



THE DIEFENBAKER REPORT



WEBSITE: <http://diefenbaker.sd38.bc.ca/>
PAC website: <http://diefenbaker.sd38.bc.ca/parents>

January 2018

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

A heartfelt thanks to those parents/caregivers who have been supporting our efforts to keep our students safe before and after school! Unfortunately, we are having daily issues with student drop-off and pick-up (both on the school grounds and the street), and we need the support of all members of our community to make our school area safe for students. As we (or the police/bylaw officers) have spoken to parents/caregivers, we have discovered that the rules are well known. The issue is that people are choosing not to follow them. Bylaw officers and the RCMP are giving tickets (without a warning) to drivers who choose not to follow street signs, who speed in the school zone, or who leave their vehicles idling.

We must remember that we are part of a community and that the greater good must come before our own convenience. Diefenbaker can only be a caring community if the people within the community demonstrate caring themselves. We teach our students what it means to be part of a community and why we need to be respectful, and it would have a greater impact if we all model this behaviour for them.

As February is “Heart Month”, we are going to ask members of our community to find and use their hearts. Before and after school, this looks like:

- Using the drop off lane for immediate drop off and pick up only (No Parking!)
- Using the parking lot for parking, not drop off and pick up
- Following street signs
- Obeying the 30km/hr speed limit in the school zone

If you must drive, we encourage you to park in the neighbourhood and walk to the school with your child.

Code of Conduct

The School District has revised and updated the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is a document that outlines working and learning expectations for students, staff, parents and community members who are present at our schools. You will notice the posters in classrooms and around the building. A copy is attached to the newsletter for you to see.

Cash Online



For safety and efficiency reasons, our school district is offering an online payment system to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our schools. You can conveniently pay for supplies, school-wide events, school clothing, and field trips! Please note School Cash Online is only for money collected by the school. PAC payments (including Hot Lunches) will continue to be collected by PAC in the usual manner.

On our school website (under School News), you will find an Information Bulletin, a Quick Guide Brochure, and a Payment Options Flyer to help you understand how it works. The system is open for registration now! Please call the office if you require assistance. We hope that you will take advantage of this system!

From the Library...

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to Diefenbaker from Feb. 13th-15th! Ms. Mohammed is looking for parent volunteers to help out. If you are interested, please contact her directly in person or by email (smohammed@sd38.bc.ca).

On February 21st, all classes will have the opportunity to meet with author Dan Bar-el when he visits Diefenbaker. His work includes picture books, chapter books, and graphic novels. Students will gather in similar grade groupings throughout the day for presentations. Thank you to the PAC for covering the cost of the author visit! ☺



Please keep our children safe!

Professional Development Days



On our last ProD Day, most Diefenbaker staff attended a morning session at the school and the Math Focus afternoon at Grauer Elementary. Some engaged in small group professional development at the school or at other locations. We had a valuable day of professional learning and discussion about teaching practices and implementation in our classrooms. Our next ProD Day is on Friday, Feb. 23rd and we will be attending the second of our three Faye Brownlie sessions of the year.

My School Sparkles

In October, our primary students saw a presentation called, “Clean up Your Act – Make Richmond Sparkle”. The show was hosted by the City of Richmond and performed by DreamRider Productions. The purpose was to teach students to put litter where it belongs and to recycle to reduce the impact of garbage on our environment. The City provided buckets and tongs to our school and classes take turns keeping our school grounds clean. After the performance, Diefenbaker was noted to have significantly improved the cleanliness of our school grounds and we were awarded a \$500 My School Sparkles award! We have put the money towards “green” initiatives at school. Congratulations, Diefenbaker! Let’s keep our school grounds sparkling clean!

Pink Shirt Day

On February 28, we encourage students to wear pink (or white or red) to show their support for anti-bullying initiatives. Our goal is to show kindness to others every day. It’s part of our school focus...SPARK (Safe, Positive, Accountable, Respectful and KIND). The focus of this year’s campaign is cyber bullying. Pink Shirt Day is encouraging others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative, and instead using the internet to spread kindness - because we know that Nice Needs No Filter!



Registration Reminders



Don’t forget that K registration for 2018-2019 and registration for new students in Gr. 1-12 take place at Central Registration (at the School Board Offices). Please note that to guarantee a spot in your catchment school, the current deadline is April 30th. We recommend that you register as soon as you are able.

The deadline for District Program Options (Montessori, Early and Late French Immersion) has passed, but you are able to make a late application. If you wish to apply for one of these programs, you may pick up a form at the school office.

If you are the parent of a Gr. 7 student, please be sure to read the information sent home with your child or mailed to you by your catchment High School in preparation for the transition to Gr. 8.

Ready, Set, Learn

Aimed at families and their three-to-five-year-old children, Ready, Set, Learn is all about providing good information about how to support a young child’s early learning and development. It also develops positive connections between families, the school system and local community agencies. Attend a Ready, Set, Learn event in your community. Families who attend an event at a local school take part in play-based activities while finding out about early learning programs and services.

To find out more about Ready, Set, Learn, go to the Ministry website: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/learn/ready-set-learn>.

While Diefenbaker is not hosting an event this year, there are a number of school sites to choose from. Look on our website under “Latest News” to find the Ready, Set, Learn Section and find event dates and locations.

Emergency School Closures

General Information from the School District

During an emergency, inclement weather, power outage or similar incident, it is a priority to communicate effectively to parents, students and community partners. We work closely with local municipalities and emergency services to gather accurate information about road conditions and safety considerations.

We will work quickly to determine impacts to school so parents can adjust plans accordingly in the early morning hours. We try to determine school closures due to inclement weather by 6:30 am.



Safety is a Shared Responsibility

- Student/staff safety is always our first priority and it is a shared responsibility.
- **If schools are open, and you wish to keep your child/children home due to weather conditions, you may absolutely do so - just let your school know of this decision.**
- Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's safe travel to school and during winter weather conditions and we encourage parents to walk their children to school if possible in poor weather conditions.

With your cooperation and support related to winter weather procedures, we can achieve safe conditions for all.



Twitter

Follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Local Media

To reach as many people as possible - as quickly as possible - we work closely with our local media to share information. Listen to local radio stations and follow local news outlets online to also get information about the impact of severe weather or emergencies in our schools.

Radio - AM

690 - CBC Radio One ([Listen](#))

730 - AM 730 (CHMJ) ([Listen](#))

980 - CKNW ([Listen](#))

1130 - News1130 ([Listen](#))

1320 - CHMB ([Listen](#))

1470 - Fairchild ([Listen](#))

1600 - Radio India ([Listen](#))

Radio - FM

88.1 - CBC Radio One ([Listen](#))

103.5 - QM/FM ([Listen](#))

Television

CBC

City TV

CTV BC

Fairchild TV

Global TV

*Please do not call the radio stations.

Individual school closures due to unique circumstances (e.g., power outage) will be announced as early as possible in the same manner. If snowfall begins while school are in session, in most circumstances, the schools will remain OPEN until the usual end of the school day.

No radio or television announcement will be made saying that schools are open. Only school closures will be announced by the media.

<u>Daily Schedule</u>	
8:30	Doors open
8:40	First Bell
8:45	Classes begin
10:30-10:45	Recess
12:25-1:10	Lunch
2:38	Dismissal

Be sure to read your newsletters to keep up-to-date, and refer to our school website, where we will post additional information.

Newsletters and Calendars are emailed to you if you have provided us with an email address. It's a great way to have all the news at your fingertips!

Please call our Early Warning Line (604-718-4094) to report students late or absent.