

Sep 13, 2024

36367 Stephen Leacock Way, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2Z6 604.557.0422  
[auguston.abbyschools.ca](http://auguston.abbyschools.ca)

## Principal's Message



Welcome back to school to all of our amazing staff, students and Auguston families. We have had a great start up and are already making great connections and friendships in our new classes. It's exciting to see all of the kids smiling faces and to be able to catch up about everyone's adventures this summer. If you are new to Auguston – we wish you a very warm welcome to our school. We hope you love it here.



September is always a busy month. Sometimes we forget just how busy it can be, but we are all finding our way through new routines, people and spaces. This is getting easier as we are now settled in our classrooms for the year and focusing on some great learning ahead. And so here we go!

We already have a few Fall activities coming our way that we need to let you know about in this newsletter. There is a lot of information here and we appreciate you reading through it all so that you are informed and up to date. We will also have a few extra emails coming your way as we set up permission forms, share information about volunteer opportunities, gather contact information and more. From the office, we try to put out one newsletter each month and then typically one reminder email every week or so with any imminent dates and activities. Of course, if you ever have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to stop in, connect via email or call us here at the school.

- We also have an extra cohort of itinerant teachers that support our students in other ways like speech and language, Indigenous teachings, English Language Learning and counselling supports, as well as other District specialists assigned to our school

## Staffing

We have some new faces and shared teaching assignments as part of our team this year.

Here are the people you might see around our school:

## AUGUSTON STAFF 2024-25

Mrs. Kris Sward, Principal

Div. 1	Mrs. Tina Howe	Gr. 5
Div. 2	Mrs. Seonid Dirom (M-Th) Mrs. Crystal Chow (F)	Gr. 5
Div. 3	Mrs. Jill Ward (M-W/F) Mrs. Andrea Janzen (Th)	Gr. 4
Div. 4	Mrs. Tina Deol (M-Th) Mrs. Andrea Janzen (F)	Gr. 4
Div. 5	Mrs. Kelsey Kent (M-Th) Mrs. Vanessa Wiens (F)	Gr. 3/4
Div. 6	Mrs. Jennifer Simpson	Gr. 3
Div. 7	Mrs. Marlo Small (M-Th) Mrs. Vanessa Matty (F)	Gr. 3
Div. 8	Mrs. Karin Charest	Gr. 2/3
Div. 9	Ms. Lauren Kennedy	Gr. 2
Div. 10	Ms. Debbie Roebuck (M-W) Mrs. Melissa Smith (Th-F)	Gr. 2
Div. 11	Mr. James Ketelaar	Gr. 1
Div. 12	Mrs. Brianne Elford (M-T) Mrs. Brenna Vandermeer (W-F)	Gr. 1
Div. 13	Mrs. Hilary Puglisi	K/1
Div. 14	Mrs. Diana McAllister	K
Div. 15	Mrs. Laura Hambly	K



We are planning for a great start to our year and a wonderful year ahead. I look forward to getting to know all our students and their families and to working with all of you this year.

A few facts about us this year:

- we currently have 337 students enrolled at our school (down slightly from last year)
- we have 15 divisions grades K-5
- we have 8 EAs to support learning in our classrooms and too many great teachers to count – a few that share teaching duties and a few that support the whole school through library, gym and learning commons blocks



## Additional Teaching Staff:

Mrs. Tammy Tran	ELL (W)
Mrs. Ashley Menard	LSS
Mrs. Crystal Chow	LLC (T-W)
Mr. Ryan Warkentin (M-T)	PE
Mr. David Marchioro (W-F)	PE

## Support Staff:

Mrs. Louise Tait	Admin Ass't
Mrs. Gurpreet Sran	Custodian
Ms. Nicole Taylor	Custodian
Mr. Kaiden Brown	EA
Mrs. Coral Christianson	EA
Mrs. Kristy Durance	EA
Ms. Jenna Gauthier	EA
Mrs. Lisa Naubert	EA
Mrs. Catherine Potocky	EA
Mrs. Tammi Riou	EA
Mrs. Karlene Schmidt	EA
Mrs. Jocelyn Orth	ISW (Th/F am)
Mrs. Denise Marshall	Lib. Tech (Th)

Auguston School Staff on the website:

<https://auguston.abbschools.ca/contact/staff/auguston>

## Bell schedule

We had only slight changes to our bell schedule this year around our lunch time bells.

- 8:30 – Supervision begins
- 8:35 – Warning Bell
- 8:40 – School Starts
- 10:40-11 – RECESS
- 12:23-12:35 – Eating
- 12:35-1:05 – Outside
- 2:35 – Dismissal
- 2:45 – End of Supervision



Supervision occurs 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after school. **Students are to arrive between 8:30 to 8:40am and be picked up between 2:35 to 2:45pm. Please be on time!**

On the website: [Bell Schedule](#)

## Expansion Project



We have seen so many improvements over the summer and our new extension looks amazing! We had a drainage system installed under our staff parking lot, had upgrades made to our interior lighting and announcement system, and of course so much progress has been made in the new addition including drywall in hallways and classrooms, siding on the outside, and flooring in some of the new classrooms already. This month they are installing our new elevator and continuing work both inside and outside the new part of the building. We still don't have a set completion date but are hoping to be gaining access to our new space sometime between Winter Break and Spring Break.

## Traffic Safety



We are asking for your help with traffic safety around our school.

Walking your children to school is ideal if you are able to, but if you need to drive, please

be mindful of our 30km/h School Zone that extends from just before the corner by our playing fields all the way past our school. Please also park only in marked spaces (Bylaw officers will be doing random spot checks at pickup and drop-off times) and watch for students and families at our two marked crosswalks along Stephen Leacock Drive. Together we can make safety our priority.

## Medical updates

**MEDICAL**



**ALERT**

Some students at our school have severe or life-threatening allergies or medical concerns. We are a 'nut-free' school to avoid contact with these allergens of peanuts, tree nuts and coconuts. If your child as an allergy or medical condition

we need to know about, please advise us as soon as possible and provide us with any medications they may need in the event of an incident or reaction (a prescribed Epi-Pen or medications with instructions on administration in the event of an emergency). Administration of Medication forms are required to be updated and signed yearly for our files. You can find them here:

<https://www.abbyschools.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2023-02/AP%20328-1.pdf> &  
<https://www.abbyschools.ca/administrative-procedures/AP327>



## Meet the Teacher

Our school will be holding an open house for our meet the teacher event this year. Parents will be invited into our school and have the

chance to meet each of their children's teachers and see their classroom and some of the work they have completed so far. Please note that this is a chance to meet and connect with your child's teacher and not a formal update on learning or progress so far. Please join us on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 and 6:00pm.

## Noon Hour Supervisors



**Do you have time to help out with our lunch time supervision?**

Our Noon Hour Supervisors are parents who help out keeping an eye on things for us as

students eat their lunches and play outside (or inside on rainy days). We are looking for more people to fill some regular spots, as well as to be on call for days we need casual coverage. If this is something that might interest you and you are available between 12:15 and 1:15pm one or more days a week, please apply here: [Noon Hour Supervisor Application](#)

## Dogs on our field and playground



We share our field space with our community as a large part of our field is Mather's Park. We usually talk with members of the public that we see out there when our students are

outside for breaks and ask that people try to walk or use the space when students are not present. This is to keep everyone safe and so that we don't cross paths with adults that we don't know.

We also ask that dogs are kept away from our students as everyone tries to run to meet and pet the dog, but, not knowing the animals, we don't want to cause stress or excite the dogs out on our play area as it makes it difficult to predict their reaction. Please leave pets at home when walking during school hours or when dropping off or picking up your child(ren).

A more recent concern has been the number of people who are bringing their dogs to our school but not cleaning up after them! You can imagine the worry, upset and mess on our shoes we are experiencing as students play on the field and accidentally step on or roll on it. Yuck! Please help us avoid this icky issue by cleaning up after pets, leaving them at home when coming to or around the school and sharing this info with neighbours who may not have children who go to our school. Thank you!

## Behaviour expectations

This week our whole school spent an afternoon in multi-age groups travelling to different parts inside and outside of our school learning all about expectations for behaviour in each area.

Students were able to learn about safety rules and expectations specific to our school and playground equipment. This will allow us all to start the year off right and be on the same page about how and where we can play, learn and grow safely together throughout the year.

## Cops for Cancer and Terry Fox Run

Our school is taking part in a couple of worthy fundraising events this month. Many of us have been affected by cancer or know someone who was. We are going to be raising funds for cancer research through two events:

The Cops for Cancer Tour de Valley will be making a stop at our school on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Students will be able to cheer on the riders as they make their way through our community. We will also be holding a toonie drive all next week and donations can also be made in [schoolcash](#).

On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, our whole school will be taking part in our annual Terry Fox Run. We will wear Terry Fox shirts or Team Canada colours that day as a No Uni Day event – **No Uni info. coming soon** - and all funds collected through that will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Further donations can also be made through our school link here: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/AugustonTraditionalElementary>

## Afterschool programs

We are so excited to be able to provide some after school opportunities for our students again this year. Each term, the Abby Community School Society will be running extracurricular sports, art, drama, and active learning programs.

New to us this year is our DOVE Girls program for grade 4 and 5 students. These programs will have limited spaces and will fill up fast! The cost will be \$65-\$85 for each program that will see students staying afterschool from 2:35-4:00pm one day a week for six weeks of each session. Our fall programs start in late October and will see our K/1 students doing Outdoor Explorers, our grade 2/3 students learning about Science and our grade 4/5 students participating in either Basketball or DOVE Girls workshops.

Watch for information and registration details next week!



## Dates

Mon, Sep 16	First Day of Full Day Kindergarten
Tues, Sep 17	Cops for Cancer Tour de Valley visit
Thurs, Sep 19	Meet the Teacher Open House 5-6pm
Fri, Sep 20	Grade 5 Hoodie orders due 3pm
Mon, Sep 23	Fire Drill
Tues, Sep 24	Grade 4/5 Cross Country after school
Wed, Sep 25	Terry Fox Run Team Canada Colours Day – No Uni <a href="#">PAC Meeting</a> 7pm
Thurs, Sep 26	Orange Shirt Day
Fri, Sep 27	<b>Pro D Day – no school</b>
Mon, Sep 30	<b>No school in lieu of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</b>
Wed, Oct 2	School Picture Day



## Your healthy back-to-school guide

As summer winds down, it's time to gear up for a healthy back-to-school season. Set the stage for a smooth transition back to school. Here are some practical tips to get you started.

### **Prioritize sleep**

Ensuring your child gets enough sleep is an important part of a healthy back-to-school routine. Quality sleep helps with concentration, mood and overall well-being. In the weeks leading up to the start of school, gradually adjust your child's sleep schedule so they can adapt to the new routine. Aim for nine to 11 hours of quality sleep per night.

### **Eat well**

Support your child's learning and development with scheduled meals and snacks. Breakfast kick starts their morning, while snacks and lunches nourish them throughout the day. Pack a water bottle to help them stay hydrated.

### **Boost immunity**

As with any public environment, school exposes children to various germs. Ensuring they are up-to-date on their vaccinations helps protect them and others. Specific immunizations are



recommended for children prior to entering kindergarten as well as in grades six and nine. Help your child avoid the spread of illness by encouraging them to wash their hands regularly, teaching them to cover their coughs and sneezes and keeping them home when sick.

## Keep active

Adding physical activity to your child's routine sets them up for success. Activities like walking or biking to school, playing sports, dancing, swimming or helping around the house are great ways for your child to stay active. Set limits on screen time and promote outdoor play as much as possible for overall well-being.

## Make time for talking and connection

Going back to school can be a cause of anxiety or stress for children. Make it a point to encourage open communication and support your child to talk about their feelings and help them feel heard and understood. Integrate downtime into their routine where they can relax or focus on a special interest or hobby.

Find more school health tips and resources on Fraser Health's website: [School Health - Fraser Health Authority](#) & [Parent Newsletter for Elementary Schools](#)

## Bringing Electronic Equipment to School

Students at times bring various types of electronic devices to school (handheld gaming device). We would encourage you to ask your children to leave these devices at home. We don't want them to be damaged or misplaced as we cannot be responsible for their safekeeping at school. Thank you for cooperation.

## Lunches, Labels, and other Extras

**Families are encouraged to ensure that students have all the materials required for the day of learning (ie. snack lunch, gym strip, jacket, homework, library book, etc.) upon their arrival to school.** If you must bring a lunch to the school during the day, please bring it to the office and we will deliver it.

As well, ensure the lunch is clearly labeled with FIRST and LAST names, and your child's division. That helps us ensure your child receives their item in a timely manner. **School Supplies, jackets, hats, and sweaters should all be labeled clearly with your child's name as well.** Our Lost and Found overflows very quickly with articles left out on the playground. A name written inside these items allows us to find the owner.

## SafeArrival - Report student absences online

On our school website you will find a tab: "Report Absence or Late" which will direct you to Safe Arrival:

<https://auguston.abbschools.ca/safe-arrival>

The Abbotsford School District utilizes an automated student attendance management system called SafeArrival, offered through SchoolMessenger®, the company that hosts our parent notification system.

With SafeArrival, you can report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

## *SchoolMessenger App*

Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).

The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account.

Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

## *SafeArrival Website*

Using the SafeArrival website, go to: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account.

Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

[Create your School Messenger account now](#)

## *Toll-Free Number*

Call 1-844-487-3701 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

*These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.*

FAQ - If you have questions about the SchoolMessenger app, please review the frequently asked questions provided by SchoolMessenger: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Note:** Absences of more than 5 days should be reported to [auguston@abbyschools.ca](mailto:auguston@abbyschools.ca) or Ph: 604- 557-0422 (5 consecutive days maximum for reporting on School Arrival).

## Early Morning Arrivals to School

Please understand that adult supervision of students does not begin until 8:30 am. As the mornings become darker, we are not aware of students being in and around the school especially if they are on the playground. We understand that as parents work commitments often involve leaving early. If this is the case, we

ask if it is possible for your children to go to friend's home and come to school closer to the time when supervision begins. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter. Safety of children is paramount. **After school, supervision is from 2:35 to 2:45pm.**

***Please do not allow students to climb trees, the dug out or other "high up" places before or after school!***

## Early Pick Up

If you need to pick up your child due to illness or for an appointment, please enter it in Safe Arrival (and let your child's teacher know). Your child will need to be signed out.

## Dropping off something for your child

In order to minimize class disruption and to adhere to safety protocols, **please do not take items directly to your child's classroom.**

**Please drop them off at the office and they will be delivered to your child.**

## Daily Health Check

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers are encouraged to conduct a **Daily Health Assessment of their child(ren) each day before sending them to school.**



## Appointments

If at all possible, please try to **schedule appointments or activities for your child outside of school hours to help protect instructional time.** If unavoidable, please notify the office beforehand **via Safe Arrival** and **notify your child's teacher.**



## School Website

<https://auguston.abbyschools.ca>

Don't forget to check out the school website for [Announcements](#), [Newsletters](#), [Dress Code](#), [School Office hours](#), [Blog posts](#) and more!

## Parent Volunteers

Are you interested in Volunteering at Auguston to help out with field trips, in the classroom, hot lunch and more?



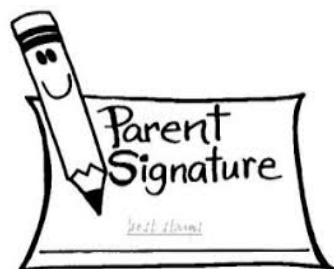
All Volunteers must have a Criminal Record Check (CRC) completed, safety training and orientation, and the necessary forms submitted. Thank you for your support in completing the necessary requirements.

The Volunteer sign up is an **ANNUAL** process  
The Criminal Record Check lasts for 5 years.

Please see [Volunteer Procedures](#)

## IMPORTANT FORMS

Please watch for the following form coming home with your child:  
**Student Verification form**



The **Student Verification form** gives us important personal information that we use in case of emergency or to contact you for various reasons.

**Please be sure to check that your contact information is accurate and complete, SIGN IT and return to your child's teacher.**

Consent to be completed in [schoolcash](#):

*For all students - annual consent:*

- **Off Grounds**
- **Photo/Media Consent**

*Gr. 4-5 one-time per school-level general consent:*

- **Extracurricular Athletics Consent and Participation Agreement**

*Needed one time only:*

- **Request for Email Address Consent**

## NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are sent out by email **ONLY**.

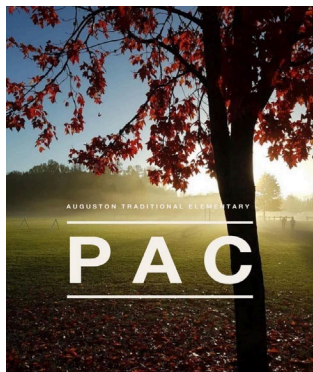
Please be sure to have an accurate email address listed on your Student Verification Form so that you receive the newsletter (in addition to other emails from the school).



## School Calendar

- [2024-2025 Local School Calendar - Month-by-Month](#)
- [2024-2025 Local School Calendar - Chronological](#)

## September PAC Meeting



Auguston Parents/Guardians are invited to join the first General PAC Meeting of the 2024-25 school year on Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00pm in the Library Learning Commons.

**PAC Executive 2024/2025** \*click on the position for a description

- **Chair:** Raelynn Markerth
- **Vice-Chair:** Sarah Hazelwood
- **Treasurer:** Cynthia Lambert
- **Treasurer Assistant:** Tina Poudrier-Beck
- **Secretary:** Brenda Weibelzahl
- **Yearbook:** Anna Logan
- **Fundraising Chair:** \*\*OPEN\*\*
- **Hot Lunch Chair:** Alicia Campbell
- **Member at Large:** Natalia Subrt
- **DPAC Representative:** Adaora Ijeoma
- **Staff Appreciation:** Brooklyn De Paz Adams

Thank you to all the parents who help out in so many ways, we couldn't do it without you!!

### Have questions?

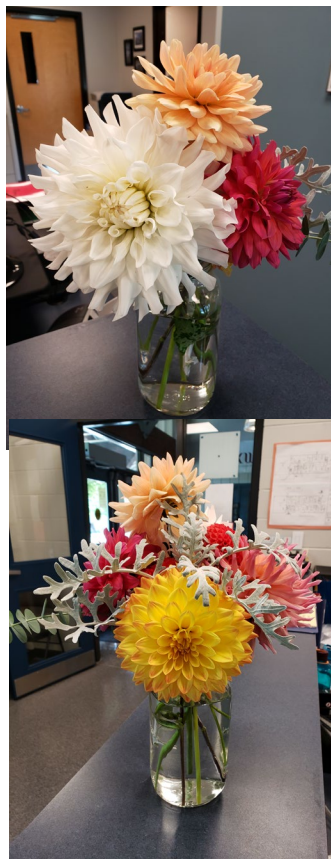
Please email the PAC at [augustonpac@gmail.com](mailto:augustonpac@gmail.com)

**Join the PAC Facebook Page for reminders & updates!**

**[Auguston Traditional Elementary School PAC](#)**

## Contact the PAC

See the [PAC page](#) on the website or **email the PAC at [augustonpac@gmail.com](mailto:augustonpac@gmail.com)**.



## School Flowers

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Mrs. Diana McAllister, Kindergarten teacher (and part-time florist/gardener 😊) & Mr. Robert Carmichael, retired principal, our school garden volunteers, and for the incredibly gorgeous flowers that brighten up our school!

**Ac** Able Cresting  
**Open House**

you're invited!

Browse new corporate apparel & promotional products | Tour our new showroom | Socialize, connect, and win fun prizes!

**Wednesday, September 18th 3-6pm**  
30887 Peardonville Road, Abbotsford  
Wine, cheese and other refreshments to be served!

draw for FREE prizes! 5PM

SUPPLIERS AT THE EVENT:  
STORMTECH | BIZ COLLECTION | Canada Sportswear | dmi | CAPAMERICA | SYZMIK WORKWEAR | bugatti

## Pay for School Activities and Give Consent Online



**Kindergarten parents, please watch for the cost of Kindergarten school supplies to be added in school cash soon! Gr. 1-5 School Planners for certain classes as well!**


Consent forms are **ONLINE** in SchoolCash. Consent includes Request for Email Address Consent, Google for Education, Photograph/Video and Media, Permission off Grounds and for Field Trips.

We would like to encourage **ALL families** at our school to utilize the online option for consent & payments **EVERY** time! We are currently at **89.4%** who have signed up. Let's make it 98, 99 or even 100% Auguston and **PLEASE USE the online option every time!**

**\*Email Consent \* Google Consent \* Permission for Off Grounds \* Photo/Media Consent  
\*Field Trips \* Damaged or Lost Library Books \* Fruit & Veggie Consent \*No Uni for a Toonie**

Thank you to parents who have set up your schoolcash account and utilize this option. You will be receiving reminders and messages about new items being added to your child's 'cart' when field trips and other items arise. A suggestion is to purchase a **prepaid credit card** to make purchases if you are concerned about online shopping. The district site is a secure site which does not hold account information.

**SchoolCashOnline** limits the amount of cash/cheques handled in schools, reduces paperwork, and results in more focused instructional time in the classroom. The Abbotsford School District now uses SchoolCashOnline for all schools. With SchoolCashOnline, parents have the convenient and secure option of paying for school items using their credit card online, 24/7. You can pay for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. It will save you time too! **Register for Schoolcashonline in 4 simple steps! If you haven't yet done so, please click on the link below to sign up TODAY!**



### Pay School Fees Online

Secure credit card payment  
24/7 convenience  
Easy registration

[\*\*Click Here!\*\*](#)

SchoolCashOnline