



# Words from the Wolfpack

Tsuma-as Elementary Newsletter  
Ms. Girard, Principal

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Ms. Spring, Vice-Principal

## Ms. Girard's Message ...

Spring is here and we have seen some beautiful (hot) sunny days. It's a great reminder that as the weather changes, students need to be prepared. Our classes are participating in many lessons outside and in our community, so please ensure your child has water, proper footwear for physical activity and extra clothing at school. On hot days, sending your child with a hat and sunscreen is also a great idea.



May and June are shaping up to be very busy months at school. We will see many spring fieldtrips and the start of year end activities. Please make sure you record all the important dates from our newsletters and classroom notices. We do not want anyone to miss out or families to be unprepared. If you have any questions regarding upcoming events, please contact your child's teacher.

## Maker Market ~ **Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the gym** (access through the back parking lot)



Tsuma-as' first student Maker Market planning is well underway, and we are excited to share that we have approximately 50 students involved. Many students have been working away at building their own items to sell to friends, family, and community members. Students will be selling all types of jewellery, sensory tools and toys, bath materials, art and craft projects, greeting cards, dog treats, stickers, plants, bookmarks and much more..

Our grade 7 team has taken the initiative to plan this event as a fundraiser for their year-end trip. Along with many student project tables at our market, the grade 7 students will also be hosting a concession stand. We hope to see everyone there.



## Kindergarten Day

We would like to welcome next year's Kindergarten students to a special event. Our "Welcome to the Wolfpack" Kindergarten event will be held on **Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 4 pm**. This is an open house for all new Kindergarten students and their families. You will get a chance to explore various play activities and spaces at your new school (including the Kindergarten classrooms), as well as meet many staff members. Important information has been mailed (and emailed) out to all students who have registered for Kindergarten next year. If you did not receive your child's Kindergarten mail, please contact the school immediately.

## Pride Week



Pacific Rim School District **Pride week takes place May 27<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>**. Our school SAFE club has planned a series of fun lunch time activities that promote inclusion, acceptance, and diversity. These activities include colouring contests, dance party in the gym, kindness scavenger hunt, chalk & bubble stations, face painting, rainbow walk (wear your favourite colour) and flying the pride flag. The focus during this week is on being proud of who you are, celebrating ways of including everyone and spreading kindness.

## Track & Field Events

Our district Track Meet will take place on **Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>**. This district event is for athletes in grades 4 – 7. Students will need to try out for each track and field event, as each school can only take the top 3 athletes in each event category. *Track and Field try outs and practices will be at lunch hour*. Daily announcements will be made to signify which grade and which event is happening each day. If your child is interested in trying out for our school track team, please remind them to listen to the announcements carefully. If your child is successful in making the track and field team, Ms. Russell (the coach) will send out more information as the event gets closer. Parents and community members are invited to come and watch! This event will be taking place at Bob Daily Stadium from 9 am to approx. 2 pm. Come cheer on our school.





### Rathrevor Beach Days

We are headed to the beach! We are excited to share that all classes will have a chance to attend Tsuma-as Beach days in late June. Due to the size of our school, and the limitations of bussing, our school will be divided into two sections (Primary and Intermediate) and will be travelling to Rathrevor Beach in Parksville. Families will be invited to join us but will need to carpool or take their own vehicle. More detailed information will come out in June, but **mark your calendars**:

Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Intermediate Grades: 4 – 7 (including Ms. Empringham's grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  class)

Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Primary Grades: Kindergarten to Grade 3

### Dogs on School Grounds

Please remember that dogs are not allowed on school property. For safety reasons and the comfort of all students, staff and families, dogs must remain in vehicles or outside the fence areas. Owners will be asked to remove dogs from school grounds. Thank you for your understanding.



### SLOW DOWN! Drive with caution.



We have had too many “close calls” recently in our back parking lot. Many parents and staff have shared concerns over speeding, illegal parking, blocking traffic, and unsafe crossing. Please remember to follow all traffic and school signage. There is a “drop off only” lane in which people should not be parking (and leaving their vehicles). We have additional parking stalls for this. Vehicles should not be stopping in the drive through lanes at any time. Please do not drop off children in unsafe areas (ie. if they must cross traffic, a street or even move between parked cars). This is making it very unsafe for students. Please slow down and drive with caution.

### Class Building

During the next month, staff at our school will begin the complex process of forming classes for the upcoming school year. This work includes projecting student enrollment and creating classes that make the most effective use of our assigned staff and most importantly, building balanced student groupings that can work together cohesively as learning communities. This is a challenging task as there are many factors that must be taken into consideration. If you would like to provide input into your child's placement for next year, **please read the attached letter from Director of Instruction - James Messenger, as this will provide guidance in terms of how to do so.**



Please note, as this information is just being sent out, the deadline for our school will be extended to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



### Upcoming Dates:

May 20<sup>th</sup> – No School – Victoria Day

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Student Maker Market 10am – 1 pm in the gym

May 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> – Pride Week

May 29<sup>th</sup> – “Welcome to the Wolfpack” – New Kindergarten Student Event 3- 4 pm

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Grade 7 Open House @ ADSS

June 7<sup>th</sup> – District Track Meet @ Bob Dailey Stadium

June 7<sup>th</sup> – School Spirit Day ~ wear your Tsuma-as clothing or anything coloured **BLUE**

June 19<sup>th</sup> – Rathrevor Beach Day for Intermediate Students (Grade  $\frac{3}{4}$  class to 7)

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Rathrevor Beach Day for Primary Students (Kindergarten to grade 3)

June 21<sup>st</sup> – National Indigenous Day

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Picnic Day (pizza provided by PAC)

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Fun Day

June 27<sup>th</sup> – LAST DAY for students & Learning Updates going home



April 18, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardians,

RE: Class Building 2024/2025

During the next couple months, staff at our Elementary schools will begin the complex process of forming classes for the upcoming school year. This work includes projecting student enrollment and creating classes that make the most effective use of our assigned staff and most importantly, building balanced student groupings that can work together cohesively as learning communities. This is a challenging task as there are many factors that must be taken into consideration including:

- Social, emotional and relational dynamics
- Academic strengths and needs
- Unique learning needs and available supports
- Class balance
- Previous teacher and/or administrator recommendations

School staff take this work very seriously and collaborate to make the best decisions about student placement. We strive to shape classes which will support the learning needs of **all** students.

There are many unknowns as we begin this task. For example, school enrolment often fluctuates until early September, so learner groupings must remain somewhat fluid. Also, teacher staffing is not complete until June, and some staff members may request, or be asked, to change their assignment for next year. As a result, the learner groupings that we create in spring are tentative and are not finalized until early in the new school year. For this reason, class groupings will be kept confidential until they are finalized in September.

If you would like to provide input into your child's placement for next year, we encourage you to:

1. Talk to your child's current classroom teacher about your interests, and then;
2. Send a note to the school principal outlining what you see as your child's learning needs, preferred learning style or any other information you think might be relevant as staff work through the task of shaping learning environments for the upcoming year.

We ask that you do not request a specific teacher. Your input will be considered along with the other complex variables that go into constructing a class; however, not all recommendations can be honoured.

The deadline for submitting information regarding your child's class placement is Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Sincerely,

James Messenger  
Director of Instruction – Learning and Innovation