

## **Craigflower Community,**

Thank you for welcoming me to your community.

It is a pleasure to be working with you and your children. I personally love my job – the connections, the demands, the speed, etc. There is so much to do, see, learn, and experience, and every day and year is different. So, thank you for sending your children to CF and for being active members in the development of our children and community.

Let me share what a wonderful start we have had to this school year. We started with a light and friendly tone and students entered their “somewhat-permanent” classes. What a gift it is to start in what we expect to be their permanent classes vs going back to a previous class for 3 days until we reorganize the entire school. We did have to move a few students to balance out our classes. We had a welcome back Pancake Breakfast, Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day, ArtsReach, and started our athletic programs with Cross Country! This all occurred in just over 4 weeks.

A special thank you to the many agencies that support our school – Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, RCMP, Saanich, our CF PAC, Kinsmen, Ralmax Group, Optimist Group, PISE, Walking School Bus and Backpack Buddies. Your contributions make our school better, and our kids directly benefit from this. Thank you!

It has been a very busy and rewarding September with so many things going well and students transitioning and enjoying their experiences. We still have lots of work ahead of us as we continue to learn and progress as an organization and school, but so far, so good! We are almost done all our start-up and hope to get all our programs up and running by Thanksgiving or shortly after. Thank you, Community, for being so supportive! We have a strong community and we each play a valuable role in our families, school and community. Thank you!

**This week:** The school was busy with our Orange Shirt Day, PISE visits, and our trip to Shoreline for the C4C -Tour De Rock assembly.

**Next week** we have XCOUNTRY again on Monday (see below for more details), ArtsReach, and a BC wide Earthquake Drill “Shake out BC”.

### **Health and Safety Information:**

- 1) We are now entering the **flu season**, so please:
  - a. Wash your hands regularly
  - b. Stay home if you have symptoms, and please let us know (email or call the Attendance Line)
- 2) **Head Lice** – We typically start to see the re-emergence of head lice going into the Fall and just want to encourage you to do your head checks and connect with your physician and/or pharmacist to help with control and treatment of head lice.

**Parent Resource and Sessions on “Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities”** <https://pages.saferchoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>

### **School Information:**

Welcome to our new staff members – we have new staff and some staff changes for this year. Below is a brief description.

**Casey Hunt** – Div. 3, in for Mr. Tran, currently on leave  
**Rachelann Norstrom** – Div. 2 and team teaching with Ms. Bedi  
**Anja Dunk** – Div. 5 and team teaching with Ms. Peters  
**Cara Calibaba** – Div. 9 and team teaching with Ms. Monet  
**Katie Quinn** - Learning Support Teacher, in for Ms. Robinson  
**Lacey McLaughlin** - Learning Support Teacher, in for Ms. B  
**Wilson Ajuonuma** - EA  
**Gyeonghui Seong** - EA  
**Amber Dixon** - EA  
**Jihyon Kim** – EA  
**Richard Campbell** – School Technology

**Still to come:** 2 more EA positions have been posted (closing Oct. 8), and we have a posting out for a PE Prep Teacher.

### **School Access and Parking:**

- Thank you for not parking in our parking lot. We need every spot and more for our staff, SD61 staff that come and go, outside professionals that come to provide a service, etc.
  - Please be respectful of our neighbours and their properties.
  - We encourage you to take “Active Transport” (walk, cycle, bus, scoot, etc.) and there is a walking school bus.
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- **West Coast Recesses** – The Rains are coming! At CF, we believe that students need outside time (activity, fresh air, etc.) and will be asking students to head outside in our Victoria weather. Please help your students plan for rain, wind, snow, etc. We will only call students in before school or during the breaks if the weather is dangerous or unreasonably harsh.



### Halloween Planning

- At CF, we do support Halloween costumes, but this year we only have costumes or black/orange **on Friday, Oct. 31**. Costumes need to be **functional** (can go to the washroom, sit, move around the classroom, etc.) and able to participate in all school activities. **We don't allow masks or weapons**, and please best judgment about what is appropriate for school.
- In addition, we ask that you keep the Halloween "treats" at home to save us from any unwanted behaviours.

**Fall Cross Country (Grade 3/4/5)** - Well done to our X Country Team that had their first competition on Monday at Beckwith Park. Thank you, Ms. Anderson for coaching our team! It was great to see our athletes running with their new shirts – they looked sharp.

**Meets are listed below:**

Monday, Sept. 29 – Beckwith

Monday, Oct. 6 – Lansdowne Middle School

Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Lambrick Park (forward)

Monday, Oct. 20 – Lambrick Park (reverse)

Monday, Oct. 28 – XC Finals at UVic Corner (Cedar Hill) ... the old dog park and now the UVic XC training area.

**Calendar Items: (please look at the CV Website Calendar for up-to-date information)**

A paper copy calendar is attached but it is preferred folks sign up for our school's web site calendar for an up-to-date view.

<https://craigflower.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/calendar-2/>

Thank you for your support,

*Dwayne Doyle and Maria Nordstrom*