



## Homma Weekly

Tomekichi Homma Elementary School

School District No. 38 (Richmond)

5100 Brunswick Drive, Richmond, B.C. V7E 6K9

Tel: (604) 668 - 7844 Website: [homma.sd38.bc.ca](http://homma.sd38.bc.ca)

Monday, Sept. 12

All students begin the day in their new classrooms

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Thursday, Sept. 15

Friday, Sept. 16

### Next Week at a Glance: Sept. 12 - Sept. 16 , 2022

***We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.***

*A Heartfelt Homma where Everyone Belongs  
seeking harmony.....respecting diversity*

## FIRST WEEK

This week we welcomed 546 students and their families back to school. Seeing smiles on children's faces and hearing the excitement in the air reminds us all of the anticipation of another school year. This year we are looking forward to continuing to support students in their learning as well as the opportunity to build community within the school. We want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding this week as we have worked through September start up at Homma. Today your child was placed into their class for the school year. We understand that this is an exciting time, but it can also be a bit overwhelming for some students. We want to reassure you that we are aware of how students may respond to change and recognize that change for some will take time. We also want

families to know that there has been a lot of thought put into class placements by staff. The process is complex and requires a lot of discussion and care. Please understand that your child's class placement has been a product of many conversations and they have been placed in a learning environment that best suits their needs.

## STAFFING UPDATE

We are excited to be welcoming two new staff members to Homma Elementary. Mme Veilleux, is joining us from Diefenbaker Elementary School. She is our new Teacher Librarian and we are thrilled to have her at the school. Mme Veilleux is looking forward to supporting staff, students and families through our school library. We are also pleased to be welcoming Mme Roozbeh, EFI Classroom/ ELL Teacher. Welcome to the school Mme Roozbeh.



## HOMMA SCHOOL SCHEDULE

<b>Warning Bell</b>	8:40 am (5 minutes until school begins)
<b>School Day Begins</b>	8:45 am
<b>Outside Recess</b>	9:55 - 10:10 am (Snack eaten outside)
<b>Lunch</b>	12:00 - 12:25 pm (Students eat lunch in their classroom) 12:15 pm - First bell for students who are finished eating to go outside 12:25 pm - Second bell - all students outside for lunch play
<b>Outside Lunch Play</b>	12:15 - 12:50 pm
<b>Dismissal</b>	2:45 pm

## THANK YOU MRS. REGAN AND MRS. ZENI

Our Homma garden looks amazing! A big thank you to Mrs. Zeni, Mrs. Regan and the families and students who helped care for our garden over the summer! Your time and commitment is appreciated.

## IDENTITY AND BELONGING ACTIVITY

At Homma, we place value on the importance of creating an environment where everyone belongs and is welcomed. This has and will continue to be a big part of learning at school and is our school focus. After listening to the story *“Be You”* by Peter Reynolds students explored the essential questions - *Who are you? And What makes you, you?* They then created identity maps to share with classmates. After this, they explored the essential question: *What does it mean to belong? How do you know when you belong? And when have you know you have belonged?* The responses to these essential questions were amazing and really highlighted the strength of our community.

## RAINBOW CROSSWALK AT HOMMA

Over the summer, Homma became the first elementary school in the Richmond School District to have a rainbow crosswalk. The crosswalk is a visible sign that Homma welcomes and supports inclusivity for all students, families and staff and in particular members of the LGBTQ + community. This initiative started as a Social Studies project in 2019/20 in Mr. Autio’s class. Mrs. Oliver, Ms.

Major, Mr. Autio, Callum H., Hayley B., Hailey C., Lily M. And Ella F. spearheaded a campaign to advocate for a rainbow crosswalk at Homma. As a result of their effort, vision and courage we were able to have one painted over the summer. We are very proud of it! Over the next few weeks all students will learn about the rainbow crosswalk and its important place as part of our community. Thank you Homma PAC for partnering with the school to cover the paint cost for the crosswalk.



## SEPTEMBER 30 – NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AND ORANGE SHIRT DAY

This non-instructional day honors the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Commemoration and acknowledgement of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. We will also be encouraging everyone to wear orange shirts on Thursday, September 29th in support of our efforts in reconciliation.

## MEET THE STAFF – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

We are looking forward to being able to host a Meet the Staff evening. This year we will be inviting families to the school to connect with their child’s teacher from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. We have made arrangement for the “Sausage Haus” to provide food for the evening. At 6:00 pm, families will be invited outside to pick up their food and enjoy the company of families in the community. The event will end at 6:30 pm. More information about ordering and the evening will be coming out early next week.

## TERRY FOX RUN – DATE CHANGE – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

The Terry Fox Run originally scheduled for Thursday, September 29th will be **changed to Wednesday, September 28th**. The original date coincided with Truth and Reconciliation. We felt that it was important, respectful and necessary that the two events occur on different days.

## HOMMA PAC NEWS

Our first PAC meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 pm. The first meeting will be held in-person in the school library.

Please see attached PAC newsletter for more information and volunteer opportunities.

### Upcoming Hot Lunch Dates

Hot Lunch days will resume in October. More information to come about how to order.

## STUDENT VERIFICATION PACKAGE AND SCHOOL FORMS

This week we will be sending home a package of forms that we please ask you to fill in. Each package will include an Emergency Contact Form for review and updating, information about paying for School Supplies and student agendas through the Cash On Line program, a Walking Field Trip Form, and the Consent to Receive Electronic Communications Form. ***When you have completed filling in all these forms, please have your child return them to the office.***

## STUDENT AND FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [\*Student and Family Affordability Fund\*](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to Mr. Cherry at [dcherry@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:dcherry@sd38.bc.ca). if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

It is hard to think about rainy weather with all of the sunshine we have had this summer. We believe that time spent outside is important to student health, well being and learning. At Homma, we plan for “West Coast

Weather” and we will be outside for recess, lunch and outdoor learning in rain or shine. Please help your child feel comfortable by sending them in weather appropriate clothing such as jackets and boots. Students may also benefit from having a change of clothing and shoes at school. For our younger students, please practice putting their jackets and boots on and off. **We will be outside in most weather conditions throughout the fall and winter.**

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

We recognize and understand that cell phones and personal music devices are part of our lives today, and can support learning, they can also be very disruptive to learning as well. We remind students and families that these items are not permitted to be used during the school day (including recess and lunch) unless specifically requested by the teacher for an educational purpose. The school will not be responsible for missing or damaged persons electronics.

## DAILY HEALTH CHECK AND STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

We are now following the Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K - 12. We appreciate your support in keeping your child home when they are showing symptoms and are not feeling well. **Students should not come to school when they are sick.** Please continue to go through the Daily Health Check with your child before they come to school. If your child is not feeling well please continue to keep them home until their symptoms have resolved. If you know your child will be absent for a range of days, please leave that information as well.



## DROP OFF LANE AND PARKING LOT SAFETY

To ensure the safety of all students, please pull up as far as possible in the drop off lane when coming to school in the mornings. Please do not park in the drop off lane to bring your child into the school as it disrupts the flow of traffic. Street parking is available on Railway Ave or Brunswick Drive. At the end of the day, the drop off lane is closed to vehicles and we ask that you do not remove the parking lot chain to enter. Thank you for your support with this.



## STUDENT ABSENCE EARLY WARNING REMINDER

If your child will be away from school, please call the Early Warning Line at 604-668-6491 before 9:00 a.m. with the following message:

My name is. I am calling to let you know that \_\_\_\_\_  
(child's name) in Division \_\_\_\_\_ will not be at school today. Please remember to include the reason for the absence.



### **Important Dates Coming Up**

September 22..... Meet the Teacher – time and details to follow

September 23..... Professional Day – Students are not in session

September 27..... PAC Meeting @ 6:30 (in the Homma Library)

September 28..... Terry Fox Run

September 29..... Orange Shirt Day

September 30..... National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – All Schools  
Closed

October 10.....Thanksgiving Holiday

October 12/13.....Conferences - Early Dismissal at 1:45 pm