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Principal's Message



Welcome back! I would like to thank the staff, students and parents / guardians for a smooth start to the school year especially given the unique times in which

we find ourselves. The students' smiles have quickly brightened our hallways. A special welcome to all of our new students and families.

As we start the new school year, we do have a few staff changes at Frank J. Ney. Please take time to visit our website to get a list of our entire school staff.

We look forward to a great school year working together with parents and students. Parental involvement with their child's daily school experience is very important. Be sure to take time to chat with your child each day about his/her classroom activities, and to provide and support regular homework and reading time. Working together, we will strive to provide a healthy and positive education experience for your child.

Throughout the school year, keep your eye out for various activities that will help add some flavour to your school year. Be sure to *check out our ["Year At A Glance"](#) calendar under the "Students & Parents" section of our website.* Be sure to mark **Tuesday, September 22st** on your calendar; it is the our school photo date. We are holding a **Terry Fox Run** but due to COVID it will be run separately by classes rather than as a school-wide event.

Once again, on behalf of the entire team at Frank J. Ney Elementary, welcome back!

Sincerely,
Patrick Young
DJ Thompson

Nut Aware School

Due to staff / student allergies, Frank J. Ney Elementary is a: **Nut Aware** Site. Please help keep our learning environment safe for all by keeping our site free of nuts and items containing nuts!

Important Dates

Following are some of our upcoming important dates. Please check out our ["Year At A Glance"](#) calendar under the "News & Calendar" section of our website. It already lists most of this year's events/dates and will be updated during the school year.

Student Photos (Lifetouch)	Tuesday, September 22
Terry Fox Run	Class by Class
Orange Shirt Day	Wednesday, September 30
Pro D	Friday, October 9
Thanksgiving (Stat)	Monday, October 12
Great BC ShakeOut	Thursday, October 15
Non-Instructional Day (Provincial PSA)	Friday, October 23
Daylight Savings Ends (Back an Hour)	Sunday, November 1
Remembrance Day (Stat)	Wednesday, November 11

- PAC meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 6 PM (Online during Phase 2.)

Accessing Our Site

During Phase 2 of our COVID school plan, the school site is open only to school staff and students. Parents may pickup students on our site (please consider wearing masks) but are not able to enter the building at this time. If needing to connect with a teacher, you may call the school and arrange a phone conversation or online meeting.

Staying Home If Sick

Our shared goal is to keep the school as safe as possible; especially during our current COVID pandemic. If you child has a cough or fever, or other flu symptoms, please keep them safely at home.

Cashless Payment System (KEV)

Parents should have received an email from the school district with information on how to sign-up for our new Cashless Online Payment System (KEV). The goal is to make paying for things both easier and cleaner by removing the need to pay in cash. School permission forms will also be sent out through this system to help remove the need to send paper-based forms back and forth.

If you haven't already, please look for that email and create a KEV account.

Classroom Supplies & Art Materials



As noted in an earlier email, the school has ordered classroom supplies and art materials for our students.

Parents will receive a payment request through the Cashless Payment System (KEV) for these items. Keep an eye out for the notification and know that you don't need to send cash to the school to pay for supplies.

Terry Fox Run

As noted in the Principal's Message, while we won't be holding a school-wide Terry Fox Run due to our desire to keep events smaller in size, individual classes will be running to "Keep Terry's Marathon of Hope alive. Information will be shared by classroom teachers.

Our New Bell Schedule

Given the timely arrival of our students, I am confident our families have already adjusted to our new bell schedule. This year every day begins at 8:40 AM and finishes at 2:20 PM. A more detailed version of our bell schedule is found on our school website.

School Zones

As kids head back to school, the Nanaimo RCMP is reminding drivers to slow down in school zones.

A 30km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 am to 5 pm on school days.

A reminder to drivers is that excessive speeding in a school zone (**70 km/hr in a 30 km/hr zone**) may lead to their vehicle being impounded for 7 days.



Safety in the Parking Lot

Our school parking lot is a very busy place. It is important to know that we have a school bus that does drop off and pick up every day. Please help us ensure every child stays safe and reduce congestion by respecting the intended flow of traffic. Our parking lot and Williamson Road can be extremely congested. Please be PATIENT, COURTEOUS DRIVERS, and respect all our signs. Also, remind your children to cross the street safely. Thank you!

In an effort to make the Student Drop Off/Pick Up area as orderly and safe as possible:

1. Give yourself lots of time to Pick-Up and Drop-Off your children safely
2. Obey all road rules, speed limits and signage
3. Pull as far forward as possible in the marked Student Drop Off / Pick Up area
4. DO NOT exit your vehicle while in the Student Drop Off / Pick Up area
5. Be sure to have your child exit / enter the vehicle from the curb side
6. Be sure to cross the roadways at the stop sign
7. Park in designated areas only, please note, with the expanded parking lot, parent vehicles are only to park in the lower section of the parking lot – the upper section of the parking lot is for staff only. **NO PARENT VEHICLES CAN BE STOPPED IN THE BUS DROP OFF ONLY AREA AT THE TOP SECTION OF THE PARKING LOT. THE RED CURB SECTION MEANS NO STOPPING OR PARKING AT ALL, THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.**
8. Use courtesy to pedestrians and other parents
9. Stay calm and be patient
10. Please follow safety instructions from SD 68 personnel

Dress Code & Dressing for the Weather



It is expected students will dress in a manner that is appropriate and conducive to a positive and safe learning environment. Appropriate dress is safe; is free of any reference to alcohol, drugs, gangs, hate, obscenity, profanity, discrimination, sex and/or violence; is not disturbing or distracting to others within the school setting. Thanks for helping in this regard.

As we enter the fall, it is greatly appreciated when students come to school prepared for the uncertain fall weather. Boots, gloves, warm jackets are a necessity at this time of year, even though the weather may seem mild and rain-free in the morning. Layered clothing is always a good choice as students can remove or add clothing as necessary. We do plan to have many outside days.

A reminder that due to COVID protocols, we are asking that students bring their personal items (including clothing) to and from school each day.

Student Property

To assist the school with the return of any student property, should the need arise, it would be greatly appreciated if all school items and articles of clothing such as jackets, hats, gym strip, gloves, etc. were labeled with your child's name. Many articles of clothing find their way into the lost and found box, yet many items remain unclaimed, unless properly labeled for easy identification. Thank you for your support with this!

Cell Phones & Devices

As technology continues to advance, we are seeing students at schools with cell phones, Ipods, digital cameras, gaming devices, etc. If your child has any of these at school, please remind them that they are to be turned off and in their backpack throughout the school day unless the teacher has indicated differently in the classroom. In particular, cell phones are not to be used at any time during the school day. If a student needs to use the phone for emergent issues, the school phone is accessible with permission from a staff member. If a parent needs to contact a student in an emergency, please call the office.



The other issue around technology that has become increasingly common at schools is the use of digital or cell phone cameras. For privacy issues, as well as personal safety issues, we ask that students do not bring or use personal cameras at school. Families are reminded that parents and students should never share photos of other people online unless they have specific permission from that person to share their image.

Please remember that the school is not responsible for the loss or damage of these items so students must securely store them. Thank you for your support.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council is an integral part of our school. They meet once per month, on the third Tuesday of each month @ 6 PM; at this time meetings are done online. The Frank Ney PAC invites parents to join them to learn more about what they do and see how you can become involved. The PAC may be contacted at finpacchair@gmail.com and via their facebook page. Please see the PAC Newsletter for additional information.

Emergency Drills

Every school year, each school runs fire drills, earthquake drills and building security drills (lockdown, hold and secure, etc.) to prepare staff and students for these unlikely events. Please discuss with your child the importance of being prepared and the appropriate behaviours during such drills. Additional information is found on our "Student Safety Brochure" located on our website in the "Parents" section under or "Student and Parents" tab. If you have any questions about any of these drills, please contact Patrick Young or DJ Thompson at the school to discuss.

Student Handbook

The current school parent/student handbook will be (a) sent home as a digital copy and (b) is available on the school website. Basic school policies, procedures and programs are outlined in this handbook. ***Please note, the Frank Ney School Code of Conduct is provided in the student handbook. Please be sure to review this with your child, we will be going over it in class also.***

Absence from School

If your child is going to be away from school for any reason, please let the school know as soon as possible. You can let the school know by calling and speaking with the secretary or leaving a message on the answering machine (250-729-8045), or by emailing the secretary at info.FN@sd68.bc.ca.

**Thanks for a great start
to the school year!**

