



The Raft River Reminder

September 10, 2018



Administrator's Message

Welcome back to another school year at Raft River Elementary School! We are looking forward to a great year with a wonderful group of students and parents!

As usual at the beginning of the year, we have been working on figuring out who is actually at school. There are always some families that have decided to leave during the summer and other families that have just moved in. In addition, our staffing has changed as well, and we have had to reorganise things several times!

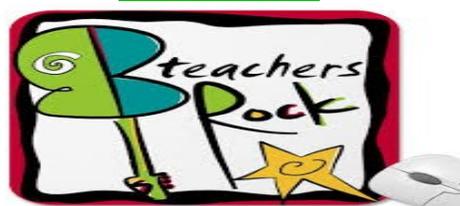
As of today, students are in their classes. It is important for everyone to understand that students in combined classrooms are not held back to the level of the younger children, nor are the children in the younger grade expected to do work beyond their abilities. All classes are flexible and responsive to individual needs, and independent learning is recognised and supported. Today's learners are entering school at a variety of skill levels. Every classroom, regardless of the grade structure has a wide range of knowledge, skills and abilities.

At this point, we still have some jobs posted. Ms. Graffunder has extended her maternity leave until after Christmas, and Ms. Holowaychuk is also still on leave. In addition, we have an opening for a prep teacher, as Ms. Harvey will be teaching a Grade 6/7 class. We are also looking to fill the new posting that we have for our 13th division class.

We have hired Ms. Elizabeth Babcock who will be teaching Grade 6, and we hope to have the rest of our jobs filled by the end of next week, but it will remain to be seen how that goes. We will let you all know as soon as we find out ourselves. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we deal with these issues over which we have no control.

In the meantime we have some wonderful TTOCs working for us for the first couple of weeks- thank you so much to Ms. Lulu, Ms. Murray, Ms. Daggett and Mr. Gillis. We appreciate how you've pitched in to help us out!

2018/2019 Staff



Mrs. L. Bradstock TBA	Principal Vice-Principal/ Learning Assistance
Ms. T. Carter	Kindergarten
Ms. A. Horne TBA	Kindergarten
Ms. N. Rushton	Kindergarten/Grade 1
Mrs. C. Green	Grade 1
Mrs. M. McKay	Grade 1/2
Mrs. L. Shook	Grade 2/3
Ms. G. Gormley	Grade 3
Mrs. D. Allan	Grade 3/4
TBA	Grade 4/5
Ms. E. Babcock	Grade 4/5
Ms. T. Harvey	Grade 6
Mr. R. Wilkes	Grade 6/7
Mrs. D. Bishop	Grade 6/7
Mrs. T. Cooke	Learning Assistance
TBA	Teacher Librarian
Ms. A. Wright	Prep Teacher
	Community Speech and Language Program
Ms. C. Noble	Administrative Asst. (Office)
Mrs. J. Kailley	Classroom Ed Assistant
Mrs. C. Kjenstad	Classroom Ed Assistant
Mrs. S. Reid	Classroom Ed Assistant
Ms. T. Pigeon	Classroom Ed Assistant
Mrs. R. Biagioni	Classroom Ed Assistant
Mr. A. Shymkiw	Aboriginal Ed Assistant
Mrs. J. Phillips	Strong Start Facilitator
Ms. T. Thompson	Library Support
Mrs. D. Wurm	Custodian
Mrs. C. Gale	Custodian
Mrs. V. Williams	Custodian
Mrs. A. Dhanoa	Custodian

School Hours

7:45 am – Bus supervision begins; first bus arrives students outside until doors open at 8:30
8:35 am – Courtesy bell
8:40 am - Classes begin
10:20 – 10:35 am – Recess
12:00 – Lunch (Outdoor Play Time)
12:40 – 12:55 – Lunch (Eating in Class)
1:00 – Afternoon Classes Begin
2:40 pm – Dismissal

Supervision is provided for bus students from 7:45 am until the last bus leaves at 3 pm. If you are driving your children to school, please drop them off as close to 8:30 as possible. Students are NOT supervised outside of these times, and are the responsibility of parents.

School doors will remain locked in the morning until 8:30, and all students will be expected to be outside before school begins. They will also go out during break times, unless circumstances, such as weather, dictate otherwise. Please help your children to dress accordingly for the weather of the day.

Home Information

Just a reminder to parents to **please** ensure that all home phone numbers, emergency contacts and address information (including email addresses) are all up to date on school records. Each year we have issues with information that has changed during the summer, and it is vitally important that we have a working number to contact you in the event of an emergency or problem situation at school. You should have received a package of papers, including a “Student Verification Form”, please go over it very carefully and make sure all the information included is accurate and up to date. Then return it as soon as possible to Ms. Noble at the office. Thanks!

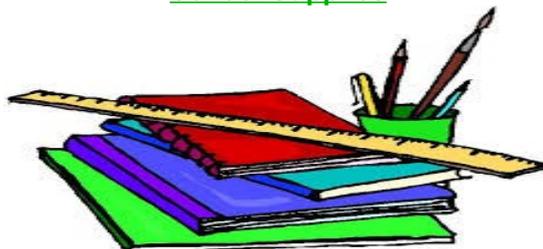
Newsletters

Please be aware that this is the only paper newsletter that we will be sending home with all of our students. In order to be more environmentally responsible, we would prefer to make the monthly newsletters available through a digital medium instead. There are 2 ways for you to access our school newsletter digitally:

1. Through email- if you have an email on your contact information with the school, then newsletters will be emailed to that address.
2. On the school website- every time a newsletter is written it will be posted on the Raft River website- <http://raft-river.sd73.bc.ca>.
3. If you DO NOT have internet access, please let Mrs. Bradstock or Ms. Noble know, and we will arrange to send a paper copy of the newsletter home with your youngest child. In this way, we hope to limit the amount of paper copies that we have to produce. There will always be a few

copies on the office counter as well. Thanks for your help with this, and please let us know if you have any comments.

School Supplies



School supplies may be purchased through the school for the following costs:

- Primary Grades (K-3 : \$34 (includes agendas)
- Grades 4-7: \$49 (includes agendas)

While it is a family decision about school supplies, we find it helpful and most convenient for us if you purchase your supplies through the school. This ensures that all students have the same materials and those materials are available to them when needed.

Please make cheques payable to **Raft River Elementary School**. Your payment may be sent with your child to their teacher, or brought directly to Ms. Noble at the office. Thank you for attending to this payment quickly so we can keep our records up to date.

Sensitivities/Allergies

Please be aware that there are students and staff at Raft River with sensitivities or allergies, and we need to be aware of:

- peanuts and other nuts in lunches- please avoid including items that contain nuts of any kind
- strong scents- avoid wearing perfume when in the building, students are not to bring any spray deodorants to school

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program

The BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program is part of a provincial government initiative to improve the health of BC children and families. The program is a first in BC, though similar programs in the UK and the US have been positively received by children, parents and teachers. This gives students and their teachers a chance to discuss healthy eating and agriculture as well.

About once a month, students receive a BC fruit or vegetable snack in the classroom. They enjoy the snack during class time, and students can make their own decisions about whether or not they would like to try the fruits or vegetables offered. This is not meant to replace the foods students normally eat at school. Please notify the school if your child has any food allergies.

In addition, students in K-2 are also offered milk through this program.

School Year Overview

This is a list of days that school will NOT be in session this year. Please make note not to send students to school on the following dates:

Friday, September 21	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 8	Thanksgiving
Friday, October 19	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, November 12	Remembrance Day
Monday, December 3	Non-Instructional Day
December 22-Jan 6	Winter Vacation
Friday, February 8	BC Family Day
Monday, February 18	Non-Instructional Day
March 16- 24	Spring Vacation
April 1	Non-Instructional Day
Friday, April 19	Good Friday
Monday, April 22	Easter Monday
Friday, May 17	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 20	Victoria Day
Friday, June 28	Teacher Admin Day

Student Absence Reporting

Please see the attached "School Messenger" page for information about making sure you have reported your child's absence when they are sick or if you have appointments planned.

***Please take the time to review the Raft River School Handbook in the front of this year's agenda (when students get them)! There is a great deal of important information for everyone in our school community contained within the handbook!**

Again, welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year! We look forward to working with you to make your child's school year a positive and enjoyable one!