

DIAMOND/RELEVANT NEWSLETTER

September, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer! As the upcoming school year begins, we are pleased to see so many familiar faces and extend a warm welcome to our new students. Newsletters outlining what is happening in and around the school will be regularly sent home and posted on the website to keep you informed about field trips, special events, and other pertinent information.

Our Parent and Student Handbook is currently under revision and will be available shortly on our school website.

OUR STAFF

We are very excited to introduce our school staff for the 2017-2018 school year. We are happy to welcome some new teachers to our teaching team and look forward to their involvement in implementing new and innovative teaching styles and ideas. Please feel free to come by the school to introduce yourself to your child's teachers.

Principals: Jeanne Zimmerman & Margot Tyndall

Homeroom Teachers:

Kindergarten	Alanna
Grade One	Joyce
Grade Two	Teesha
Grade Three	Kim & Dennis
Grade Four	Donnub
Grade Five	Fraser & Sanya
Grade Six	James
Grade Seven	Alysha
Grade Eight	Krista
Grade Eight & Nine	Sean & Eric
Grade Ten & Eleven	Mike & Aman
Grade Twelve	Sandeep & Connor

Additional Faculty: Howard
Roberta
Arthur
Brad (*Band*)
Javed (*French*)

School Secretaries Sue Ward & Laura-Lynn Beeching

Absences and Leaving School Early

Please notify the school at 604-576-1146 if your child will be late or absent from school, or if they will be leaving school early for any reason, we ask that you send a note or call the office.

Address and Phone Number Changes

If you have changed your address or phone number, please make sure to inform the school.

Kindergarten to Grade Three School Supplies

Please note that school supply fees are due for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students. If you have not already done so, please submit your child's school supply fee to Sue at the front desk no later than Friday, September 15th. The Kindergarten to Grade 3 supply fee is \$80.00.

Carpooling

A list of parents interested in carpooling is posted on the bulletin board at the front entrance of each school building. Parents may add their names to the list at any time.

Special Lunches

Each month there are days when students may pre-purchase lunch with proceeds going toward school resources, field trip buses, etc. This month there will be an Umami Sushi Lunch on Tuesday, September 26th. An order form is attached.

Physical Education Classes

The gymnasium floor was refinished in the summer, and we require all students to have a separate pair of runners with non-marking soles kept at school. These runners are to be used only for Physical Education classes and lunchtime sports/games in the gym. ***Outside shoes and runners may not be worn in the gym.***

Dance Classes

As part of our Physical & Health Education program, all Kindergarten to Grade 3 students participate in weekly Dance classes. Students in grades 4 and up participating in Dance classes must have dance shoes - running shoes, bare feet, or socks are not permitted. Options for dance shoes are gymnastic slippers, ballet, or jazz shoes. Students must have their dance shoes at school by Monday, September 18th.

Student Photographs

Mountain West Studios will be taking individual student photographs at the school on Friday, September 22nd. Students should be in uniform dress code on this day. Two head shot photos of each student will be taken. After the photos are developed, the studio sends home proofs of these photos, along with information describing the various packages available. Photograph retakes for students are scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th and are done on a pre-paid basis only. Class pictures will be taken in the spring.

Special Theme Day - Pirates Day

In celebration of '*International Talk like a Pirate Day*', students will be participating in a Pirates Day on Tuesday, September 19th. Students can dress in pirate related clothing, and you may wish to add pirate accessories (i.e. eye patch, head scarf, buckles, stockings, hats) to go along with the theme. Those who do not wish to dress up for this day can wear regular dress code.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

"Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up" - Grade 4 - 7 - Thursday, September 21st

Litter pollutes our waterways and oceans causing harm to many animals and life ecosystems. On September 21st our Grades 4 to 7 students will be joining many Canadians and school groups across Canada to help keep our shorelines healthy by cleaning up our waterways. The students will be visiting Brookwood Park in Langley to participate in this hands-on conservation program. A waiver/permission form with further information about this field trip is attached to the newsletter.

Yoga Workshops – Kindergarten to Grade 3 – Friday, September 29th

The Kindergarten to Grade Three classes will be enjoying a yoga workshop on Friday, September 29th. The workshops will be conducted by Kathy Beliveau, a certified yoga instructor and author of *The Yoga Game by the Sea* and *The Yoga Game in the Garden*. Further details will be sent home later in the month.

Terry Fox Day

The school will be celebrating Terry Fox Day on Wednesday, September 27th. On this day there will be a variety of activities to honor Terry Fox, a Canadian hero whose cause was to find a cure for cancer.

Homework

Homework for students begins today, September 11th. *Kindergarten students begin their homework and home reading programs later in the month when they are adjusted to school routines.*

After School Academic Assistance

After school homework assistance for students in Grades 4 and up begins on **Monday, September 18th** and is from 3:10 until 4:00 p.m. ***Please note that there is no homework room for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students who complete their homework at home with the support of their parents.***

Health Policy

Please do not send students who are ill to school. If a student becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted immediately to pick him/her up. The emergency contact person will be called if the parents cannot be reached.

Oral non-prescription medication and oral prescription medication (antibiotics, etc.) may only be administered by school personnel upon receipt of written authority from a parent or guardian.

The public health nurse has requested that all parents notify the school if their son/daughter is exposed to or diagnosed with chicken pox, mumps or measles.

Smoke Free School

Please note that our entire school property is a **SMOKE FREE ZONE**. We do not permit smoking on our premises at any time (this includes E cigarettes)! Thank you for your consideration. 😊

Parent Volunteers

There are many ways that parents can help out within our school community, including the following:

Scholastic Book Fairs: Twice a year our school hosts a week long Scholastic Book Fair, and volunteers are needed.

Field trips: Driving and/or supervising is often required for field trips throughout the year. Permission forms are sent home in advance of every field trip and indicate if the teachers are seeking assistance.

Guest speakers: If you have any special skills you would be willing to share with your son/daughter's class, please let the homeroom teacher know, as this is a great way to enhance the students' learning.

Parking lot supervisors: We are looking for parent volunteers willing to help with directing traffic in our parking lot before or after school. This is especially crucial at the beginning of the school year! If you have time available to help us maintain an efficient and safe parking lot, even if only one morning or afternoon a week, please leave your name at the office.

It is our goal to assist students to develop the confidence, work habits, and self-esteem necessary to be able to constructively voice concerns, effectively solve problems, and to learn to communicate and get along with others. Please let us know if your child is having any difficulties at school. Open lines of communication between home and school are crucial to ensure the success of our students socially and academically. We look forward to working with you this year!

Diamond/Relevant Staff

IMPORTANT PARKING LOT REMINDERS

...PULL INTO AN EMPTY PARKING SPACE! DO NOT PARK OR STOP IN THE DROP OFF LANE!! The staff are usually parked before the students arrive so the staff parking area should be a safe area for students after they get out of their vehicle to proceed to the school entrances.

...PULL FORWARD COMPLETELY IN THE DROP OFF ZONE! ONE CAR BLOCKING TRAFFIC FLOW WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT BACKLOG OF TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY #10.

...DO NOT TURN LEFT ONTO HIGHWAY #10 FROM OUR PARKING LOT OR LEFT INTO OUR PARKING LOT TO AVOID ACCIDENTS. Instead take the time to circle the block and enter by turning right off or onto Highway #10.

...DO NOT EVER STOP AND LET YOUR CHILDREN OFF ON HIGHWAY #10 PLEASE PROCEED INTO THE PARKING AREA FOR SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS.

SCHOOL UNIFORM DRESS CODE INFORMATION

Our dress code objective is to minimize where possible the peer pressure and importance placed by students on having "cool" clothing, shoes, etc. Instead we would like to focus on other more important facets of education. Students should be in dress code every day unless otherwise notified for specific field trips or special events, and all school clothing must be appropriate for school. Those students not in dress code will be required to return home for the proper clothing, or have the appropriate clothing brought to school.

***All school clothing should be labelled to avoid mix-ups in the change rooms.**

Footwear:

- Acceptable school footwear includes dress shoes, runners, or sandals (with back straps) in plain, neutral colours (black, brown, grey, tan, white or navy.) Shoes must be appropriate for school and in good condition. Flip flops and boots are not acceptable footwear.
- Please note that **bright coloured laces, stripes or soles are not appropriate** for school footwear.
- Students must keep a pair of **gym runners** at school for use in the gym.

Clothing:

- **Tops:** Students may purchase their own shirts/blouses, but they must be a plain, solid white colour with a collar and sleeves (long or short). *Note: It is not acceptable to wear tops with alternate colour stitching or snaps/buttons, nor is wearing undershirts with visible writing/slogans or alternate colours.*
- **Pants:** Students may also purchase their own dress pants and walking shorts, but they must be a plain, solid black colour. ***It is not acceptable to wear jogging, jeans, or spandex/velour materials, nor should the pants have alternate colour stitching.*** Faded, torn, defaced clothing is not acceptable. *i.e. Black pants or walking shorts that have faded to grey or have outlived their time and should be retired!*
- **Gym strip, school skirts/kilts, jumpers, sweaters, class sweatshirts (grade 7 only)** must be purchased from our school uniform clothing store. *Please note that students do not receive full participation points in Physical Education and Dance classes if they are not wearing proper school uniform gym clothing.*
- **Leggings, tights, and/or socks** must be plain, neutral colours (black, brown, grey, navy, tan, white)

Grooming & Accessories:

- No extreme grooming or dress is acceptable, which includes extreme makeup, non-natural coloured hair (e.g. green.)
- Accessories must be appropriate for school and worn in moderation.
- We have a "no hats inside our school buildings" policy, a rule of etiquette from the past that we have always liked! 😊

Please check with the school before you purchase, wear, or otherwise make a commitment to a particular clothing item.

Thank you for your cooperation!