



THE DIEFENBAKER REPORT



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

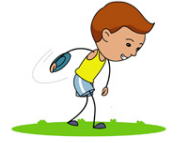
May 2017

Track and Field Meet at Minoru

Students and staff are very excited about the Track and Field Meet at Minoru tomorrow, May 30th! All of our students in Gr. 3-7 have events and will be spending the day at the track with their teachers.



School buses will be at school in the morning to shuttle students to the track meet, with the exception of students who need to be dropped off at Minoru by their parents for early events and for other transportation reasons. Attendance for all other student will happen at school. Remember that student pick-up is from the track tomorrow, not at school, so please be sure to have arranged to have someone to pick up your child on time from Minoru. Please check in with us when you arrive so that we are sure that your child is leaving with you. Parents are most welcome to



come and cheer us on!

Student PEN Numbers

Parents and students have been requesting PEN Numbers (Personal Education Number) so they can register for summer courses. This number will stay with your child throughout his/her schooling and does not change, so please keep it in a safe place so you can refer to it in the future.

Lost and Found

Now is a good time to check the Lost and Found for items that you have not seen at home for some time! Clothing and larger lost items can be found in the first hallway, close to the office entry doors. Small items, including keys and glasses, are kept at the office.

Report Cards



This year, there is a new component to your child's report card – a Self-Assessment of a Core Competency. There are three Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social. These competencies overarch all aspects of the renewed curriculum: Big Ideas, Curricular Competencies, and Content. An important aspect of learning is the ability to self-assess, and students and teachers have chosen one Core Competency as an area of focus. Attached to your child's report card will be Core Competency Information and Conversation Starters. This will provide you with background information about the competencies and ways to begin conversations with your child to help them think about their learning. Also attached will be your child's self-assessment. There is no standard format for the assessment, so you will notice differences between classes and students.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

This year, we are in Year 1 of a multi-year plan to support the learning of all students at Diefenbaker. We have been gathering input about our school and student learning, and have chosen to focus on the Thinking Competency (Creative and Critical). We are currently in the planning process, and in September, will post a document on our website outlining our plan. Shortly, you will be receiving a parent feedback sheet to help us answer the questions, "What makes Diefenbaker unique?" and, "What do we value?". This process replaces the former School Performance Plan.

Class Placements

Each year, the school makes organization plans based on the number of returning students and new registrations. Your child's classroom teacher, resource staff, educational assistants and administrators work together to place students for the upcoming school year. These plans are tentative until the end of the first week when final student numbers are known. During the first week, all staff meet to confirm teaching assignments and to review student placements.

In organizational meetings, many factors are considered when placing students. These considerations include:

- * Learning styles and strengths
- * Social/personal characteristics
- * Special needs
- * ELL levels
- * Contractual obligations
- * Work habits
- * Male/female balance
- * Friendship groups
- * Age and physical maturity



As you can see, this is a complicated process, and this list is by no means exclusive, as there are many factors unique to a situation that must be taken into account.

Parents are welcome to provide information that may assist the staff in planning for next year. **Class placement forms are available at the office for those parents who wish to complete one and must be returned by June 9th.** Please note that information about how your child learns provides the most valuable information. The information you provide should not include a request for a specific teacher, but rather some important personal or educational information that will assist us in our decision. Teacher requests are not the basis for class placements.

All information you provide about your child(ren) at the end of the year will be shared with the teachers and taken into consideration. Please be aware the final decision regarding placement needs to be a school-based decision.

Understanding Combined Classes

We are beginning our initial planning for next year in the coming weeks and often find that the philosophy behind combined classes is unfamiliar to parents. Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. For example, in a combined Gr. 4/5 class, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities. We do not place all of our strongest Gr. 5 learners in a Gr. 5/6 when a Grade 4/5 classroom is also available.

Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing for individual education plans, where warranted, for students who are faster or slower to develop. In this student-centered approach to teaching and learning, we recognize that not all students learn at the same rate and at the same time. Common topics explored in classrooms allow for a diverse range of students to learn at their own pace, while working toward learning outcomes specific for their grade.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Combined classes can help students form broader and more varied friendships, as older students provide role models for younger students. Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs well. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry of Education.

You will find that over the course of your child's schooling, there are years that he/she will be in the lower grade of a combined class and other years when he/she will be in the higher grade of a combined class. These are both valuable learning experiences and will benefit your child's development academically, emotionally and socially.

First Week Back in September



It's hard to believe that we are already talking about coming back to school in September! The first day of school for students in Grades 1-7 will be Tuesday, September 5th. Students will attend for one hour in the morning (8:45-9:45). New Kindergarten students will attend for one hour in the afternoon, from 1:15 to 2:15. Students in Grades 1-7 will begin attending full days on Wednesday, September 6th. Kindergarten parents will receive a Gradual Entry Schedule at the beginning of July that outlines Kindergarten attendance for the first two weeks of school. More information will follow in our next newsletter.

Students Returning Late in September

Any student who expects to return to school later than Wednesday, September 6th at 12:00PM **and** ON or BEFORE September 15th, 2017, must have completed a Notice of Late Return Form. This form should be completed by June 23rd, if possible. Please come to the office to pick up a form, which has additional, important information. Students must be in attendance on or by September 15th, as spots cannot be held past that date.



Students Not Returning

This is a busy time of year, as we are gathering information on our students and where they are attending school next year. If your child is not going to attend Diefenbaker next year, please inform the school in writing, as soon as possible.

Upcoming Dates

May 30	Track Meet	June 19	Sports Day Rain-Out
June 02	PAC Walkathon 1:15PM	June 22	Year-End Trips/Primary BBQ
June 6-8	iRide Gr. 6/7	June 23	Gr. 7 Lunch and Dance
June 08	LFI Orientation for new Gr. 6 students PM	June 28	Gr. 7 Farewell Assembly 1:15PM
June 09	Olympic Day @ Oval Gr. 6/7	June 29	Last Day for Students
June 16	Sports Day	June 29	ProD PM – Students dismissed at 11:15AM

Daily Schedule

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.

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