

RAFT RIVER ELEMENTARY

Wednesday DPA (Daily Physical Activity)

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Almost three years ago Raft River Elementary started a Wednesday DPA program at the school.

The Ministry of Education mandates public schools to provide 30 minutes of Daily Physical Activity (DPA) within every school day. Typically classroom teachers are responsible to fit this in during their school day. At Raft we have designated one day (Wednesday) where the whole school participates in this activity. We have done this not only to ensure we meet the Ministry requirements, but it also allows us to run enrichment programs and professional enhancement for staff we would not normally be able to manage on a regular school day. The following programs are also offered during DPA:

1. *Daily Physical Activity*

- The majority of students will be participating in this part of the Wednesday program. At this time students will either go into the gym to do organized activities or go outside. Students who go to the gym are usually limited in number and selected by their classroom teachers. The rest will go outside to get exercise and fresh air and practice their playground interactions and social skills.

2. *Study Group*

- We offer a 'study group' at this time where teachers can send students who they feel may need extra support or time to complete assignments. A teacher is in charge of the study group and is there to offer extra support if needed.

3. *First Nations Focus Group*

- We run a First Nations Focus group at this time where students can go and learn about First Nations activities and culture. This is optional and numbers are limited.

4. *Big Brothers and Sisters*

- We have about 20 high school students from Clearwater Secondary School who come down every Wednesday to be Big Brothers and Sisters. The High School students are trained and we team them up with students from Raft River. Students must be recommended by teachers for the program. The students who are recommended apply and must qualify before they are teamed with a high school student.

5. *Teacher Collaboration*

- During DPA half of the staff are able to meet as a teaching team to review school data and discuss and organize instructional planning. This collaboration is focused on student achievement and how we can improve on it as a school. This is very valuable as there is not usually much time during the day to meet as a professional team and talk about instruction and student achievement.

If you have any questions about our DPA time on Wednesday's at Raft River School, please feel free to call at any time and I will be happy to answer them!

Sincerely,
Mike Bowden
Principal