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 9	November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13
8:10 – Open Gym 9:00 to Noon - Strong Start 12:00 – Choir Club	Strong Start 10:45 – Remembrance Day Assembly (Families Welcome) 12:00 – Choir 2:45 – Staff Meeting 6:30 – PAC Meeting	**Remembrance Day (No School)**	Strong Start Toonie Treat Sale After School Volleyball – Grade 6 @ Home Vs Royston, Grade 7 @ Miracle Beach	Open Gym
November 16	**November 17**	**November 18**	**November 19**	**November 20**
8:10 – Open Gym 9:00 to Noon - Strong Start 12:00 – Choir Club	Strong Start 12:00 – Choir & Leadership 2:45 – Health and Safety Meeting Book Fair in Library 12:30-3:30 p.m.	Open Gym Volleyball – Grade 6 @ Gaglardi, Grade 7 @ Home vs Puntledge Book Fair in Library 8:30-3:30 p.m.	**Parent Teacher Interviews (No Classes in Session)** Book Fair in Library 8:30-5:00 p.m.	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 & ENTER Open House at Aspen
- December 2 – Entrepreneur Fair ENTER Gr. 4/5
- 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 10 – ENTER Winter Performance
- December 18 – Last Day Before Winter Break
- January 4 – First Day Back After Winter Break

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!

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 and more!:

Hello Parents,

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

The grade 4/5 Reading Link Challenge has now started. Earlier this week the launch video was sent out to district teacher librarians. We currently have one team of 5 students. We have room for one more student on that team, but can create another if there are more students interested.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94-VIDdq0qc

The grade 6/7 Battle of the Books has also begun. Teacher librarians chose 6 great books this year: Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston, Touching Grass by Kristy Jackson, Alone by Megan E. Freeman, Building 903 by Lois Lowry, No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen and Bloom by Kenneth Oppel! We have space for one more student on our team.

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.

ENTER Program Expression of Interest - Dec. 1, 2026 to Jan. 13, 2027

The Expression of Interest window is opening earlier this year, giving families approximately six weeks to apply for select district programs. This includes Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Kindergarten/Grade 1, Pathways Learning Community and ENTER. Entry to these programs is based on a lottery rather than the order applications are received, so families do not need to apply on opening day. Program priorities, including applicable sibling priority and priority for students of Indigenous ancestry in Indigenous Kindergarten/Grade 1, continue to apply.

Neighbourhood Kindergarten Registration - Opens Jan. 14, 2027

Most Kindergarten students attend their neighbourhood catchment school. Families planning to register for regular neighbourhood Kindergarten can do so beginning Jan. 14, 2027. Children entering Kindergarten in September 2027 must turn five by Dec. 31, 2027.

ENTER Open House - Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2026

Families are invited to a drop-in open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Queneesh Elementary gymnasium to explore learning options for the 2027–28 school year.
Meet staff and learn about:

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

Representatives from Inclusive Education, Indigenous Education and other district teams will also be available to discuss supports and services for students and families.
Families can ask questions about program options, registration requirements and the Expression of Interest process, including how to apply, important dates, the lottery process and applicable program priorities.

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 be dropped off at the school office starting Monday, November 9th.

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

To lend a hand, please email Luba at aspenpac@gmail.com.

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



PAC School Spirit Wear - Deadline November 13th
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

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






Family Chess Game
PIC•COLLAGE








PIC•COLLAGE








PIC•COLLAGE

Community Information SD71 DPAC volunteers are pleased to welcome the White Hatter back by popular demand for a series of four online presentations beginning November through February. This presentation is the first of the series, and begins with Digital Literacy and Internet Safety for Parents & Caregivers. Find a more expansive description through the link here: https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/programs/digital-literacy-and-internet-safety-for-parents-and-caregivers



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