



Newsletter

September, 2023

Dear Parents and caregivers,

Welcome back! It has been great to reconnect with students, including our new Kindergarteners, and staff! Please help us welcome our new teachers this year:

- Delaney Hughes: Kindergarten
- Carlene Burton: Grades One/Two
- Jaya Saravanan: Grades One/Two
- Christina Scrivner: Grade Three
- Chantal Boulet: Grades Four/Five

We appreciate your patience as start-up processes become more fluid. Unfortunately, our system for sending email to families had a widespread technical glitch last week and information was not able to be communicated in a timely fashion to some families. Our sincere apologies if you did not receive the Welcome Back email or the schedule for gradual transitioning for Kindergarten students. It seems the earlier messaging sent out was not received by many and we were not made aware of this issue until late in the week.

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.

Busing

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 house changes, you need to notify the bus garage a week in advance.

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

This year ALL volunteers at school will 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 Reminders

When picking up your child afterschool, we ask that you park in a safe space in the front of the school, near the annex building. Students being picked up afterschool meet a supervisor in our back courtyard and are walked by a supervisor to the front of the building to meet their pick up person. Please do not park at the back courtyard as this creates congestion and safety hazards for our busses.

Biking and Walking to School Reminders

We encourage you to ***discuss safety tips for biking and walking to and from school with your children*** if this is part of their routine. Please remind your child if they are biking they need to wear a helmet.

Busing

There have been many route changes to the bussing schedules this year. As such, drop off and pick up times are still being adjusted slightly. Registered bus families will be notified by the bus garage as scheduling changes occur. Thank you for your patience in this matter. If you wish to register your child to take the school bus, please give Tina at the bus garage a call at 250-674-3224.

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>

Communication

The office will be sending out a package with **important information that needs to be updated each year**. This includes a number of documents that need to be signed. **It is VERY important that your email and telephone information is correct and up to date in our student information database**. Please read over the information, sign and return the documents to the school.

Entering/Exiting the School

We ask that all visitors entering the school **sign in and out at the front office**. This helps us keep track of who is in the building at all times for your children's safety.

We also ask that everyone **removes outdoor footwear** when entering the building. This helps keep the school clean and makes custodial work much easier!



School-Wide Allergy Alert - Oranges

Please be aware that Cassie Sills, our Aboriginal Education Support Worker, has a very serious allergy to all types of oranges. This includes a reaction to a child eating an orange in a classroom.

We kindly request that oranges not be brought into the school for her safety.

Fall is in the Air

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!

Daily Items to Bring To School

Please ensure your child has the following items everyday:

- Inside, non-marking, shoes
- backpack
- water bottle that closes
- Daily Agenda to communicate with your child's teacher

If you require any of the above items, please contact administration.

Student Agendas

Unfortunately, student agendas were lost in the interior wildfires this summer. We are anticipating student agendas will arrive in late October. In the meantime - teachers have been creative with setting up a system for you to communicate with them daily. Please send your child's agenda to school each day and check it after school for notices, completed work, notes home and home reading resources. Teachers will also look forward to communication from you through your child's agenda.

Bell Schedule

Warning Bell : 8:35

Classes Start: 8:40

Recess Bell: 10:05

Classes Start: 10:20

Lunch Bell: 12:05 (12:05-12:35: play time; 12:35-1:00: eating time)

Classes Start: 1:05

Dismissal: 2:51

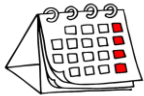
Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

All parents are welcome to attend the first PAC meeting this Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. We would love new members to support the team! A new executive will be voted in at this meeting. The PAC does a wonderful job in supporting the school in many ways. All parents are encouraged to come out. Stay tuned for more information on breakfast programming and much more, supported by our dedicated PAC members!



Individual Student Photographs

This year, our school photographer will be Theresa Braaten of Indigo Thyme Photography in Clearwater. Individual photos will be taken for Raft students at school on **Wednesday, September 27**. Retakes will occur on Monday, October 16.



Please stay tuned for an email this week which will include a calendar of events for the rest of the month.