

DIAMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

September, 2019

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.

School Staff

We are excited to introduce our school staff for the 2019-2020 school year. We are happy to welcome some new teachers to our teaching team and look forward to their involvement in implementing innovative teaching styles and ideas. Please feel free to come in to introduce yourself to the staff.

Head of School: Kelly Card
Principal Emeritus: Jeanne Zimmerman

Administrative Coordinators: Kim Coley (K – 3), James Corrin (Grades 4 – 6) & Sean O'Neill / Krista Newbigging (Grades 7 – 10)

Homerooms:	Kindergarten	Alanna Schuurmans
	Grade One	Joyce Solmerano
	Grade Two	Hayley McDonald
	Grade Three	Kim Coley / Nerissa Davis
	Grade Four	Braydee Procillo (Arthur Lam)
	Grade Five	Samantha Golestani
	Grade Six	James Corrin / Dennis Lee
	Grade Seven	Justine Backlund
	Grade Eight	Sean O'Neill
	Grade Nine	Krista Newbigging
	Grade Ten	Rashmi Acharyya

Other Secondary Subject Specialists: Michelle Chandra (Socials, Student Assistance, English, Career Life)
Deborah Duffy (French)
Eric Hua (Math & Science)
Loreta Masangcai (English, Art, Drama)
Brad Muirhead (Intermediate & Secondary Band)

School Secretaries: Sue Ward & Laura-Lynn Beeching

Understanding Communication

As a school community we plan to improve our understanding of communication and we desire to practice communication with understanding. The recent amalgamation of our school campuses under one governing body and under one school head has highlighted the need to improve communication with all participants in our school community: between campuses and among teachers, staff, students and parents. Everyone who has a stake in the ongoing growth of our school will be part of that communication. Because of the need to involve all stakeholders in school processes, decision making can appear slow but the desire is to be as inclusive as possible. Keep an eye out for initiatives intended to further facilitate an ongoing dialogue.

Address and Phone Number Changes

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

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.

Absences and Leaving School Early

If a student will be late or absent, please notify the school as soon as possible. Also, if they will be leaving school early for any reason, we ask that you send a note or call the office. Please be aware that if a student is leaving school early on a regular basis for extra-curricular activities parents need to make arrangements with their homeroom teacher and ensure their child is ready and waiting in the upstairs office/hallway to minimize disruption for other students in the class.

Health Policy

The school encourages all staff, parents and students to take a proactive approach to prevent the spread of germs by washing hands very regularly, as well as covering a cough or sneeze with a tissue or your upper sleeve. For those who are not familiar with our health policy, it is as follows:

Please do not send students who are ill to school. If a student becomes ill at school, parents will be contacted immediately to pick them 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 child 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.

Uniform Dress Code

Students should be in dress code every day unless otherwise notified for specific field trips or special events. Students not in dress code may be required to have the appropriate clothing brought to the school. If you are unsure about the suitability of any clothing items, please check with the school before purchasing or wearing them. ***Please label all school clothing to avoid mix-ups in the change rooms.***

School Uniform Clothing

If you were unable to attend the clothing order session at the end of last year, please note that you may visit *Neat Uniforms* at 1050 Boundary Road in Burnaby (604-205-7560 or 1-888-909-6328) or place an order on-line at www.neatuniforms.ca.

Student Photographs

Mountain West Studios will be taking individual student photographs at the school on Wednesday, September 18th. 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 30th. Class pictures will be taken in the spring.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy

Students are not permitted to use phones or other electronic devices during school hours, including recess and lunch. They are asked to lock these devices in their lockers from 8:55 a.m. until 3 p.m. If they need to phone home, they are permitted to use the office phone. Devices will be taken away and kept in the office if students are using them without permission.

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 for the Kindergarten to Grade Six students on Thursday, September 26th. *An order form is attached to the newsletter.*

The Grades Seven to Ten students will be having a Ricardo Pizza lunch on Thursday, September 26th. *An order form for this lunch is included.*

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 13th. The Kindergarten to Grade 3 supply fee is \$100.00 (cash or cheque).

Parent Volunteers

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

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

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 child's class, please let the homeroom teacher know, as this is a great way to enhance the students' learning.

Parking lot supervisors: We would love to find some parent volunteers willing to help with directing traffic in our parking lot before or after school, especially for the first and last months of the school year. If you are willing to help, even if only one morning or afternoon a week, please leave your name at the office.

Homework

Homework for students begins on Monday, September 9th for students in Grades Two to Ten. The Grade One students will begin their homework on Monday, September 16th and home reading program on Monday, September 23rd. The Kindergarten class will start their homework and home reading programs later in the month when they have adjusted to the school routines.

After School Academic Assistance

After school homework assistance for students in Grades Four and up begins on **Monday, September 16th** and is from 3:10 until 4:00 p.m. ***Please note that there is no homework room for Kindergarten to Grade Three students as it is important for them to complete their homework at home with the support of their parents.***

Physical Education & Dance Classes

We require all students to have a separate pair of runners with non-marking soles kept at school for using in the gymnasium. 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.***

All Kindergarten to Grade Three students participate in weekly Dance classes. Students in Grades Four and up that have chosen Dance as an elective class must also 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 16th.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

'Storytelling Through Drama' Workshops – Kindergarten to Grade Three

On Monday, September 16th, the Grades One and Three classes will be participating in workshops called *Storytelling Through Drama* conducted by the Evergreen Cultural Centre. Students in Kindergarten and Grade Two will enjoy their fun workshops on Tuesday, September 17th. A permission form for these programs is attached to the newsletter.

Special Theme Day - Pirates Day

In celebration of '*International Talk Like a Pirate Day*', all students will be participating in a Pirates Day on Thursday, September 19th. They 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.

'Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-Up' – Grades Four to Six

Litter pollutes our waterways and oceans causing harm to many animals and life ecosystems. On Tuesday, September 24th our Grades Four to Six 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 permission form with further information about this field trip is attached to the newsletter.

Field Trip to Sendall Botanical Gardens – Grades Seven & Eight

On Tuesday, September 24th, the Grades Seven and Eight classes will be visiting the Sendall Botanical Gardens in Langley to participate in an Art and Social Studies field trip. This excursion is a great opportunity for the students to develop both their artistic abilities and cartography skills in a beautiful picturesque setting. Further information, along with the permission form, will be sent home next week. We will also require volunteer parent drivers for this field trip.

Terry Fox Day

The school will be celebrating Terry Fox Day on Wednesday, September 25th. 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.

Field Trip to VanDusen Botanical Gardens – Grades Nine & Ten

To enhance the Art and Social Studies curriculum, the Grades Nine and Ten classes will be participating in a cross-curricular field trip to VanDusen Gardens in Vancouver on Monday, September 30th. This workshop will enhance both their artistic abilities and cartography skills within lovely botanical scenery. A permission form for this field trip will be sent home later in the month.

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day in Canada, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being. Orange Shirt Day was created in remembrance of the effect that Canada's residential school system has had on generations of indigenous families and their communities. This day grew out of the experience of one girl whose new orange shirt was taken away from her on her first day at a residential school, and it has become an opportunity for communities to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope. **To show our support, students and staff at our school are encouraged to wear orange on Monday, September 30th in place of their usual dress code.**

Parking Lot Etiquette and Safety

Traffic safety at our school is an important focus of staff and students. At this time of year, the parking lot is particularly busy as after school programming has not yet begun. Consistent observation of the guidelines below will help keep the parking lot areas and roadways near the school safe.

- ***Do not make a left turn onto or off Highway #10***
- ***Keep traffic moving in the parking lot. Do not stop to talk or go into the schools unless your car is parked in a designated parking space.***
- ***To avoid cars backing up on to the highway, do not stop in the drive through lane.***
- ***Do not leave an unattended vehicle in the pickup lane.***
- ***Do not park in either of the staff parking areas.***
- ***Please be respectful to staff directing traffic and other drivers.***
- ***In addition, if you are going to park at the rear of the school, we ask that you be considerate of our neighbours by not blocking their driveways.***
- ***Due to the angle of the parking lot do not pull forward through the central parking stalls.***

We greatly appreciate your patience during this busy time of year! Please respect our parking limitations and the importance of being patient and courteous to other parents within our school community.

It is our goal to assist students to develop the confidence, work habits, and self-esteem necessary to be able to effectively solve problems, constructively voice concerns, 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 School Staff