



The Raft River Reminder

September 08 , 2019



Administrators' 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, staff, and families!

We need to remind everyone of the new drop-off and pick up area. This looks significantly different than it did last year, after the maintenance and transportation departments reviewed and changed our parking area to improve safety and traffic flow. Please do NOT drop students off in front of the school, the drop off area is on the side near the big mural painted on the wall. This allows the students to safely walk to the playground behind the cement dividers and not through traffic. If you are parking to come in with them, please use the parking spots on the side of the school as well, not the side of the road across the street. Also, please follow the arrows in the side parking lot, entering from nearest the mural and exiting from the other side. Please do not use the bus lanes at the back of the school for drop off or pick up. Thanks for your help in keeping our students safe!

Another conversation I often have at this time of year is about combined classes and learning. It is important 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, and teachers work very hard to meet students where they are and help them to progress.

This is a great time of year to make a connection with your child's new teacher. If you get a chance to be in the school, contact the teacher and arrange to have a short meeting. We are a team when it comes to all of our students, and you are an important part of our team!

We will also have an ice cream social on September 19th where all families are invited to come and meet and mingle with the staff.

Finally, please consider joining the Raft River PAC. This year's meeting times and dates are not yet announced, but if you are interested in helping out in any capacity such as fundraising, serving breakfast once a week, or other volunteer jobs, the PAC would welcome you with open arms. Contact PAC chair Sarah Affleck by email: raftriverpac@gmail.com.

2019/2020 Staff

Mrs. L. Bradstock	Principal
Ms. L. Holmes	Vice-Principal
Ms. T. Carter	Kindergarten
Ms. A. Horne	Kindergarten
Mrs. R. Murray	Grade 1
Ms. N. Rushton	Grade 1
Mrs. C. Green	Grade 2
Ms. M. Farris	Grade 2/3
Mrs. L. Shook	Grade 2/3
Mrs. S. Endacott	Grade 4/5
Mrs. D. Allan	Grade 4/5
Mr. S. Stuttard	Grade 5/6
Mr. C. Endacott	Grade 6/7
Ms. T. Harvey	Grade 6/7
Mr. R. Wilkes	Grade 6/7
Mr. D. Whelen	Learning Assistance (LART)
Mrs. T. Cooke	Teacher Librarian
Ms. A. Pearce	Prep Teacher
Ms. A. Wright	Community Speech and Language Program
Ms. C. Noble	Administrative Asst. (Office)
Mrs. C. Kjenstad	CEA
Mrs. S. Reid	CEA
Ms. T. Pigeon	CEA
Mrs. R. Biagioni	CEA
Ms. T. Chapman	CEA
Mr. A. Shymkiw	AEW
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
10:30 – 10:45 am – Recess
12:05 – Lunch (Outdoor Play Time)
12:45 – 1:00 – Lunch (Eating in Class)
1:05 – 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.

Please remember to follow the new arrows painted on the asphalt out front of the school when dropping off and picking up your children. Dropping your child off in a bus lane or parking area can be unsafe. Buses use the lane behind the school

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. Next week you will receive 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 is as soon as possible to Ms. Noble at the office. Thanks!

Newsletters

In order to be more environmentally responsible, we will be emailing newsletters home. 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 Ms. Holmes 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.

In order to help maintain our floors and carpets and provide a clean, safe learning environment for students, we ask that families provide a second pair of shoes for their children. These shoes should have non-marking sole so that they can be worn in the gym. Please contact the office if this represents an unmanageable financial burden for your family and we will connect with supportive resources.

Sensitivities/Allergies

Please be aware that there are students and staff at Raft River with sensitivities and/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 if at all possible
- 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.

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:

Monday, September 23	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving
Friday, October 25	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day
Monday, December 2	Non-Instructional Day
December 23-Jan 3	Winter Vacation
Friday, February 7	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, February 17	BC Family Day
March 16- 20	Spring Vacation
Friday, April 10	Good Friday
Monday, April 13	Easter Monday
Friday, May 15	Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day
Friday, June 26	Teacher Admin Day

Student Absence Reporting

Please report all student absences using the information on this image.



Events Upcoming

Wed, September 11	All sports registration (3:00 pm NTSP)
Thursday, September 19	Ice Cream Social 6:30 pm
Wed, September 25	Raise a Reader Parenting in a Digital World (streamed to CSS) 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Friday, September 27	Terry Fox Run (tentatively scheduled)

Monday, September 30

School Photos
Orange Shirt Day

Tuesday, October 8

Come Read With Me

Thursday, October 10

Early dismissal:
Parent/Teacher
Interviews