



Newsletter

October, 2023

Dear Parents and caregivers,

Fall is upon us!

Please know we are here to support your children and to connect with you when needed. Should you need to contact administration, you are welcome to email or call *anytime*:

- Carmella Mathieu, Principal - cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca
- Alyssan Gauthier, Vice Principal - agauthier@sd73.bc.ca
- Or - call us at Raft River Elementary (250-674-2218) on any school day to talk or to schedule an in-person meeting.

Cold and Flu Season

Health awareness is a part of our school's Communicable Disease Plan, which is located on the school website. At school, we continue to teach and practise proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at school. As families and caregivers, you can do your part by not sending your child(ren) to school if they are sick.

Busing

Please review with your child(ren) the bus expectations as per the Student Bus Conduct (AP 351) which was sent out earlier this year. Please note that once students board a school bus (and only at that time) do they become the responsibility of the District and the Districts regard the school bus as an extension of the classroom. All students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the same standards of behaviour that have been set for the classroom. This is to ensure the safety of all who ride school buses. Please know the drivers are in full charge of

the school bus and students and set the rules and deal accordingly with students who violate the rules. Such rules include:

1) respectful and responsible behaviour including and not limited to: rudeness to others, yelling, not sitting, eating food, not cleaning up after themselves, inappropriate language, mean behaviours to others, opening the windows or extending anything out the windows, disruptions that impede the driver's ability to drive safely

Such behaviours will involve: (for first offence) a warning, (second offence) a phone call home, (third offence) a break from riding the bus. Fighting (verbally and physically), inappropriate slurs, misuse of technology, ongoing mean behaviours are bigger concerns and students will be suspended from riding the bus immediately.

School bus drivers are responsible for discipline on the bus and may recommend to the principal that a student who becomes a discipline problem be suspended from riding. The length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the bus driver, and parents will be advised immediately of the suspension and its duration.

Thank you for your patience with busing. ***The school buses are FULL.*** This means we ***can ONLY accommodate rides to and from home and or day care/after school.*** This is also reflected in the Administrative procedures sent out earlier in the school year. If your caregiving situation or address changes, it is essential you notify Tina at the bus garage with as much notice as you can provide: 250-674-3224.

We understand that students live in alternate houses during the month. Please make sure that ***both your child's classroom teacher and the bus garage*** are aware of this. Accommodations will not be made for any courtesy rides. These will be considered set dates of travel and logged. If you have notified the bus garage already, please send a note to the classroom teacher. If there is no note, we will send them on the bus that we have them registered on. A note also needs to be sent if you intend to pick them up from school. This is for safety reasons.

Volunteers

ALL volunteers at school need to have a Criminal Record Check completed. If you completed one last year, it is still valid. There are two ways to complete your record check. The first is online through the following link:

- Online Link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
- Access Code: **[6FB4LXN6PS]**

The second is through the RCMP detachment. If you are proceeding with the second option, please email Carmella at cmathieu@sd73.bc.ca once you have submitted your paperwork so a volunteer letter can be sent over to the detachment.

Student Pick Up and Parking

Thank you for parking in a safe space in the front of the school, near the annex building when picking up your child(ren) after school. Please do not park at the back courtyard as this creates congestion and safety hazards for our buses.

Biking and Walking to School Reminders

Thank you for *discussing safety tips for biking and walking to and from school with your children* if this is part of their routine. Please remind your child(ren) they need to wear a helmet while biking and refrain from biking once on school grounds for the safety of others.

School Messenger/Lates and Absences

To report an absence you may choose to:

- call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- access the following website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or
- download the School Messenger App from Itunes or Google Play

If you would like more information regarding this program, please see the District page here: <https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/attendance-reporting-safe-arrival.aspx>

Cold/Rainy Weather is on the Horizon

Please help your child learn to dress for the weather by sending clothing to suit the day's forecast. This means a warm jacket should now be packed daily as our mornings are cooler. Appropriate clothing makes recess more enjoyable for everyone!

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

All parents are welcome to attend this month's PAC meeting on October 10 at 6 p.m. in school library. We are always looking for new members to support our school!



Photo Retakes

If your child(ren) missed individual photos in September, they can still attend retakes with Theresa Braaten of Indigo Thyme Photography on **Monday, October 16**.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day Gathering

To recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day, classes came together for a gathering in the gym. Sitting in a circle, students listened to a traditional prayer with Brigette MacDougall. Ms. Burton's grade 1/2 class, who was joined by students from Eagle's Nest and Georgina Leppky, led us in singing and drumming the Welcome song. In addition grade 7 students, Savannah and Kael, shared historical information about Orange Shirt Day. It was great to see our school filled with a sea of orange shirts!

Leadership Team

This year, we have a large leadership team of Grade 6 and 7 students. The team is working hard to plan a recycling program for the school and has organised a Spirit Week for the end of October. The dates for the Spirit Week are included in our October events at the end of the newsletter.

Volleyball Teams

Our Grade 6 and 7 volleyball teams have begun practising for this year's season. The players are learning the basic skills of volleyball and how to work as a team. We are excited to see their skills develop over the season!

October Calendar Events

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| Oct. 2- Nov. 10: | BC Ministry of Education Foundation Skills Assessment takes place for students in grades 4 and 7 |
| Oct. 4 | Dan Coleman Run for Run Club |
| Oct. 5 | World Teachers' Day |
| Oct. 5 | Garden Harvest Soup Celebration |
| Oct. 9 | Non Instructional Day: Thanksgiving Monday |
| Oct. 10 | PAC Meeting in the Library at 6 p.m. <i><u>All are welcome!</u></i> |
| Oct. 11 | Gr. 3-7 Run Club Kamloops Run |
| Oct. 16 | Photo Retakes & Kierah Cultural Performance |

Oct. 16	Kierah Cultural Performance
Oct. 18	Gr. 3-7 Run Club Kamloops Run
Oct. 19	Ms. Carter's K Class Field Trip to Eagle's Nest
Oct. 19	PAC Pizza Hot Lunch
Oct. 20	Non Instructional Day: Staff Professional Development
Oct. 26	Early Dismissal - 12:51 for Points of Progress Meetings
Oct. 23	Teachers Vs Student Dodgeball Game
Oct. 24	Anything but a Backpack Spirit Day!
Oct. 25	Kindness Notes Spirit Day
Oct 26	Twin Day Spirit Day
Oct 27	Fall Bingo