

September 27, 2021



## Orange Shirt Day and Terry Fox Run/Walk and Fundraiser! Aurora

Thunderbirds have TWO very special events on **Wednesday September 29!** Students will

participate in the annual **Terry Fox** run and walk, and we will be recognizing **Orange Shirt Day**, as there is no school on Thursday Sep 30 in recognition of [National Day of Truth & Reconciliation](#). School resumes on Friday Oct 1, 2021.

Orange Shirt Day is a time to remember the inhumane and prejudicial treatment of First Nations children who were forced to attend Residential Schools. When Phyllis Webstad was just six years old, she was taken from her home and boarded at St. Joseph's Mission, a residential school just south of Williams Lake, British Columbia. Her experience has led to the national recognition of the orange shirt as a symbol of remembrance. Held annually in September shortly after students return to school, we use this day to remind ourselves that each and every child matters. We show that as students, staff, and community members, that we are stronger together when we stand against racism and prejudice. We come together in a spirit of reconciliation in order to provide excellent, equitable education for all students so that they may learn and excel in all aspects of life. For more about Phyllis's story, check out this [YouTube video](#).



Go to <http://www.terryfox.ca/AuroraMiddle> to donate to a great cause!

**COVID-19 Update** By the end of last week, Aurora was placed on outbreak status for respiratory illness (see [AHS Letter - Outbreak Notification - Aurora Middle School](#)), however there were no reported cases of COVID among Aurora students. Parents received notice because there were reported cases connected to Bus Route 117.

**Schedule and Recess Times Update** As we notified parents in last week's [Thunderbird News](#) and the September PAC meeting, your child may have a slightly different schedule as we adjust some bell times, reduce the number of transitions, increase the transition time for students who are moving to another learning space.

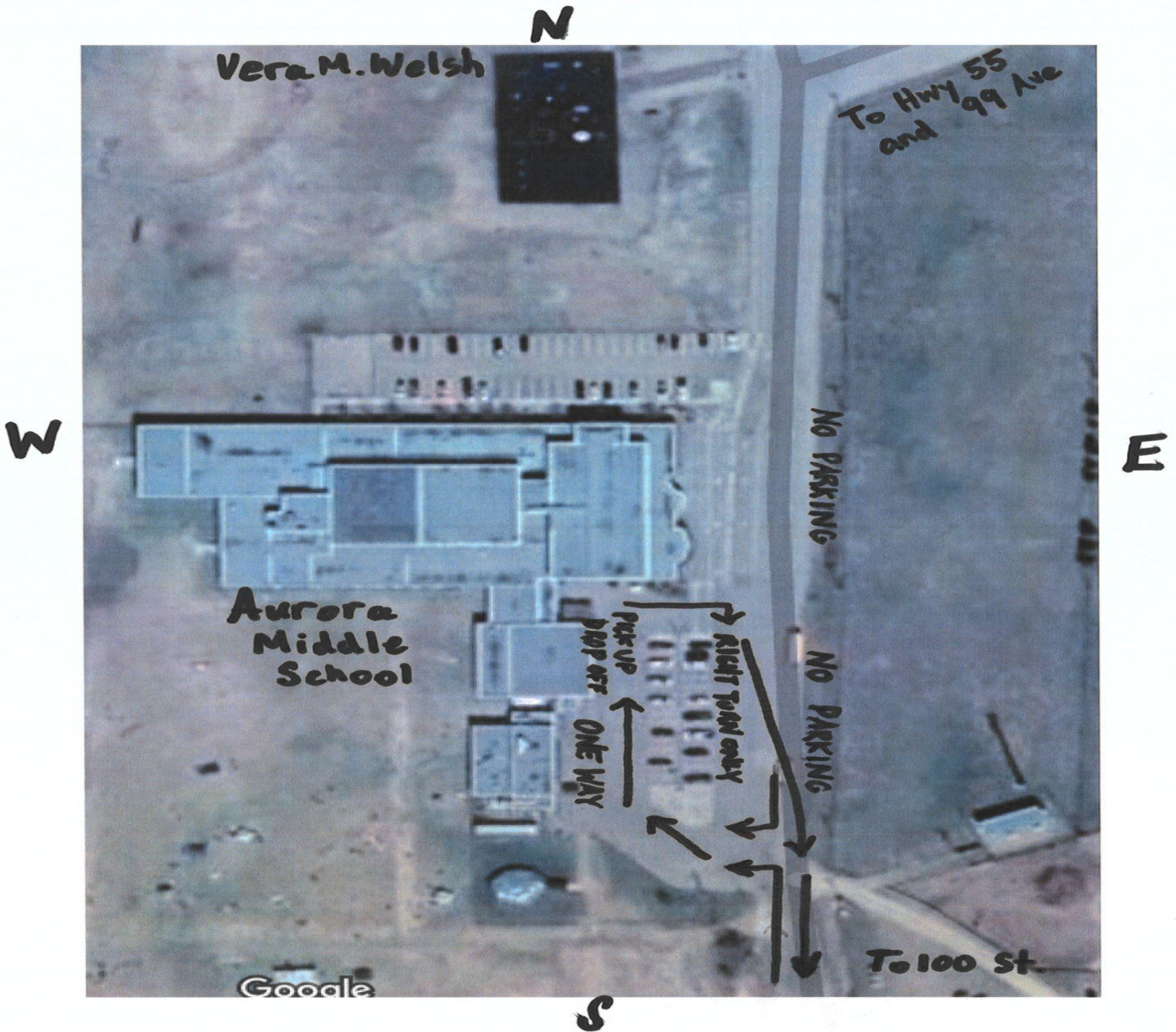
While we had previously met provincial guidelines for cohorting, this change also allows us to take some additional steps to enhance our cohorting of students to help reduce the risk of transmission during recess and lunch. Students will actually have an **increase in allotted time for movement, snack, and outside breaks**, though some apprehension has arisen with the changes including moving the afternoon outside recess to the morning; this approach makes sense, since our lunch time is later than in previous years and we can ensure we best align our breaks to avoid any recess conflicts with Vera on the playground.

<b>8:20:00 AM</b>	Doors Open
<b>8:40 AM - 8:50 AM</b>	Homeroom Attendance
<b>8:50 AM - 10:20 AM</b>	Class Time
<b>10:20 AM - 10:40 AM</b>	Outside Recess
<b>10:40 AM - 12:10 PM</b>	Class Time
<b>12:10 - 12:40 PM</b>	Gr 4-5-6 Outside Recess; Gr 7-8 Lunch
<b>12:40 PM - 1:10PM</b>	Gr 7-8 Outside Recess; Gr 4-5-6 Lunch
<b>1:10 PM - 1:15 PM</b>	Homeroom Attendance
<b>1:15 PM - 3:25 PM</b>	Class Time with staggered movement and snack breaks

The morning was long for many students with only a short snack break placed within more than 3.5 hours of instruction. Switching our afternoon outside recess to mid-morning (where the inside snack break was held previously) makes sense with our outside lunch recess being later than it has been in previous years (for cohorting along with outside times for Vera). This, in addition to increasing physical education classes to 45 minutes every day provides a far better experience for students who need to get up and move. The afternoon snack & movement breaks are scheduled by teachers, which allows us to stagger the breaks to avoid congestion in washrooms to further reduce risk of spread. Contact your child's teacher directly if you have questions about how they are breaking up their instructional time in the afternoon and providing their classes with nutrition breaks and movement.

**Important Update for Drop-off and Pick-up!** Congestion at bus time (particularly after-school pick-up) is being addressed by improving traffic flow. As always, enter the pickup/dropoff lineup at the south end of the school, by the CTS shop and Cafeteria doors. Please note the new signage and direction of flow, and allow enough space in the line at those turning spots to allow buses and parents to flow through. Parents should leave through the south entrance (toward Hwy 36) to avoid a

long lineup of parents attempting to turn toward town at the northeast exit between Vera and AMS. Note the 'No Left Turn" signage as parents exit the pick-up lineup, and "No Parking" signs along the East of our bus lanes. Under no circumstances should parents call students to run across bus lanes at these busy times! We want all our students to get home safely.



**Important Dates!** Please note that there is **no school** on Thursday September 30 in recognition of the [National Day of Truth & Reconciliation](#)! Wednesday September 29 will be [Orange Shirt Day](#) at Aurora, as well as our Terry Fox Run. There will also be no school for students on Friday October 8, though parents may be contacted to come in to review Individualized Support Plans for their child on that day.

**PAC Meetings:** For those parents who can't attend our monthly PAC meetings, we will be posting minutes and next meeting's agenda on our website. Our future dates for BINGO worker days in 2021 are: **Oct 9, Nov 25, and Dec 19!** Enjoy a free meal while watching the BINGO action and helping out the students of our school! The shift runs from 5pm to about 9pm and we require three people to work the shift. Free food and wonderful people make for a great Sunday night out. Please call or text our amazing and hard-working BINGO Fundraising parent volunteer coordinator Joyce Cloutier at (780) 623-8203 if you are able to volunteer. Our next PAC Meeting is Wednesday October 20 at 6:30pm via [Google Meet](#) and in-person at the school !

**Picture Day!** Our picture day with Lifetouch is scheduled for October 19 ! Stay tuned for details! If you missed our startup newsletter, you can download it [here](#)!