 **NEWSLETTER**

**School Growth Goal for 2016-2017:**

*What if students were more engaged in their learning – would success rates improve?*

**WELCOME BACK!**

This newsletter is our first of the year! We are excited about the learning opportunities for students at Drinkwater. We have a great team of professional and support staff and we are fortunate to have an extremely supportive PAC.

Enrollment has finally settled and we have 16 divisions from kindergarten through grade 7 with approximately 400 students. There are several new families and some new staff members as well.

Today, students were able to move to their permanent classrooms for the year. Please be reassured that there are sound educational reasons for placing our students in their homeroom classes and staff have spent considerable amounts of time completing this process. Students are placed based on a set criteria considering learning needs, and a balance of gender, academic and social-emotional factors. Please trust in the expertise of our professional staff in placing your children and support your child through this change. From today any further student transfers are unlikely.We are pleased to announce the following divisions:

Div. 1 Gr. 7 Mrs. B. Irvine/Mrs. P. Koers

Div. 2 Gr. 6/7 Ms. S. Moore

Div. 3 Gr. 6 Mrs. C. Hall

Div. 4 Gr. 5 Ms. T. Hansen

Div. 5 Gr. 5 Mrs. C. Schilling

Div. 6 Gr. 4 Ms. K. Koons

Div. 7 Gr. 4 Mrs. F. Somerville/Mrs. C. Whalen

Div. 8 Gr. 3/4 Mrs. M. Steeves

Div. 9 Gr. 3 Mrs. H. Biello/Mrs. C. Dollman

Div. 10 Gr. 2/3 Ms. K. Barker

Div. 11 Gr. 2 Ms. J. Smith

Div. 12 Gr. 1/2 Mrs. J. Pynn

Div. 13 Gr. 1 Mrs. L. Hermant

Div. 14 Gr. 1 Mrs. C. Collison

Div. 15 K/Gr. 1 Mrs. S. Arscott

Div. 16 Kindergarten Mrs. B. Ganter

We are also pleased to introduce some of our specialty teachers, support staff and district itinerant teachers:

Learning Assistance Mrs. C. Jones

Learning Intervention Mrs. T. Janes

Resource Teachers Mrs. C. Whalen /

 Mrs. S. Phillips

Music Mr. K. Poole

Librarian/Music Mr. A. St. Cyr

Speech Language

Pathologist Mrs. H. Bell

School Counselor Mrs. D. Herdman

Communicating for

Success Teacher Mrs. C. Nadon

Aboriginal Education Mrs. S. Hart

Support Staff:

Secretaries Mrs. H. Lavender

 Mrs. S. Mann

Education Assistants

Mrs. T. Longridge Mrs. B. Pavitt

Mrs. S. MacKenzie Mrs C. Waddell

Mrs. V. Parmar Mrs. D. Bergman

Mrs. T. Court Mrs. E. McLean

Ellen Marshall

Aboriginal Support *TBA*

Cultural Teaching Assistant: *TBA*

Noon Hour Supervisors: Mrs. S. McKinnon Mrs. S. Monks Mrs. J. de Verteuil

**New School Hours:**

**Morning Session** 8:30 – 11:00 am

**Lunch** 11:00 - 11:38

(play first then eat from 11:38)

**Afternoon Session** 11:52 - 2:20

**SUPPLY KITS/INSIDE SHOES**

Supply Kits are available for **$25.00** each from your classroom teacher. Please send this to school as soon as possible to your child’s classroom teacher. Please note only cash payments will be receipted. If purchasing school supplies is a hardship for your family, please contact Ms Petersen or your child’s classroom teacher. Also, all students need inside shoes (they do not need to be new, just clean). All students will be receiving a back and forth communication folder (kindergarten and gr. 1) or a student agenda financed by our wonderful PAC!

***With the exception of this first newsletter, all newsletters will be emailed to parents this year. If you wish for a paper copy please phone our office to request one. Newsletters will come home the first Friday of each month!***

**WELCOME KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS**

Thank you to our kindergarten parents and students for your patience! We have finished the gradual entry process and beginning Wednesday, September 14, all kindergarten students will be attending full time. As this is the first large group experience for many students, safety is of utmost importance and so for the lunch time play period (between 11:00 and 11:38) only kindergarten students will be allowed on the playground for the first few weeks. Kindergarten children quickly adapt to our school routines and make new friends. If you have any concerns, please speak with Mrs. Ganter or Mrs. Arscott.

**OPEN HOUSE – WED. SEPT 21 MORNING**

Please join us on Wed Sept 21 from 8:00-8:30 am for an Open House in our classrooms at Drinkwater. Parents are invited to meet their child’s teacher, tour the classroom and then enjoy coffee and muffins courtesy of our PAC in the neighbourhood centre. We hope you can make it!

**MODERNIZED CURRICULUM**

This is such an exciting time to be a student, parent and educator in British Columbia! This September marks the start of the mandated new curriculum with a focus on Core Competencies. The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Through [provincial consultation](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/docs/def_xcurr_comps.pdf), three core competencies were identified: Communication, Thinking and Personal and Social. Parents can check out more information about these exciting changes at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>

**TERRY FOX RUN**

Thursday, Sept. 29 marks the National School Terry Fox Run. Students will meet on the school field next to the parking lot at 10:30 before we run on the field and in our local neighbourhood. We will be collecting donations during the week to support Cancer Research. All students have the challenge to bring the following to school:

Monday – nickels

Tuesday – dimes

Wednesday – quarters

Thursday – loonies

Friday – toonies

**FROM OUR LIBRARY:**

Students will be starting to sign out books from the library beginning the week of Sept. 19th.  They are allowed two books out at a time for a two week loan period.  Students in K-3 will be given a new plastic library book bag to carry their books. Please help to ensure that your child brings back his or her books on or before his/her library day. If students have not returned library books from last year, they will have reduced library privileges.

-Mr. St. Cyr

**FROM OUR MUSIC ROOM:**

This year we are pleased to have both Mr. Poole and Mr. St Cyr teaching music. Mr. Poole is eager to begin choir. Practices will be Monday at 11:52 and Wednesday at 11:00. The first performance for our school choir will be the Remembrance Day ceremony. Please speak with your child about making a commitment to our school choir.

**WITS**

Our peaceful problem solving strategy is to use our WITS. What do you do if someone is bothering you? **W**alk away, **I**gnore them, **T**alk it out, **S**eek help. If your child is having a problem at school and they need help, please contact your child’s teacher.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

We ask all students and parents to review our school’s Code of Conduct located in the first few pages of the student planner. Students will be bringing home a Code of Conduct to review with parents, sign the contract and return it to the school (there will be a small prize for students when all contracts are returned in the class!) We ‘live the code’ by reinforcing safe, responsible, respectful behavior with everyone at Drinkwater (adults too!). At Drinkwater we also demonstrate the Rights of a Student:

1. You have right to learn in a safe, caring, orderly and positive school climate.
2. You have the right to learn in an environment that respects all people.
3. You have the right to feel and be safe.
4. You have the right to privacy and to your own personal space
5. You have the right to a comfortable and clean environment.

## **Lunch Expectations at Drinkwater**

1. Wash your hands
2.  Stay seated at your **own** desk
3. Use your manners
4. Speak quietly
5. Do not **trade** or share food
6. Ask to go to the washroom
7. Put compost, garbage and lunch bags away **when the bell goes**

**WELCOME LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

Please click on the link below to read the letter to parents from the B.C. Minister of Education, Mike Bernier.

<http://sd79.bc.ca/documents/2016/09/sept-2-2016-letter-from-minister-of-education.pdf>

**IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR GRADE 6**

Public Health nurses will be attending the elementary schools within the next 1-2 months for Grade 6 immunizations. These immunizations are routinely given in school after receiving parents’ consent. Grade 6 students will bring home immunization information and consent forms.

However, if you do not want your child to be immunized at school and would prefer your child to have immunizations done at the health unit, please contact the Margaret Moss Health Unit for an appointment or if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

For more information contact:

* Margaret Moss Health Unit 250-709-3050
* Health Link BC – dial 8-1-1 for a free call (formerly known as the BC Nurse Line)
* ****[www.immunizebc.ca](http://www.immunizebc.ca)

**PARKING AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

We have noticed some serious safety errors before and after school along Lane Road. For the safety of all, **please do not park in yellow zones and, out of courtesy to our neighbors, please do not park in front of their driveways.** The fine for parking in a yellow zone is over $100! There is a turn around spot just down Lane Road past the forest. Parents may also park in this gravel parking lot. Sometimes it is just a matter of giving ourselves enough time so that we are not rushed. The R.C.M.P will also be monitoring the situation.

**PAC**

The PAC AGM is Tuesday, September 13 @ 6:30 pm in the school library. All executive positions will need to be filled. Please consider being nominated. We know some of the positions will not have the parent who previously filled it running for re-election. We will most definitely need some new faces! We are also looking for MANY volunteers to help out with all the great things we plan to do for the students this year. Babysitters will be on site and there will be coffee, tea and cookies. Please come!

Our PAC Hot Lunch coordinator, Jessica Perry, has signed us up for an online ordering system for hot lunches this year (hotlunches.net). Parents can order and pay online. Here is a message from Mrs. Perry: *“As we get ready for another exciting year at school it is also time to get the hot lunch program up and running. We will be doing online ordering for all orders so as to ensure accuracy with the orders and to make the process as easy as possible for everyone. More information will come home this week.”* Thank you, Mrs Perry!

**VIU STUDENT TEACHERS**

We are excited to be hosting VIU student teachers in a few different learning opportunities this year. Beginning Thursday, Sept. 22 we will be hosting the Embedded Language Arts course in our school meaning over 20 student teachers will come to learn and practice their skills in classrooms carefully guided and mentored by our expert staff and VIU instructors. Welcome to these students!

**COPS FOR CANCER – TOUR DE ROCK**

We are very privileged to have the Tour de Rock again. Last year’s visit was a huge success. They will be here on Tuesday, October 4th. Parents and family members are welcome to visit our school to cheer on these courageous officers! Tour de Rock supports life-saving childhood cancer research and caring support services including the acclaimed summer recreation program “Camp Goodtimes”.

**TOUR DE ROCK BOTTLE DRIVE**

Beginning the week of Sept. 19, we will be accepting refundable containers (cans, bottles, juice boxes) in front of the school as part of our fundraising efforts to support Cops for Cancer. Each morning from Sept. 19 – 23 we are hoping to have parents and students help us sort these items. Thank you in advance for your donations of refundables!

**KEEP ELECTRONICS AT HOME**

Please help us by keeping all electronic devices at home. If parents feel strongly that their child needs a cell phone, then these should be kept in a secure spot while children are at school. Cell phones are not to be used (if they do come to school) outside during break times or before and after school. Students not following this expectation will have their device removed until parents can come and pick it up. Thank you for your support.

**SUPERVISION**

Our morning supervision begins at 8:15 am. Please do not send your child to school any earlier than 8:15 am. Students being picked up afterschool are encouraged to wait at the fence in front of the playground or to walk directly home in a safe group. Thank you to parents of primary students for picking up children at the outside classroom door. Student play outside from 11:00 – 11:38. We have four skilled noon hour supervisors (in high visibility vests), several education assistants (helping monitor the safe social play of some children) and Ms. Petersen and Mrs. Somerville outside during this time. Children are welcome back into classrooms for the eating time from 11:38 – 11:52. Our trained gr. 6 lunch time monitors assist these adults in making sure primary children have a safe social eating time. *If you have any concerns about lunch time procedures, please speak with your child’s teacher.*

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS:**

If there are any changes to your child’s contact information (parent cell phone #, emergency contacts, email and other information), please call Mrs. Lavender or Mrs. Mann in our office.

**ABORIGINAL IDENTIFICATION FORMS**

Uy’skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to another fantastic year of learning. Staff throughout the district work to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Aboriginal ancestry, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Aboriginal Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class.

You can opt in or out of ABED services any time by notifying the ABED staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250-748-0321 ext. 235, dbeardsley@sd79.bc.ca. Please go to <http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/faq/> for more information.

**WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL WEEK**

DASH BC is excited to present our 7th annual Walk and Wheel to School event as part of International Walk to School Month (iWalk) **October 6-10th.** Walk and Wheel to School encourages students, parents, staff, and community members to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school, such as:

* Celebrating active transportation and encouraging daily physical activity
* Promoting opportunities to practice safe walking and biking skills and identifying safe routes to school
* Enhancing the connection between students, parents, schools, and communities in a fun and interactive way
* Reducing school traffic congestion and vehicle emissions

**HEAD LICE AWARENESS**

Head lice are common in BC communities. Although they are a bother, head lice are not a health risk. Head lice spread quickly by close, head-to-head contact. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet, and they cannot jump or fly. There may be few or no symptoms, but itching may occur.

You can help by:

* checking your child’s head with the wet combing method of detection once a week throughout the year. Review the pamphlet “Wet Combing – How to Get Rid of Head Lice”, available online, at your school, and Public Health Unit.
* Encouraging your child to wear their hair tied back.
* Treating if you notice live lice on your child’s head.
* Reminding family and friends about the importance of routing head checks using the wet combing method

For more information:

- Read the HealthLinkBC Head Lice File:

 <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile06.stm>

- Contact your Public Health Unit at 709-3050

**S.D. #79 BOARD POLICIES**

Parents should be made aware that School Board polices are available to parents on the School District 79 website ([www.sd79.bc.ca](https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=508))

In particular, the following policies should be reviewed by parents:

**Policy 2550** – Healthy Schools (Food and Beverage sales) [*https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1058*](https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1058)

**Policy 5100** – District Code of Conduct: the Board expects members of the school community to treat others with respect and courtesy and to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the respect of others in order to promote a safe, caring, orderly and positive school climate

[*https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1548*](https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1548)

**Policy 5110** – Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression: the Board believes that all memebers of the school community should be provided a safe, caring, orderly, secure, welcoming, and inclusive learning and working environment

[*https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1549*](https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1549)

**Policy 2405** – Smoke Free Environment

Smoking, use of tobacoo and electronic cigarettes is prohibited in all School Board owned buildings, grounds and vehicles. This applies to students, employees, parents and community members.

<https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/563?preview=31960>

**Appeals Procedure Bylaw**

Parents have the right to appeal decisions made by school district employees following the steps laid out in this bylaw *wherein the decision impacts the education, health or safety of students.* [*http://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=20246*](http://bcsd79.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=20246)

**UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday | Sept. 13 | PAC Meeting 6:30 pm |
|  | Sept. 19-23 | Cops for Cancer Bottle Drive |
| Monday | Sept. 26 | Individual Photo Day |
| Thursday | Sept. 29 | National School Terry Fox Run |
| Friday | Sept. 30 | Menchies Day |
| Tuesday | Oct. 4 | Cops for Cancer  |
|  | Oct. 6-10 | Walk or Wheel to School |
| Monday | Oct. 10 | Thanksgiving Day-No School |
| Wednesday | Oct. 12 | 2 Hour Early Dismissal @ 12:20 |
| Friday | Oct. 21 | Non-Instructional Day |
| Thursday | Oct. 27 | Half Day Early Dismissal |
| Thursday  | Nov. 3 | 1 Hr Early Dismissal |
| Friday | Nov. 4 | Non-Instructional Day |
| Friday | Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day |
| Wednesday | Nov. 16 | 2 Hour Early Dismissal @ 12:20 |
| Monday | Dec. 5 | Non-Instructional Day |
|  | Dec. 19- Jan. 2 | Winter Vacation |
| Tuesday | Jan. 3, 2017 | Students Return to School |