

# École Dorothea Walker Elementary

## Welcome Back!

What a great start to a new school year we had at Dorothea Walker Elementary. We are excited to welcome our students in Grades 2 to 6 back, and we have a dynamic and positive staff to do just that.

This year, the district theme is Caring Communities. We started reconnecting with the help of our PAC and their coffee and treats on the first day to welcome everyone back to the community. Thank you! We have two more events coming up to help us continue to connect. With most COVID 19 restrictions being lifted, we look forward to welcoming parents back into the school at our Open House next week. Also next week, PAC is holding a welcome back dinner.

The Open House will be Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at the end of the day. Look for communication from your classroom teachers as some may invite you in the classroom as early as 2pm, while others would rather connect with your after dismissal. Either way, we look forward to seeing many of you at the end of the day. As for the PAC dinner, please see the information in the body of the email.

As well next week, we will hold a school wide Terry Fox Run around the field. We are still planning the event but we are looking forward to a school wide assembly and some fun outside in the field. For any student who would like to bring in a donation. Students will be

asked for quarters (Tuesday), loonies (Wed.), toonies (Thurs.) and anything goes on Friday.



### Dates for your calendar

#### September:

- 15 - Open House
- 16 - Terry Fox Run
- 16 - Welcome Dinner at 5pm
- 27 - PAC Meeting at 6 pm
- 28 - School Photo Day
- 29 - Orange Shirt Day
- 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - NO SCHOOL -

During the last week of September we will hold Truth and Reconciliation Week. The focus will be to help our students understand the meaning of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and to explore how they can play a role in supporting equity in our community. Please remember that there will be no school on September 30, the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

## New Faces

Although you will have the opportunity to meet your child's classroom teachers on Thursday during the Open House, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce new faces around the school starting with the voice on the phone. We have a new administrative secretary, Mrs. Nikki Rattray (top right). Please see the smiling faces below find out who is who.

From left to right: Mme Fenton (Gr. 2 FI), Mr. Nicholls (Gr. 4), Ms. Rivet (Gr. 2 & 3), Mrs. Olijnyk (Gr. 5), Mme Ruste (Gr. 2 FI), M. Richard (Gr. 2&3 FI), Mme Light (Gr. 5 FI.).



We also welcome a new resource teacher, Mrs. Elia; a new counsellor, Mrs. Fender, a new CEA, Mrs. Malazdrewicz, and a new library and office assistant, Mrs. Gardner.

## Nut Allergies and Food Sharing

Please remember that we strive to keep our school nut free. Peanuts are especially critical and we ask students, parents and others who come into the building to avoid bringing peanut products as we have children with potentially deadly allergies to peanuts. We also have students who have allergies to other nuts; therefore, we ask that we avoid nuts altogether. If a child brings a snack containing nuts or nut products to school, we will simply ask him or her to let their teacher or another staff member hold on to it until the end of the day, at which point they will be asked to take it home. We

### No Pets on School Grounds

While we do love pets, pets are NOT ALLOWED on school property for safety and health reasons.

Schools within School District #23 have a policy where dogs are not permitted on school property at any time (even on a leash).

This is a health and safety issue where the School District must comply with Division 1, Part 107 of the Workers Compensation Act (WCB). By bringing dogs onto school grounds, the health and safety issue is exposing students and staff to the hazards of dog bites, dog fights, and dog feces which has to be cleaned up by school staff. Even if dog owners clean up messes, the residue can still be left on the grass where children play. Therefore, in order to stay in compliance with the Regulation and our own School Policy, dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time.

will not let students go hungry and will make sure that we try to contact you or provide an alternate snack or lunch when necessary.

We hope that by educating children and adults, as well as by encouraging hand washing before coming to school when peanuts have been consumed, we can help make the school a safer place for our children who suffer from these allergies.

Finally, we ask that no home made treats be brought to school. If your child's teacher welcomes birthday treats, they must be store bought and individually wrapped.

## Student Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student injuries** that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness.

To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

## Safe Driving and Common Courtesy

We appreciate how everyone is driving safely around the school as school zones are back in effect and a students are here. We appreciate everyone using caution as they drive in our proximity and we want to remind you to keep an eye out for students stepping out to cross the side streets as sometimes parked vehicles can block the view.



We ask that **parents do not enter the parking lot gates to drop off and pick up** as it is a very busy area with children walking in all directions. Please drop off along the sidewalk and keep an eye out for all children including those waiting to cross. I understand that everyone is in a hurry in the morning, but the potential risk is not worth the few seconds you might save by not being courteous or by speeding. Thank you to all of you for the efforts made in keeping our children safe.

Once again, we have been asked by our neighbours to also remind parents to be aware of where they park. Please do not block driveways and respect the “no parking” zones, the “no stopping” zones, as well as the “parallel parking only” zones. Please remember that there are a number of walkways giving access to the school grounds from subdivisions surrounding our school. Using the different drop off points reduces the congestion up front during pick up and drop off.



# Central Okanagan Public Schools Policies

## Appeals

The School District Appeals Policy states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in School District No. 23 may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student".

For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the 'Policies' link under the Board of Education heading on the School District's homepage – [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca).

## Hardship

Within School District Policy 425 – Student Fees (see [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". This clause in the policy provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school principal, Mme Bedard, at 250.870.5138 if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

## TIPS TO HELP THE OFFICE

- ★ Please use the online payment option. If you must send a cheque or cash, it must be submitted directly to the office by the student or parent.
- ★ Absences: please remember to notify the office in regards to any absences or lateness, even if you have let the teacher know. Please use *School Messenger*. See more information at [http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=).
- ★ If your child is late, she/he must check in at the office upon arrival before going to her/his classroom, otherwise he or she remains marked as absent. If you sign out your child early with the help of *School Messenger*, you must still call the office upon your arrival to pick them up.
- ★ Medical Alert: If your child has a medical alert, please make sure to contact the office to obtain and fill out a Medical Alert Planning Form.

## Home Support

We would like to encourage you to start off the new school year on the right foot by establishing routines early on. Encourage your child to go to bed early in order to be alert and fully benefit from his/her time at school. Send healthy snacks and lunches to school with your child and establish a homework routine which includes a quiet space to work and a regular homework time. Remember to include daily reading as part of your routine.

**French Classes with Centre Culturel Francophone de l'Okanagan** Follow the link for information: <http://www.leccfo.org/french-classes/>