



ÉCOLE PAULINE JOHNSON ELEMENTARY ☰ E-BULLETIN

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e-Bulletin September 7th 2023

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Message from the Principal

Students have had a wonderful week and are happy to be back at school. Welcome to all of our new families, and to those returning – it's great to have you back! It was wonderful to meet with our new Kindergarten children and their families today, as well.

PJ staff is thrilled to be working through Week One Orientation topics with your child(ren), including health and safety, our PJ Code of Conduct, classroom and school routines, punctuated by lots of sunshine outside to make the most of the remaining essence of summer. Please be sure to read these messages each week so as to not miss out on important events. PJ is a busy place and we hope you will make the most of participating and contributing! Please be sure to check the PJ PAC portion below for upcoming dates and opportunities.

Message from PJ PAC - Welcome Back to School, from your PJPAC Executive!

On behalf of the [PJPAC](#) Executive, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and parents returning to École Pauline Johnson, and new families joining the school. We have high hopes that this will be an excellent year. It certainly started on a high note with a spectacular turnout at our Back to School Coffee. Thanks to all who attended. Keep an eye on our [calendar](#) for upcoming school and social events.

This year, the [PAC Executive](#) welcomes some new members to our team. As Co-chairs, we are excited to introduce Claudia Chavez-Munoz (Grade 2 parent) and Barry Nguyen (Grade 1 parent). Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Jenny Cha as our Fundraising and Events Coordinator, and Olivia Zishiri as our Volunteer Coordinator. We are also thrilled to have Rowena Veylan move into the role of Past Chair, Bartek Kienc returning as our Treasurer, Vicky Rhodes as Secretary, Stephanie LeComte as our Communications Coordinator, Tayo Adeniyi as our DPAC Representative, and our members at large: Laureline Balzan ([Canadian Parents for French](#)), Ryan and Parvaneh Bruce (Cultural Community Representatives), Devika Ahuja (New Kindergarten Family Representative), and Nazanin Parivar and Kamyar Yazdani (Spirit Committee Leads).

Please do not hesitate to [reach out to us](#) if you have any inquiries, suggestions, comments, or any other feedback. The PAC represents all PJ parents, and the Executive is here to be your voice. Welcome, and let's work together to make this a great year!

Gelato Day This Friday

Bring \$2 for [gelato day](#), tomorrow after school. Come line up under the covered area

behind the school (next to the playground) and choose a cup of your favourite TCBY flavour.

Traffic Safety

Our traffic and parking awareness campaign will begin next week and run for two weeks. Watch for a separate email with more information plus a volunteer sign-up sheet. In the meantime, please familiarize yourself with road signage and be a considerate and safe driver around the school. Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE:

As we welcome you all back to a new school year, please be reminded of the importance of road safety. At PJ we work collaboratively with our PAC, West Vancouver Police Department, and ICBC to encourage and monitor safe driving habits. Please see below for important information from ICBC and some important reminders as to why it is paramount in keeping our children safe.

Key messages

- We're encouraging parents and caregivers to review the rules of the road with their children and go over their daily route to and from school.
- Our roads will be very busy with the start of the school year. As a driver, allow extra travel time, stay focused on the road and watch for children, especially in or around school zones.

Response points

- Last year, 6,500 tickets were handed out to drivers for speeding in school and playground zones in B.C.

Tips for Drivers

- Every school day, unless otherwise posted, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In playground zones, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.
- Leave your phone alone and watch for children walking or cycling. Distraction is the leading factor for drivers in crashes with pedestrians and cyclists.
- If a vehicle stops in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding to a pedestrian, so proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.
- Watch for school buses. When their lights are flashing, vehicles approaching from both directions must stop.
- Before getting into your vehicle, walk around it to make sure there are no small children hidden from view. Always look for pedestrians when backing up.

- Make sure your headlights, brake and turn indicator lights are clear, visible and in good working condition at all times. This can help pedestrians see you better.
- In residential areas, a ball or hockey net may mean that kids are playing nearby. Slow down and watch for children as they could dash into the street at any moment.

ICBC's tips for parents and caregivers:

1. If you drop off your child in a school zone, they should exit the car on the side closest to the sidewalk.
2. If your child walks to school, practice their route with them ahead of time. Review street names and landmarks to orient them. Make a fun, interactive game out of guessing the correct traffic signs and meanings with your child along the route.
3. Teach your child the basics of crossing the street:
 - Stop at the curb or edge of the road.
 - Look left and right for oncoming vehicles, then look left over your shoulder for vehicles that might be turning.
 - Make sure all vehicles have stopped before entering the road. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing, even if the walk signal is on.
 - When the intersection is clear, start crossing and keep looking for approaching vehicles.
4. Teach your child to walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk away from the road, so they're further away from traffic. If there isn't a sidewalk, they can walk facing oncoming traffic, so they can see approaching vehicles and make eye contact with drivers.
5. **Set a good example by not** crossing mid-block or running to cross the street. Where possible, cross at intersections with a pedestrian crossing light or marked crosswalk. Avoid shortcuts through parking lots or around parked cars where it's harder for drivers to see small children.
6. Teach your child to put away electronic gadgets, cell phone and ear buds while walking or cycling so they can scan for approaching vehicles or hear traffic that may be hard to see.
7. If your child will be outside at night or in poor weather, make sure they're wearing bright clothes and reflective gear.
8. Discourage play around or on railways. Only cross railway tracks at designated signals or signs and watch your step.

B.C. Penalties

- Speed in school zone: \$196 to \$253

- Speed in playground zone: \$196 to \$253
- Fail to stop for school bus: \$368
- Fail to yield to pedestrian: \$167
- Disobey school guard/patrol: \$167

Individual Photo Day

Come looking your best on **October 5th** your 2023-24 school photo!

Curriculum Night - September 13th 5:00-6:00pm (Grades K-7)

The whole school staff is excited to invite all parents to our Curriculum Night. Classroom teachers will run two sessions back-to-back virtually at 5:00 and 5:30pm. This will let parents with children in multiple classes get a chance to attend a session. These informative presentations will provide you with a glimpse into your child's day, with information about curriculum, class routines and communication procedures. One-on-one parent teacher conferences are scheduled for later in term one.

New Parent Orientations – Save the Dates!

1. Please join Principal, Mme Zielinski on Thursday, September 20th at 9:10am for a brief introduction to PJ. We look forward to having you!
Please RSVP to: cmaniwa@wvschools.ca by September 17th.
2. Please join our English Language Learner (ELL) teachers at PJ on September 25th at 9:15am in the Library to understand how our ELL programming and assessment works at PJ and in West Vancouver and BC. No RSVP needed.

Cross Country Running Team (Gr 3-7)

Our Cross-Country season is beginning soon. Any student in Grades 3-7 that is interested will be invited to attend a meeting this Friday with the coaches at PJ and will receive a PERMISSION FORM with detailed information, including practice and Meet locations and dates.

***NEW* WVECA Athletic Fees** - Due to the increasing cost of fees associated with running our Elementary Athletics programs in all West Vancouver schools, the WVECA will be charging \$10 per student per sport for the 2023-2024 school year. These fees were Board approved in the Spring of 2023 for the upcoming school year. Payments will be made through School Cash Online which has been set up for each school through the District. All families of students in Grades 3-7 will receive a School

Cash Online message saying the payment link for Cross Country fees will be live as of September 7th.

Please note that we ask you to wait until your child has come home on Friday this week to discuss their participation.

If they WOULD like to join the team:

1. Complete the permission form and return it to the school on Monday.
2. Pay the \$10.00 fee via the School Cash Online link.

If they WOULD NOT like to join the team: NO further action is required.

Thank you.

We look forward to an exciting Cross-Country season ahead!

Fun Lunch

Thank you to Sophie, a PJ parent that will be the lead on Fun Lunch for this school year. More information will come, but please mark your calendars for the dates that Fun Lunch will run this year:

Lunch Schedule:

First Term: Tue, Oct 3 ~ Fri, Dec 22

Second Term: Mon, Jan 8 ~ Fri, Mar 15

Third Term: Tue, Apr 2 ~ Fri, Jun 27

School Supplies

School Supply lists are available here and you can still purchase from Creative Children should you need to.

Cops for Cancer

Cops for Cancer is an exciting annual event where law enforcement and emergency services personnel cycle across Canada raising money for childhood cancer research and support services at the Canadian Cancer Society. This year, along with four other Cops for Cancer tours, Tour de Coast riders will cycle over 800km across the varied terrains of the BC Coast and Greater Vancouver Area this month. Children and families living with cancer need us more than ever! We remain committed to them and are determined to improve the cancer experience by ensuring children with cancer live longer and have the best possible quality of life during the pandemic and beyond.

Donate today to help pedal the way to end childhood cancer!

https://support.cancer.ca/site/TR?fr_id=28330&pg=entry

Pack in-Pack out – litterless lunches (Gr K-7)

Our goals are to be stewards of the environment and responsible citizens of Metro Vancouver. This means different work, not more work. Please discuss this with your child at home and make a plan together to create litter-free lunches. Examples include: no packaging, more use of Tupperware and reusable containers. Everything you send them to school with will be returned in their lunch bag; a plastic bag may be a wise addition.

Student Medications in the Office (Gr K-7)

If your child requires any medications/EpiPen they are required to remain in the office. Please remember to deliver the new medication to the office the first week of school and submit the updated medical form, signed by the doctor, for the current school year. Forms were emailed to you in June and last week, however please contact Susie Chubb in the office should you have any questions or concerns schubb@wvschools.ca

Optional Accident Insurance for Families

Each year the school district reminds families that they have the option to purchase insurance coverage against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. There are many different voluntary plans that provide coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. Families are encouraged to do their due diligence when choosing a provider.

PJ REPORTING OF STUDENT ABSENCES

Is your child sick? Have an appointment, or something happened and your child cannot be at school? Please email paulinejohnson@wvschools.ca with any and all of this information, merci.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 13 5:00-5:20pm 5:30-5:50pm	Curriculum Night (Grades K-7) In Person – Teacher’s Welcome Presentations
Sept 18	Terry Fox Assembly & Run
Sept 20 9:10am	New Parent Information Session @ PJ
Sept 22	Pro-D Day – No Students in Session
Sept 25 9:15am	ELL Parent Information Session @ PJ
Sept 26 6:00pm	Grade 6 Outdoor School Virtual Parent meeting. Link to come!
Sept 27 5:15pm	Grade 7 Graduation Year – Parent Meeting Virtual link to come
Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
Oct 2	National Truth and Reconciliation Day – Statutory Holiday (In Lieu) - School Closed
Oct 5	Individual Photo Day
Oct 9	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed
Oct 11	Meet the Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal K-3 12:10pm/ Gr 4-7 12:20pm More information to come
Oct 12	Meet the Teacher Conferences – Regular Dismissal
Oct 12 6:00pm	Grade 6 Outdoor School Family Orientation Session – Virtual Link to follow
Oct 25,26,27	Grade 6 Outdoor School (Permission forms to come Sept 8 th)

Please visit the West Vancouver School District website for all important dates for the remainder of this school year.

[2023-2024 Calendar](#)

[PJ Year at a Glance Calendar 2023-2024](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Lights Up!

SING DANCE ACT SHINE After School with [Lights Up Musical Theatre Schools!](#) We provide singing, dancing and acting classes for children and teens across the lower mainland. [See here more details.](#)

FOLLOW PJ ON TWITTER #ECOLEPJ

Keep up to date on what is happening at the school by following @tarazielinski or go to this link <https://twitter.com/tarazielinski> to stay in touch and find valuable articles on education, parenting, technology and other interesting tidbits of information. Our welcome back Principal's Blog is up as of this week as we welcome all 60 new Kindergarteners and their families to PJ!

FOLLOW PJ PAC Info and reminders from PAC on social media.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)