

# Newsletter



Alexander  
Elementary School

October 2022

2250 Lobban Road, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2W1  
alexander.abbschools.ca

Principal: Mrs. Tara Plantinga  
Phone: 604-859-3167



Even though it still feels like summer with this gorgeous weather, we are moving on to fall! September was a time to get back into routines and I would like to thank our families, students, and staff for such a positive and supportive transition back to school.

It has been wonderful to meet so many new students. The air of excitement of returning students is contagious and has filled our building with joy! I am so proud of how our students have adjusted to being at school. They are settling into their classrooms, meeting new friends and excited to learn.

We are looking forward to planning and hosting a variety of field trips and celebrations throughout the school year.

Interested in helping out? Make sure you have completed a Criminal Record Check with the Abbotsford School District.

Parent/Teacher Conferences As per our School District calendar are on Wednesday, October 19th and Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, October 19th school dismisses at 11:20 am. Please pick up your children then. Conference appointments will be available from 11:30-12:30 and 1-7 pm.

On Thursday, October 20th school dismisses at 12:20 pm. Conference appointments will be available from 1:00-2:30 pm. Information to sign up for your appointment times is on page 6 of this newsletter.

*Tara Plantinga*  
Principal



## Calendar of Events

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>7</b>     | Bread Pick Up @ 2:15pm                               |
| <b>10</b>    | Thanksgiving Day (no school)                         |
| <b>11</b>    | PAC Meeting @ 8:30am                                 |
| <b>11-14</b> | Book Fair in Library                                 |
| <b>12</b>    | Photo Day  |
| <b>14</b>    | Bread Pick Up @ 2:15pm                               |
| <b>19</b>    | <b>Half Day</b> pick up at 11:20am                   |
| <b>19</b>    | Parent Teacher Conference 11:30- 12:30<br>And 1 – 7. |
| <b>20</b>    | <b>2 hr</b> Early Dismissal pick up at 12:20pm       |
| <b>20</b>    | Parent Teacher Conference 1-2:30                     |
| <b>21</b>    | Non-Instructional Day                                |
| <b>24</b>    | Diwali   |
| <b>28</b>    | Bread Pick Up @ 2:15pm                               |
| <b>31</b>    | Costume Day – Happy Halloween                        |

***Every Friday is Falcon Friday.***

***Wear your falcon shirt to show your school spirit!***

***If your child does not have one see the office. Parents can buy adult sizes too!***



Come on out and support our awesome parent group! Check out the Alexander Elementary PAC FaceBook page that has been set up for parents. Meetings are always the second Tuesday morning at 8:30am. There is also a PAC board in the foyer of the school with important information.

**Next Meeting is *October 11th* at 8:30 am.  
All are welcome.**

## Cops for Cancer

Way to go Alexander!



We raised **\$154** to donate to Cops for Cancer's  
Tour De Valley



Contributions tallied **\$272.30**

## Thanksgiving Food Drive in September

Our students brought in a combined total of  
**639** items. Great job!!



Indigenous  
Education

Our students participated on a walk at Mill Lake to honour residential school survivors. They met Brian Point who shared his knowledge of residential schools.

Our staff and the entire district had a day of learning at the Walking Forward Together Conference on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Abbotsford Entertainment Centre. It was a very impactful day, and we thank our Indigenous Department for bringing us together for this important day of learning.

# EVERY CHILD MATTERS



## AFFORDABILITY GRANT

During these difficult times, we are aware that many families have struggled financially with a number of unforeseen circumstances (work closures, illness, gas prices etc.). Could your family use any additional supports from our school community such as supports with food, clothing, school supplies, or extra-curricular activities? Please note that the information provided by you will be kept confidential.

If the answer is Yes, we could use additional support. Please call us for more details. 604-859-3167



DIWALI IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST, BRIGHTEST AND MOST IMPORTANT FESTIVALS OF INDIA. DIWALI IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. THE CELEBRATION OF DIWALI AS THE "VICTORY OF GOOD OVER EVIL" REFERS TO THE LIGHT OF HIGHER KNOWLEDGE DISPELLING ALL IGNORANCE.

THE WORD DIWALI IS DERIVED FROM THE SANSKRIT TERM "DEEPAVALI", WHICH MEANS "ROWS OF LAMPS".

MANY OF OUR STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT DIWALI THROUGH ACTIVITIES, EXPLORING DIWALI BOOKS AND DOING VARIOUS DIWALI CRAFTS.

OUR STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR TRADITIONAL OUTFITS OR BRIGHT COLOURS ON THIS DAY.





## Nancy and Blue

Hope everyone had a great summer and is enjoying being back at school. Blue is happy to be back and visiting with everyone. Did you know Blue starts getting excited as soon as we turn onto the street that the school is on. That's how much he loves "going to work".

Blue had a really fun summer. We went on lots of walks and he spent a whole month at our cabin, where he got to play in the lake every day, chase and hide sticks and play his favorite game, fetch the ball. You will get tired of throwing the ball for him long before he gets tired of chasing it and bringing it back for you!

Blue is a pretty smart dog. He likes to make up his own games. One of the other games he likes to play is hide and seek. First, he hides his stick and then he hides. Can you find Blue in this picture? Can you see his stick? He's learned to lie down so it's harder to see him. Good luck finding Blue and his stick!

# Scholastic Book Fair

Dear Families,

Mark your calendars! The fun and excitement of a Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! We want to welcome back **in person shopping** at our book fair.

To adapt to our changing needs, Scholastic also has a **Virtual Book Fair** to provide an opportunity for our students and families to experience the joy of reading together.

**Our Scholastic In Person Book Fair will take place October 11-14th.** The QR Code and the website will go live on October 11th. Happy Reading!

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5174363>



**We are a Nut aware school; we have several children who are anaphylactic to nuts so please check with your child's teacher if nuts are okay in your classroom**



**Music teacher volunteer**

**If you know of anyone who would like to come and help teach our students choir, drumming or ukulele please email [Tara.Plantinga@abbyschools.ca](mailto:Tara.Plantinga@abbyschools.ca)**

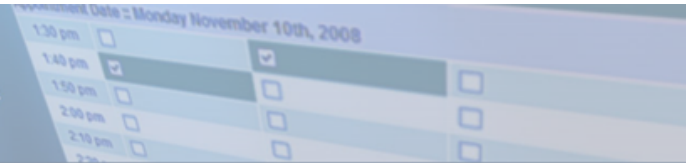


Free haircut coupons are available. Please see Ms. Amanda in the office. While quantities last.



## SchoolAppointments.com

Scheduling Parent Teacher Appointments  
Can be Easy for Everyone!



### School Appointments - Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site for your school.
2. Register for an account by clicking the "REGISTER" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "Register Now" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "Add a Student" button. Click "Insert New" button to add more children.
4. Click the "date" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments.
5. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with. Use the "Ctrl" or "Command" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.
6. Select how your meetings will be held.
7. Then click the "View Calendars" button.
8. Click on available time slots to book your appointments to make your bookings.



Appointments Will Be: ☒ Virtual Meeting  
☐ By Phone

## School Safety

When walking in the back of the school near the staff lot, please use the sidewalk beside the field rather than walking down the middle of the parking lot.

## Halloween

Costume Day - **Monday, October 31st** is a School Spirit Day: Costume Day. Dress up in your Halloween costume or wear black & orange because we will do a school wide parade through the halls. Costumes must be appropriate for a K-5 school so there should be no excessive blood/gore/weapons. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office.



## Stay at Home When Sick

Students **MUST** stay home when they are sick. Students who have cold, flu or COVID-like symptoms must stay home until their symptoms improve. Families can use the following link to determine when it is safe to come back to school: [K-12 Health Check \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://gov.bc.ca) or call 8-1-1.

## If Students Become Sick at School

If a student becomes sick while at school, the office will contact the student's parent/caregiver with a request to have their child picked up as soon as possible.



## Hand Washing

Hand washing continues to be one of the best ways to stop the spread of germs! Students and staff will continue to follow rigorous hand washing routines, including upon entry into the building, before and after breaks, before and after eating, before and after the bathroom, and before and after using shared materials.

## ***School Messenger App***

Using your mobile device, download and install. *Safe Arrival website*, go to: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

*Automated phone system*, call 1-844-487-3701 to report an absence.



## SchoolCashOnline

### Step-by-step sheet for parents/guardians

For safety and efficiency reasons, Abbotsford School District would like to reduce the amount of cash & cheques coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

**NOTE:** If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

### Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://abbotsford.schoolcashonline.com> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



### Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.  
The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

SchoolCashOnline.com  
Hello Parent,  
Please click the link below to confirm your email address:  
<http://gordamrpbds.schoolcashonline.com/Registration/ConfirmConfirmationEmail/#1679463-7002-4a9-b27e-7d6e0d1d4111>  
Copy the link and paste it into your web browser, if the link doesn't work.  
Contact support at 1.866.951.1803 or email [parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com).  
Thank you,

### Step 3: Find Student

**Note: Student Number is Not Required**

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Select **Continue**
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- Your child has been added to your account

### Find Student

#### School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575  
Looking for a student in a different school board? ☐ [Help](#)

School Name:  [Help](#)

#### Student Information

Do you have the student number? ☐

Student Number:  [Help](#)

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:  [Help](#)  
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

**Continue** (No students? [Click here](#))

### Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

**Note:** all information is stored on a confidential basis on a server in Canada.