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Hello Sunshine Families.

I think exquisite accurately describes the incredible weather we've experienced this past week. I hope you are all enjoying the waning days of summer. There was a lot of excitement on Friday as students were moved to their 2024/25 classes. There is always fear, anxiety, stress and disappointment. While many students are happy to finally see who their new classmates are, some students struggle with the move. Children never stay disappointed; they move on, accept and thrive with the challenge. Resilience is the process of successfully adapting to challenging experiences. It is important for all parents to read an excerpt regarding combined classes found below the SH PATW schedule.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support of our entire school community. It's going to be a wonderful year!

With Appreciation,

Keri Hanlon

Principal/Directrice #leadwithkindness



Peek At The Week

École Élémentaire Sunshine Hills Elementary

Week of September 9-13

Monday 9	Students are in their 2024/25 classes and we are gently easing into the week at Sunshine☺
Tuesday 10	*Welcome Back Assembly @ 2:00 PM
Wednesday 11	*Gwenaëlle Oger Black, our DSD French Programs Coordinator will be on site to work with French Immersion and Core French teachers.
Thursday 12	
Friday 13	We made it! This was our first full week back. Next week will certainly be a little busier with more events to report.
Important Information	Please use the school absentee line to report your child's absence: 604 952-2888
Dates to remember	Thursday, September 19th is Open House @ 5:00 PM Friday, September 20th is a Pro D Day-no school Monday, September 23rd is picture day!

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOUR CHILD IS IN A COMBINED (SPLIT) CLASS, PLEASE READ FOR YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:

Do children “learn” differently in combined-grade classrooms? Children learn and mature at different rates. Intellectual, social, physical and personal development is not grade level dependent. In every classroom, combined-grade or single-grade, there is a wide range of children with varying skills and abilities. Teachers are aware of these individual differences and structure learning activities within the curriculum, according to the needs of each learner. Students in combined-grade classes are not held back to the level of younger students nor are they expected to handle work beyond their ability. Whether a child is an advanced learner, or requires additional learning support, each is

guided to succeed within the grade appropriate learning outcomes. There are also social benefits to combined-grade classes. Research shows that combined-grade classes:

- allow students to learn from one another
- encourage students to work together
- provide models for younger students
- help older students see what they have already learned
- promote social responsibility
- help students to become independent
- foster a positive attitude towards school

How do teachers “teach” in combined-grade classes? The combined-grade structure does not make a difference in how a teacher teaches students. Teachers of combined-grade classrooms are familiar and knowledgeable about the curricula for the grades and subjects they are teaching. Learning has shifted away from memorizing facts to a more holistic approach that focuses on engaging the learner through a lens of inquiry-based learning, critical and creative thinking. This approach lends itself well to combined-grade classes where the emphasis is on teaching students how to evaluate ideas, make judgements, transfer and apply knowledge, understand processes and access information.

(excerpt from Burnaby SD, 2024)