

Trafalgar PAC
October 8, 2024
Principal's Report

Communication about concerns If you have concerns with an SD8 process or decision, check out the following (<https://www.sd8.bc.ca/parents-students/communication>) to see proper channels to address the situation and resolve the concern. Your principal can help with any situation!

Challenges for eating lunch We are continuing to refine our structures around breaks and eating lunch. Last year we struggled with finding spaces for students to eat, maintaining outside recess time and supervising all of our students with limited staff numbers. We relaxed on the outside recess piece which has created its own challenges. Staff will put their heads together at the October staff meeting to work out a new plan.

We have a counselor! After a few twists and turns with staffing, Trafalgar welcomes Wanda Machado as full-time counselor! Ms. Machado has training and experience as a school counselor and we are lucky to have her step into this challenging role. To replace Madame Machado in our French Immersion program, we have hired Sierra Redmond as the main teacher for homeroom 6-1. Ms. Machado can be reached via email at wanda.machado@sd8.bc.ca.

Fall Sports We have volleyball teams (gr 7 girls, gr 8 girls, gr 9 girls and gr 9 boys teams) and cross-country running teams in operation at our school along with a little bit of swimming. As with any extra-curricular activity, our teams are driven by volunteers who are either teachers, EAs or parents. Without those volunteers, our students wouldn't experience a wide variety of options outside of the school day.

Student affordability fund We are currently providing barrier-free snacks to students during the day and lunches to a number of students who are in need. Unfortunately, we are finding apples, carrots and other items around the school in places where they shouldn't be.

Connecting in October Parents will also have an opportunity to meet with teachers during early dismissal days on October 16 and 17. Information on times and how to book an appointment will be sent out on October 10. We will dismiss (and busses will run) one hour earlier than normal. A full learning update will be published in December through our MyEd system.

Fall is FSA time for grade 7 Mr. Mush will send out information on FSAs to grade 7 parents by the end of this week. All grade 7 students are required to complete the assessments.

LLEs have started We have started the first of three Life-Long Explorations terms at Trafalgar. We have set aside our regular studies to learn all kinds of community and non-typical disciplines in multi-age groupings. Spaces are very tight in LLE this year and the four most popular LLEs are Volleyball (182 requests for 60 spaces), Creativity with Clay (224 requests for 30 spaces), Yearbook (138 requests for 30 spaces) and Jewelry Making (131 requests for 60 spaces). We don't prioritize students to get into any particular LLE and allow the system to randomly place students based on their first, second and third choices. The current LLE runs until December 18.

Halloween Mr. Mush will send out costume guidelines later this month. We expect an energetic, noisy and fun-filled day on Halloween that is still safe and appropriate. Please check out the guidelines once sent!

Budget SD8 requires schools to provide their budgets, spending and reserve funds to their PACs on annual basis. Principal Mushumanski will provide full details at the November PAC meeting.

Important Dates Coming Up:

Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
Oct 16+17	Early Dismissal (one hour earlier) and PT conferences
Oct 25	Pro-D day, no school for students!
Oct 30	Photo Retake Day
Oct 31	Halloween costume parade in periods 3/4
Nov 8	Remembrance Day assembly
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
Dec 6	Learning update published to the parent portal
Dec 11	Band concert @ 5:30 pm (tentative)
Dec 20	Last day before winter holidays