Late French Immersion
- Montessori
- Pathways Learning Community at Airport Elementary
- ENTER at Aspen Park Elementary
- NIDES program options
- Inclusive Education and student supports

Get information about the Expression of Interest process and discover the options available for your child.

Drop in anytime. All families welcome!

Comox Valley Schools

## EXPLORE THE 2027–28 SCHOOL YEAR

### Kindergarten & District Programs

# OPEN HOUSE

## Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2026

**6:30 to 8 p.m.**

**Queneesh Elementary gymnasium**

***Drop in anytime. All families welcome!***

## MEET STAFF & EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

- Neighbourhood Kindergarten
- Early French Immersion
- Late French Immersion
- Montessori
- Indigenous Kindergarten/Grade 1
- Pathways Learning Community
- ENTER (K–7)
- Navigate (NIDES)

**Connect with Inclusive Education, Indigenous Education and other district teams.**

**Ask questions about registration and the Expression of Interest process.**

**Learn more:**
**comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration**

Comox Valley Schools

# 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten eligibility: Children must turn five by Dec. 31, 2027

## Program Applications Open Earlier

**Expression of Interest**

**Dec. 1, 2026 to Jan. 13, 2027**

Now six weeks to apply for select district programs.
Lottery-based entry. Program priorities apply.

- Early French Immersion
- Late French Immersion
- Montessori
- Indigenous K-1
- Pathways Learning (K-3) Community
- ENTER (K-7)

## Kindergarten & District Programs

## OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2026**

**6:30 to 8 p.m. | Queneesh Elementary gymnasium**

Learn about: Kindergarten options, Indigenous K-1, NIDES, Early/Late French Immersion, Pathways Learning Community and other district programs that support students.

## Neighbourhood Kindergarten

**Registration opens Jan. 14, 2027**

Most Kindergarten students attend their neighbourhood school.
Register to help us plan for your child's place at your local school.

Placement at your catchment school is not guaranteed.
**NIDES programs have a separate registration schedule in February.

## Learn more:

comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration
comoxvalleyschools.ca/kindergarten-registration

**Welcome Back, Strong Start!**

We are excited to welcome Strong Start back to Aspen Park Elementary! This free early learning program is a wonderful opportunity for children ages birth to 5 years and their caregivers to connect, play, explore, and learn together in a welcoming school environment.

Strong Start runs Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each week. We look forward to welcoming our youngest learners and their families back to Aspen Park!



Comox Valley Schools

# DARKER MORNINGS.

## BE SEEN.
## STAY SAFE.

**With school starting at 8:30–9 a.m., many students will travel or arrive before sunrise.**

## COMOXVALLEY SUNRISE TIMES

Winter 2026–27 • All times a.m.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NOV. 8 | 8:20 | NOV. 22 | 8:42 |
| DEC. 6 | 9:01 | JAN. 3 | 9:16 |
| JAN.17 | 9:09 | FEB. 14 | 8:30 |



### FAMILIES

Choose bright clothing and reflective gear.



### DRIVERS

Slow down. Stay alert. Watch for students.

Sunrise source: timeanddate.com • Comox, B.C.

**Pictures**


Remembrance Day Ceremony
PIC•COLLAGE
Remembrance Day Ceremony
PIC•COLLAGE


Reebok
GAP
Tea Trolley Time


Tenor Guitar Club


Job
Boar
Indoor Recess Creations!


Leadership
Announcements

**Community Information**




The British Columbia School Trustees Association is proud to announce that the **2026-27 Student Citizenship Awards** are now open. This year, there are three distinct categories of citizenship awards, designed to better recognize the diverse contributions of our public school students.

These $750 awards celebrate students who are completing their K-12 education journey this school year and have demonstrated exceptional dedication to citizenship in their schools and communities. Last year, the awards were updated to recognize that each student's educational journey is unique, and as such, over 175 applications were received.

We've further committed to increased equity and accessibility through three thoughtfully designed categories:

The **Open Category** welcomes any student who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship contributions to their school or community.

The **Indigenous Ancestry Category** specifically honours students of Indigenous descent who demonstrate exceptional dedication to citizenship within their school, community, and/or culture.

The **Overcoming Obstacles Category** recognizes students who have persevered through significant life challenges while maintaining their commitment to citizenship and community service.

Each category ensures that diverse experiences and contributions are valued and celebrated. Students must be planning to attend a recognized post-secondary institution or a skills and career training program to be eligible.

All applicants are instructed to submit a completed application as a single PDF including the application form, two reference letters, a signed consent form, and a written submission of up to 1,000 words. **Applications must be emailed to bcsta@bcsta.org by 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 14, 2027.**

Award recipients will be announced at the **BCSTA Annual General Meeting (April 15-17, 2027).**

These awards demonstrate BCSTA's ongoing commitment to celebrating the outstanding achievements of BC's public school students while ensuring that every deserving student has the opportunity to be recognized for their unique contributions to citizenship and community.

In-Person Events

# Community Events

## Connect & Learn | for Parents & Caregivers

### Parenting When Anxiety Shows Up As Anger

Anxiety in our kids can show up as anger, and that can make parenting extra challenging. Learn from Karen Peters, Registered Clinical Counsellor, to discover some strategies that can help us before, during, and after these hard moments.



### Details

This video presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion by the Family Peer Support Workers in the Comox Valley.

LOCATION:
Mark Isfeld Secondary (multipurpose room)
1551 Lerwick Rd, Courtenay
The entrance is to the left of the main office doors.

DATE: Tuesday, November 17, 2026

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

COST: Free

This event is for parents/caregivers only, and we are not able to provide childcare.

### Questions?

EMAIL: megan.watson-shelly@familysmart.ca

PHONE/TEXT: (250) 890-2393

For more information and to register, go to familysmart.ca/events

Register online at
familysmart.ca/events

Integrated Child & Youth Teams

FamilySmart
Together-Centred




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

Respectfully,

**Teresa Cameron**
Vice Principal, Aspen Park Elementary