

# Forest Grove Elementary

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May 1st, 2019

Newsletter #11

## Principal's Message:

### Communicating Student Learning

As you are aware, there have been revisions made to the BC curriculum over the last few years.

Reporting is also shifting to reflect these revisions. We will be implementing some changes in the 2019-20 school year. In primary, we will be shifting to a 4 point proficiency scale rather than the not yet meeting, approaching, meeting, exceeding scale that we are currently using. In intermediate we will also use this 4 point proficiency scale rather than traditional letter grades in the 2019-20 school year. Please see the 4 point scale below. This scale will be used to indicate the students' performance in the subject areas. All progress reports will continue to reflect strengths, areas for improvement and ways to support learning. This scale represents a growth mindset approach to learning rather than the previously used expectations language. We are confident that the change in reporting will provide feedback to parents about their child's current learning and the next steps in their learning journey. Please see the links below for a summary article and a You Tube clip about the research related to a shift away from letter grades. There will be a parent meeting to discuss the changes outlined on May 23 at 6:00 pm.

| Proficiency Levels   |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Emerging   | Developing   | Proficient   | Extending   |
| The student is beginning to demonstrate basic knowledge in relation to the competencies and content. | The student demonstrates some knowledge in relation to the competencies and content. | The student demonstrates good knowledge in relation to the competencies and content. | The student demonstrates knowledge beyond the grade level competencies and content.           |
| Works best with support  | Works with some support  | Works independently  | Works independently and supports the learning of others.                                      |
| <p>"I am just getting started."<br/>"I learn best with help."</p>                                    | <p>"I get some of it."<br/>"I am beginning to do more on my own."</p>                | <p>"I get it."<br/>"I can do it on my own."</p>                                      | <p>"I get it and can go beyond what is expected of me."<br/>"I can teach it to a friend."</p> |

<https://www.alfiekohn.org/article/case-grades/>

[https://youtu.be/xjZ87Pai\\_5M](https://youtu.be/xjZ87Pai_5M)



## PAC NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019

### Join our next PAC meeting

We need your help and support! If you are a parent at Forest Grove we encourage you to join us for our monthly PAC meetings. This is a great way to stay up to date about what is happening at your school. Our next meeting will be on **Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>** from **7 PM to 9 PM**. Childcare is provided. Please come and join us!



### PAC needs your help:

It is time to vote on the 2019/2020 PAC executive!!! If you know someone that is interested or would be great in the role please nominate them! Or nominate yourself! Positions on the PAC Executive include: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and 1 member at large. The PAC is still collecting nominations and the vote will take place at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please email your nominations to [forestgrovepam@gmail.com](mailto:forestgrovepam@gmail.com)



### Next Hot Lunch:

White Spot on **Friday May 24<sup>th</sup>**. Place your orders on [munchalunch.com](http://munchalunch.com) and come volunteer!

### Upcoming Walk-a-Thon:

Please join us on **Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>** from **11:30 AM to 2:47 PM** for our third annual 5 km Walk-a-thon. Pledge forms have been sent home and we hope this will be our largest fundraiser of the year. We hope to see you all there!



### Special Thanks To:

Barb McMahon, Valerie Fabris, Adrienne Chow and Ann Murray for helping Athena Turner with the donation drive. We collected 160 bags and raised \$480!

Kerry O'Donoghue for organizing the book fair and the amazing parent volunteers who made it all possible!



## Controlling the Video and Computer Game Playground

Here are several suggestions for establishing or regaining control of video game playing in your home.

### PLAYING GAMES IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT

If you make it clear to your child on the day you set up the video game system that playing video games is a privilege you have allowed him, you will be well on your way to regulating game play in your home. This approach enables you to use the system as a reward for positive behavior.

### SET TIME LIMITS

One way to avoid 5-hour playing stretches is to set a daily limit or establish a specific period each day when games can be played. Be flexible, though. A 1-hour limit for some games will make them unplayable.

### HOMEWORK COMES FIRST

Make your priorities clear. If your child fails to complete her homework and chores, or does a slipshod job of them, restrict access to the game system. To offset this punitive approach, you can reward your child by extending playing time or by renting a new game when extra effort is put into homework or chores.

### CONTROL THE CONTROLLERS

If your child insists on playing longer than you would like or plays in direct disobedience to your wishes, remove the controllers. Games cannot be played without the controllers.



### ENCOURAGE COOPERATIVE PLAY

Video games frequently cause squabbles among siblings. Consider the following solutions to this problem:

- Look for two-player games that offer a "cooperative play mode."
- In some two-player competitive games, it is possible to set different difficulty levels for each child. You can use this feature to balance their playing skills.
- If the children really don't want to play together, schedule separate playing sessions for each child. Use a timer to signal when play stops for one child and starts for another.

### ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

It is easy for children to get hooked on video games, to the exclusion of almost everything else. Encourage and support the child's participation in other activities. If your child does not seem to be interested in anything other than video games, try getting him interested in other activities that are related to one of his favorite games. If your child prefers fantasy role-playing games, for example, you might encourage him to read some books with a fantasy theme or, using inexpensive art or building materials, help him construct a miniature fantasy kingdom.

### CONTROL GAME-RELATED SPENDING

Consider some of the following ideas to keep game-related expenses down:

- Rent rather than buy games.
- Swap games with friends.

*(continued on next page)*

### *Controlling the Video and Computer Game Playground (continued)*

- Explore other avenues before granting your child permission to call a video game tip line. Other children in the neighborhood may have the game that is giving your child trouble. Game magazines and books can also provide the information needed to succeed at popular games.

#### **CHOOSE GAMES APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR CHILD'S AGE AND ABILITY**

The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) is an independent, voluntary board set up to classify and provide information for parents and consumers on the content of video and computer games.

The ESRB offers the following tips for consumers:

- Look for the ESRB ratings on the front of the game package; and for the content description on the back. If the game has an ESRB rating, you will find the distinctive black and white ESRB icon on the front of the package. The

ESRB content description, if applicable, can be found on the back of the package in a black and white box.

- If you can't find a rating, call the ESRB's toll-free number, (800) 771-ESRB (3728), to obtain rating information.
- Examine the package carefully to see if the publisher recommends the game for particular age groups. ESRB ratings assess the content of the game, not the skill level.
- Examine the pictures and text on the product's packaging for clues to the game's content.
- Ask the salesperson if you can try the product in the store before purchasing it or if someone at the store can demonstrate it for you.

More information about the ratings of video and computer games is available on the Media Awareness Network Web site at <http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/index/games/esrb.htm> and on the ESRB Web site at <http://www.esrb.org>.

Source: Copyright © 1994 by Janet Schwartz and Steven Schwartz. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Prima Publishing from the book *Parents' Guide to Video Games* by Janet Schwartz and Steven Schwartz. Web site: <http://www.screen.com/game/english/home/prima/parent/guide.htm>

Information on the ESRB adapted from Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) Web site, 2000. ESRB Parents' Guide. Web site: [http://www.esrb.org/parents\\_guide.asp](http://www.esrb.org/parents_guide.asp).

# Welcome to Kindergarten

Families:

Thank you for participating in the Student Led Conferences. We trust the opportunity gave you greater insight into your child's growth and learning.

**Welcome to Kindergarten orientation is  
Thursday, June 6th  
from 12:45-2:45**

If you have a Kindergarten age neighbour please let their parents know about this information.

## Track and Field

Congratulations to the track team. It was a short season but a successful one. Students had the opportunity to develop their skills and then compete against other schools. Thank you to Ms. Zanette for coaching the team and to Ms. Ma and Ms. Tai for organizing the students for the track meets. Parents and guardians we appreciate your assistance with driving students to the meets.

## Save the Dates

**Fine Arts Evening**

**June 5**

**Sports Day June 14**

**Grade 7 Leaving**

**Ceremony**

**June 26**

## NEXT PAC MEETING

**Monday**

**May 6th@ 7:00 pm**

**Library**

Parents and caregivers are welcome to share ideas

## Choir

Our choir attended the Choral Festival at Michael J. Fox Theatre in mid April. They had the opportunity to sing with other choirs, listen to other choirs sing and they performed two pieces, a jazzy version of Humpty Dumpty and Liebe, a German song by Franz Schubert.

Thank you to Ms. McQueen for leading the choir and sharing her love for singing with our students. Once again families, thank you for helping us with supervision during this event.

### **Gardening:**

Students have had many opportunities to further their knowledge and skills related to gardening this school year. Different classes focused on different aspects of gardening. These lessons included the process of planning and plotting out a garden, learning about companion plants, growing seeds inside and then transplanting them, the role of worms and bees, climate change and ancient grains. Classes will be continuing into June where classes will also have the opportunity to harvest and taste what has been grown in the garden. The McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund held at The Vancouver Foundation provided \$5,000 to Sprouting Chefs Society who were able to provide the After School Garden Club as well as facilitate the Seed to Table Program for the 2018/2019 school year. We are very appreciative of this funding.

***Thank you Barb for working with us and for sharing your passion of  
gardening with the students and staff.***



Thank you Forest Grove community for your generous support of the Scholastic book fair. We raised over \$2000. This money will be used to purchase books and resources for our school library. This event was made possible because of the support of our many parent volunteers. A special thank you to Kerry O'Donoghue who not only helped out at the fair, but also organized our parent volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you. Some of our intermediate students volunteered during the lunch hours as well. Thank you students for supporting the book fair in this practical way. With all this help, things ran smoothly.