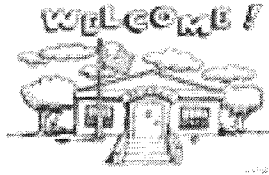




THE DIEFENBAKER REPORT



WEBSITE: <http://diefenbaker.sd38.bc.ca/Diefenbaker-Web>
PAC website: <http://diefenbaker.sd38.bc.ca/Parents/PAC/>

September 2016

Message from the Administrative Team

The staff at Diefenbaker Elementary is looking forward to a new and exciting school year. We hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and we are enjoying hearing about your adventures. We extend a welcome to all of our returning and new families to the school. It looks as though it is going to be a great year! We look forward to meeting all of you and working together so your children have a successful year.

Mrs. E. Stapleton
Principal

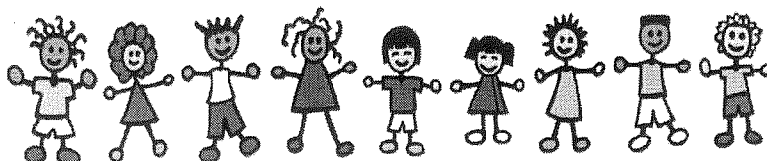
Mr. T. Shuto
Vice Principal

Staff Changes

This year, there have been a few staff changes at Diefenbaker. Please welcome Mr. Shuto, our Vice Principal, Mrs. Tolman, our new Resource/ELL Teacher, and Ms. Mohammed in the Library. We look forward to working with them! We also said goodbye to several staff members: Ms. Watts (EA), Mrs. Fitzpatrick (EA), Ms. Chura (Librarian), Ms. Rakhra (Resource/ELL), and Mr. Rollins (Vice Principal). We know you will make a difference in your new positions!

Diefenbaker Staff Organization for 2016/2017

Administration			
Principal	Mrs. Elaine Stapleton	Resource/ELL	
Vice Principal	Mr. Trevor Shuto	Resource/ELL/Relief	
Intermediate Staff	Primary Staff	Support Teachers	
Mrs. C. Anderson	Mrs. C. Casado	Teacher-Librarian	Ms. S. Mohammed
Ms. J. Yager (Ms. S. Anderson)	Mrs. M. Choinski (Gr. 3/4)	Resource/ELL	Ms. M. Chan
Mr. N. Ardanaz	Mrs. R. Grippo	Resource/ELL	Mrs. D. Csontala
Mr. JW Cho	Mrs. H. Hicks	Resource/ELL	Mrs. J. Tolman
Mrs. M. Choinski (Gr. 3/4)	Mrs. M. Hikida	Band	Mr. K. Naso
Mr. L. Hervieux	Ms. K. Hinks		
Mr. R. Hikida	Mrs. K. Hixt		
Ms. I. Veilleux	Mrs. L. Radford		
	Mrs. S. Regan		
Support Staff			
Educational Assistants	Mrs. S. Caeiro, Ms N. Clayton, Ms. A. Darboh, Mrs. J. Shannon, Ms. B. Steeves		
Custodians	Mr. A. Bulante, Mrs. R. Kaler		
Administrative Assistants	Mrs. E. Ferguson, Mrs. L. MacDonald		
Noon Hour Supervisors	Mrs. P. Kennedy, Mrs. I. Kirsten, Ms. J. Miller		
School Counsellor	Mr. P. Sellitti		
Speech & Language Pathologist	Ms. H. Tanemura		
SWIS Worker	Ms. Mina Mand		
Nurse	Mrs. L. Fratar		
Counselling Support Worker	Ms. A. Dhillon		

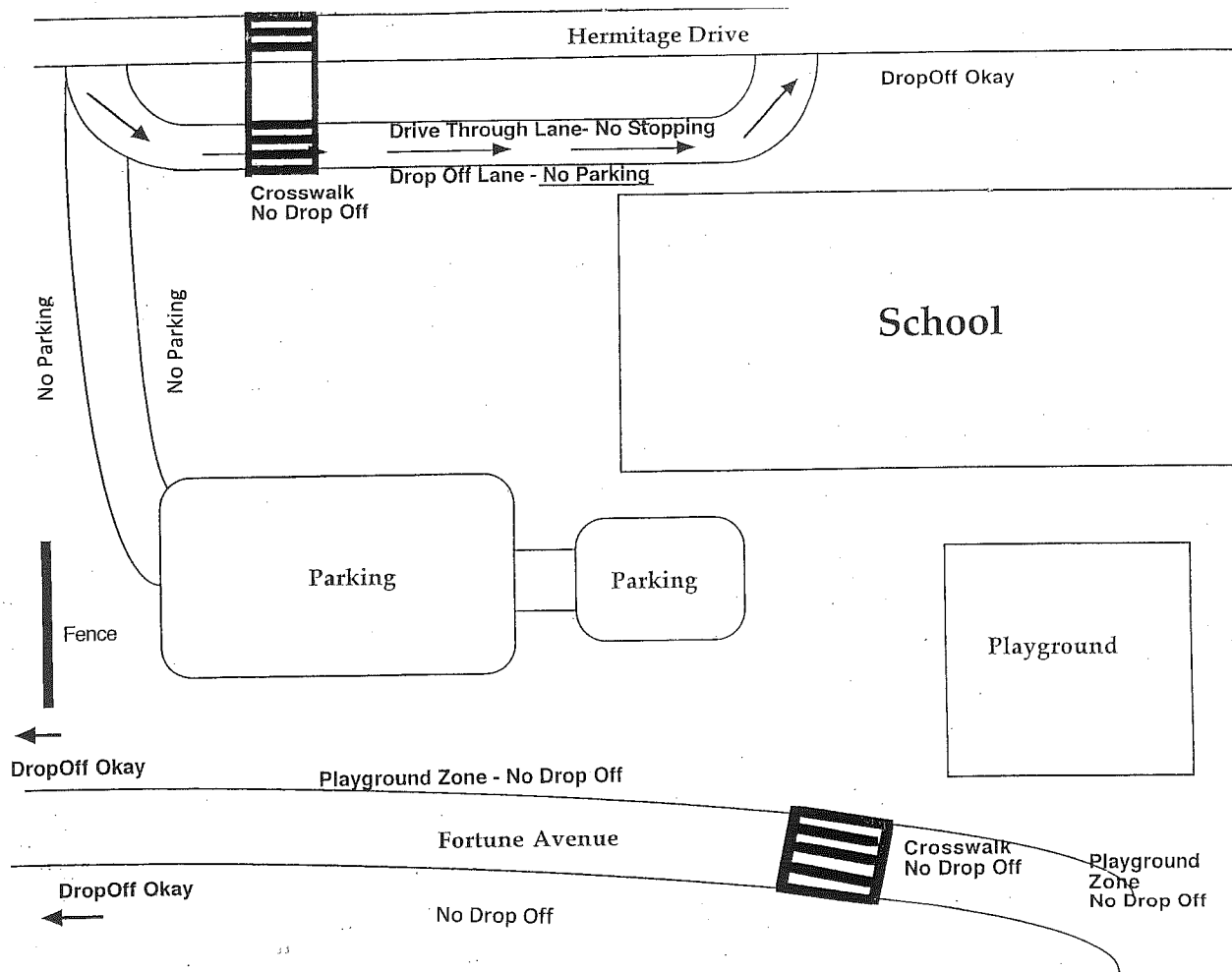


Student Arrival and Pick up at School

In the interest of student safety, we ask that when you bring your child to school to follow the drop off zone rules. **Please to not park your car in the drop-off lane while you walk your child into the school.** The drop off lane is for letting your child out and having them enter the school on their own while you drive away. We have had some traffic back-ups in the drop-off zone in the last week as parents have had to wait for a place to drop off their children. If you need to accompany your child into the school, please park in the school parking lot or in an appropriate street space. Please refer to the map for details.

Daily Bell Schedule	
8:40	First Bell
8:45	Classes begin
10:30-10:45	Recess
12:25-1:10	Lunch
2:38	Dismissal

As a reminder to families, students who arrive prior to 8:30 are asked to wait outside (doors open and supervision begins at 8:30). Students arriving after 8:45 need to check in at the office to get a late slip before going to class. This helps us account for all students and to ensure that correct attendance information is entered for each child. At the end of the day, primary students will be dismissed through the **outside exit doors of their classroom.**



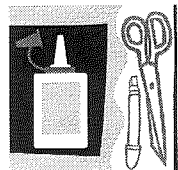
Early Warning

At Diefenbaker we have an "Early Warning System" for our students. Parents are asked to call the Early Warning line before school starts to report any absences or the late arrival of their child(ren). Please call **604-718-4094**, and leave a message with your child's name and division/teacher's name and the reason for absence. You may call this number at any time...in the evening, during the night, or in the early morning. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring the safety of your child and thank you to our parent volunteers for their help!



School Charges

You have received separate notices to explain the following school charges and payment information. **We would appreciate all money being paid by Monday, September 26th.**



School Supplies Collection \$30.00 per student.

Planners for students in Divisions 3, 4, 5, 12, 13 and 14 at a cost of **\$5.00.**

Craft and Cooking charge of **\$15.00** for children in Divisions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Newsletters and Calendars

This year we will prepare a newsletter and calendar every month. Beginning next month, we will be sending them out electronically to families who have provided us with a valid email address. This will ensure that you receive your newsletter, as paper copies often don't make it home. We encourage you to say "Yes" to receiving electronic communications. There will be some extra



paper copies in the hallway outside the office. Newsletters and calendars are important methods of communication from the school on upcoming events, programs, etc. of interest to each family and we ask you to put all important school dates noted in the newsletters and calendars on your home calendars. We also post all newsletters on the Diefenbaker website.

Instrument Band Rental Event

Mr. Naso has arranged for Tapestry Music to come to our school on Monday, September 26th **beginning at 7:00pm** to host a rental evening. Parents of students in Grades 6 and 7 will have received a more detailed notice regarding this event.



Meet the Teacher

We invite all parents and students to come by the school from **6:00 – 7:00pm on Thursday, September 22nd** to meet the classroom teachers. At this time, you will get some information about class routines, expectations, curriculum, etc. **Classroom visits are from 6:00 – 6:20 and 6:20 – 6:40; from 6:40 – 7:00 all parents and staff are to meet in the gym for introductions.**



Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox Run is set for **Thursday, September 29th at 1:15pm**. We are looking forward to a great run and hope that parents will be able to join us! The kids will get some exercise and participate in a cross-Canada effort to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. We hope that everyone can make a donation for Terry. We will ask kids to bring in donations starting September 22nd to help support cancer research. The donation bin will be located on the office counter. You may also donate online through the Terry Fox Foundation at <http://www.terryfox.ca/JohnGDiefenbakerElementary>. Thank you for your support!

Nova Food Services

The Nova Food Lunch Program will be available to students again this year. All families have received September 15 - October order forms. For more information visit their website at www.novafood.ca. Order forms and cheques can be deposited into the white Nova box on the table at the front door.

Student Lunches

We need your help to make sure that your child comes to school with a lunch. Lunches are often left at home or in the car, and we can't provide more than a small snack to get students through the day. A morning check for lunches makes a difference! Please have a discussion with your child about his or her lunch to make sure there is enough food to last the day. We will keep you informed by email if your child does not bring a lunch.

If your child requires cutlery for his/her lunch, please remember to pack it! We are not able to hand out cutlery to all the students who are asking for it. We suggest getting a set of plastic cutlery to be included in your child's lunch bag each day so that your child is never without what he or she needs.

Thanks for your help and for packing a helpful lunch!

Outside at Recess and Lunch

Students at Diefenbaker head outside at recess and lunch for fresh air and play even if it's raining (unless it's absolutely pouring). Please make sure that your child has appropriate footwear to go outside on wet days. A pair of boots or outside shoes is helpful, and an extra pair of socks always comes in handy. Students should also have a jacket or coat at school every day (also valuable in case of an emergency if we have to stay at school for an extended period of time) and they may wish to bring an umbrella as well. These items can be stored in your child's locker. Puddles and children just seem to find each other...

Professional Development Dates for 2016/2017

Below are the Professional Development dates for this school year. Just a reminder that the school will be closed to students on these dates, as staff will be taking part in Professional Development opportunities:

Friday, September 23, 2016 – FULL DAY

Friday, October 21, 2016 - FULL DAY

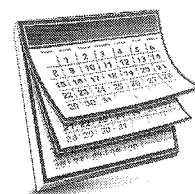
Monday, December 05, 2016 - FULL DAY

Monday, January 16, 2017 - ½ DAY – PM only - 11:15am dismissal

Friday, February 24, 2017 - FULL DAY

Monday, May 01, 2017 – FULL DAY

Thursday, June 29, 2017 – ½ DAY – PM only – 11:15am dismissal



On September 23rd, staff will be engaged in a variety of professional development activities. Some staff will continue to participate in the series with Faye Brownlie as a continuation from last year. Other staff will be participating in separate curriculum and inquiry-based professional learning activities. Inquiry is a process that encourages learners to ask questions, investigate, create, discuss and reflect. More information about Professional Days can be found on the school and district websites.

Additionally, we have one **Curriculum Implementation Day on Friday, November 18th (all day)** to support staff in implementing the new curriculum. There is no school for students on this day.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

So you want to be a babysitter? Or, your parents want you to take this course so they feel confident leaving you at home alone? Babysitting with First Aid Hero emphasizes learning through real life scenarios. Information covered includes: Exploring the business of babysitting, creating safe environments, safely caring for ages 0-12, and first aid skills.

Diefenbaker, Nov. 18th, 2016, 8:30-3:30

Grade 6+

\$60 + GST online registration

<http://www.firstaidhero.com/babysitting-vancouver.html>

Peanut Allergies

All parents need to be aware that there are several children in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods with your child to school that are free from peanuts or nut products. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Stapleton.

Medical Concerns

If your child has any specific health concerns that we should be aware of please contact the office. If your child has a need to have medication given at school, there is a special form that needs to be filled in by you and your dispensing pharmacist. If your child requires an Epi-pen, please provide the school with a new and current Epi-pen as soon as possible.

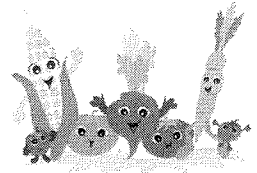
Emergency Contact Information, Walking Field Trip Permission and a Use of Personal Information/Responsible Technology Use Forms

Please review, make any changes, sign where applicable and return these forms to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The information provided on these forms is **very important** for the school to have on file. We encourage you to say "Yes" to receiving electronic communications to keep up to date on school life and for your child to be included in the yearly Memory Book.

Fruit and Veggie Program

Diefenbaker School will continue to be part of the B.C. Provincial Gov't Fruit and Veggie Program. Twelve times throughout the 2016-2017 school year the Program will provide the school with enough washed fruit or vegetables for the students and staff to have a healthy snack. This is not meant to replace or substitute the students' regular recess or lunch. The students will be given different fruit or veggies throughout the year. As well this year, all Kindergarten to Grade 5 students will be provided with a 125ml carton of milk (soy or 2% milk).

All students will participate in the program unless parents specifically request that their child not be provided with the foods. Please inform the classroom teacher if your child is not to participate in the program.



Richmond CE



Richmond Educational Assistant Program (REAP)

For those interested in becoming an Educational Assistant, the District is offering a part-time program beginning in January 2017. For more information and application forms, please visit the Continuing Education website at <http://www.RichmondCE.ca>

Questions?

In general, your child(ren)'s teacher(s) are the best source of information about your child's learning. Should you have questions or concerns about your child in his/her classroom, please contact your child's teacher to find a suitable time to meet. At the office, we can help with questions that cannot be answered by the classroom teacher.



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

We hope you and your children enjoy your year at Diefenbaker!

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