



THE DIEFENBAKER REPORT



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

May 2018

Track Meet

On May 8th, our Gr. 3-7 students participated in the annual track meet at Minoru. Congratulations to our students for all their effort and for representing our school so well! Also, a big thank you to the staff for organizing and preparing for the meet and to parents for supporting our students during the day and driving students back from the meet.



Wigs for Kids

On May 15th, we had a very special assembly! Seven of our students and one staff member donated eight or more inches of their hair to Wigs for Kids, an organization that provides wigs to children who have lost their own hair due to cancer or other illnesses. What an amazing gift to give to a child! Right after the assembly, students began asking when the next donation assembly would be... We are looking to make this a yearly event at Diefenbaker! Stay tuned next school year for the another opportunity to donate. It will most likely be a spring event.

Parent Appreciation

Come see us on the morning of Monday, June 18th from 8:15 to 9:00 for a morning "thank you" treat from the staff. We appreciate all your support of the school and individual classrooms, from fundraising, to driving on field trips, to volunteering to help out around the school and the many more things that you do. If the weather is agreeable, you will find us outside the front of the school. If not, we will be inside the main doors. Drop off your children and grab some breakfast! We hope to see you then ☺.

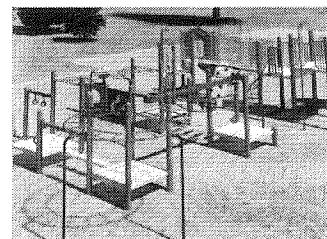


Student Leadership Book Swap

Our Student Leadership Team has planned a book swap for our school next week to encourage the recycling/reusing of books. Students have been asked to bring in books from home they love, but no longer need. The deadline to bring in books has been extended to Monday, so you have a few more days left to look for books to donate. On Tuesday, June 5th, there will be an in-class book exchange. Any remaining books will be collected and set up in the Multipurpose Room and on Wednesday, students will be invited to select additional books.

New Playground

Our new playground is coming soon! Thank you so much to our PAC and our community for supporting this project with your time and donations. Our PAC has worked hard for several years to dedicate fundraising efforts to provide a new play space for our students. The two oldest sections of our playground will be removed at the end of June/beginning of July so that the ground can be prepared in advance of the new installation, which will happen on July 21st and 22nd. The graphic you see here is a rendering of what one part of the playground will look like.



Outdoor Classroom



You may have noticed our outdoor classroom taking shape on the south side of the school! We have garden beds, a classroom area, and lots of space to explore. There is more to come, so keep an eye out for additions to our space. It is an amazing place to learn and grow!

We will be asking for student volunteers to help out with watering the gardens over the summer. We are looking at having our volunteers take a week at a time, and will provide training before the end of the school year. If your child is interested and available, please ask him or her to come to the office for an application form. A small weekly honorarium will be paid to students.

From the Library...

The last day for students to check out books will be Friday, June 8th, and all books should be returned by Friday, June 15th. After June 15th, notices for missing books will be sent home with students. Now would be a good time to take a look around the house to locate library books!

Enjoying our Park After School

We are pleased to see our students taking advantage of the good weather and playing outside after school. Getting fresh air and exercise is important for all of us! Just a reminder that there is no supervision after school, and our younger students must have someone watching them for safety reasons. Older students who are staying after school need to be reminded that school behaviour also applies to those using our school grounds before and after school. If students have a difficult time making good choices, we will let you know, and they will be asked to go straight home after school. We want to make sure that our school and park are inviting places to be for our community!

Smoking/Vaping

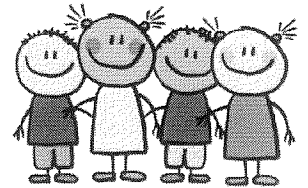
Connected to making our school and park inviting places, Richmond City Council has approved new regulations that further limit smoking and vaping in public spaces and around City properties. Information flyers are posted on our school website. Please be aware that no smoking of any kind is permitted on our school grounds at any time. This includes cigarettes, cannabis and e-cigarettes.

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 22nd.** 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

We haven't said goodbye for this year yet, but 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 4th. 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 5th. Kindergarten parents will receive a Gradual Entry Schedule that outlines Kindergarten attendance for the first two weeks of school.

Students Returning Late in September

Any student who expects to return to school later than Wednesday, September 5th at 12:00PM and ON or BEFORE September 12th, 2018, must have completed a Notice of Late Return Form. This form should be completed by June 22nd, 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 12th, as spots cannot be held past that date.

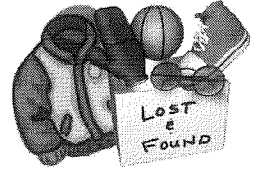


Students Not Returning

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.

Lost and Found

Please drop by the school and have a look at the Lost and Found area, which is around the corner from the Library. There are hangers with lost clothing and a bin below for other items. Small items, such as keys, glasses, jewelry, etc. are kept at the office.



Important Dates

June 6	Gr. 6 LFI Orientation
June 8	Gr. 6/7 Olympic Oval Day
June 12	Camp Elphinstone Information Meeting @ 6PM (for next year's Gr. 6s)
June 15	Fun Day
June 19	Fun Day Rain-Out Day
June 20	Year-End Class Trips/Primary BBQ
June 22	Gr. 7 Lunch and Dance
June 27	Report Cards home
June 27	Gr. 7 Farewell Assembly @ 9AM
June 28	Last Day for Students – 2:38 Dismissal
June 28	Final School Assembly

Calendar

District calendars through to 2019-2020 and our School Calendar for 2018-2019 are also posted on our website.

Diefenbaker School Calendar 2018-2019

Days in Session	188
Hours of Instruction (Minimum)	848 – K, 873 Gr. 1-7, 947 Gr. 8-12
Non Instructional Days	7
Labour Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
School Opens	Tuesday, September 4, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 8, 2018
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Winter Vacation	Monday, December 24 to Friday, January 4, 2019
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2019
Spring Vacation	Monday, March 18 to Friday, March 29, 2019
Good Friday	Friday, April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2019
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 27, 2019
Administrative Day/School Closes	Friday, June 28, 2019
Summer Vacation	Tuesday, July 2 to Monday, September 2, 2019

Diefenbaker School Non-Instructional Professional Development Days

Monday, September 24, 2018 – FULL DAY
Friday, October 19, 2018 – FULL DAY
Friday, November 2, 2018 – FULL DAY
Friday, November 23, 2018 – FULL DAY (Curriculum Implementation Day)
Monday, January 28, 2019 – FULL DAY
Friday, February 15, 2019 – FULL DAY
Friday, May 17, 2019 – FULL DAY

<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.

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