



THE DIEFENBAKER REPORT



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

October 2015

Message from the Administrative Team

We are well into the busy fall term and students and staff are settling into new routines and making connections with each other as they learn. We love to see the smiling faces of our students at school every day! This school year, we have welcomed 109 new students to Diefenbaker, so building community is very important to us. We hope that you will take advantage of opportunities to get involved in school life, as we believe that working together is the best way to get to know each other and to support our students!

Ms. E. Stapleton
Principal

Mr. H. Rollins
Vice Principal

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 do not park your car in the drop off zone while you walk your child into the school. The drop off zone is for letting your child out and having them enter the school on their own while you drive away. If you need to accompany your child into the school, please park in the school parking lot or in an appropriate street space. Also, please be aware of and follow the directions of our crossing guards. They volunteer their time to keep everyone safe!

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

Parent-Teacher Conferences



Diefenbaker has two “official” parent-teacher conference days...Tuesday, October 20th and Thursday, November 12th. If your child’s teacher is conferencing next week, you should have already received a notice. November notices should be arriving home shortly. Please note that all students will be dismissed at 1:38 pm on both Tuesday, October 20th and Thursday, November 12th. If you have any questions about conference times, please contact your child’s teacher. We look forward to learning more about your child at the conference and discussing your child’s progress with you!

From the Library

Ms. Chura reminds us that students are responsible for taking care of their own library books, so let’s set them up for success by helping them to find a special spot at home to keep their library books safe ☺.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held on October 19th, 20th and 21st! The book fair will be open from 8:30 to 8:50 each morning, from 12:40 to 1:10 at lunch and from 2:30 to 3:30 at the end of the day. On October 20th, the fair will be open until 5:30 pm.

October 26th is DEAR Day (Drop Everything And Read). We will be reading together as a school on that day, and we encourage your family to make a DEAR time at home.

Photo Retakes

If you missed our first photo day or your child’s photo did not turn out as you had hoped, photo retake day is on Tuesday, November 17th at 1:00pm.

Professional Development Day

October 23rd is the Province-wide Professional Specialist Association Day, and there is no school for students that day. Our staff will be participating in a variety of professional learning activities throughout the Lower Mainland. This day gives staff the opportunity to connect and learn with professionals in other schools and districts and with professional associations. More information about Professional Days can be found on the school and district websites.



Outdoor Education

Earlier this month, our Gr. 6/7 students went to Camp Elphinstone on the Sunshine Coast. What an experience! The week began with a two-day Leadership Conference planned by our staff, followed by three days at camp. Students were engaged in a variety of team-building and reflective activities over the course of the week and new activities at camp. They were encouraged to challenge themselves when faced with a new situation. This was especially true on the high ropes course! A large staff team supported this opportunity (Mrs. Anderson, M. Ardanaz, Mr. Cho, M. Hervieux, Miss Matheson, Mr. Rollins, Ms. Steeves, and Mme Veilleux) and we thank you for your thought and planning and for taking time from your own families to give to our students!

Cross Country Fun Run

Last week, Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Cho took a group of intermediate students to Minoru for the annual District Cross Country Fun Run. Diefenbaker students competed against students from schools across the district on a long distance course through Minoru Park. This was a new experience for our students and all of our students were able to complete the long course successfully. We are so proud of you! Our students also placed first in two races! Way to go!

Terry Fox Run



Thank you for supporting cancer research through our annual Terry Fox Run! The school had a wonderful afternoon together...we met in the gym to hear more about Terry Fox and his achievements, presented one of our students with the "red shirt" from the Terry Fox foundation specifically for cancer survivors, had a school-wide warm up and then headed outside for our run. We were so impressed by the effort our students put into the run and the distance they ran! Your generosity raised \$607.41 and we watched Mr. Rollins shave his beard as a way to honour your donations!

Halloween

We want our students to enjoy this special time of year, but most importantly, we want them to be safe! The Richmond Fire Department has the following tips for students to have a "Safe and Happy Halloween":

- wear lightly coloured costumes or affix reflective tape that can be seen by motorists
- be sure you can see through your mask or only wear make-up.
- wear flame retardant costumes
- be sure costumes are short enough to prevent tripping
- travel while there is still daylight and carry a flashlight
- travel in groups, preferably with a parent or guardian
- walk on sidewalks or along the curb, never on the street
- don't carry sharp or pointed objects
- don't eat treats until your parents have checked them.



The City of Richmond reminds us that there are Fireworks Bylaws in Richmond and "it is illegal to possess, sell or ignite fireworks in Richmond." This also includes firecrackers.

We Scare Hunger

Members of Diefenbaker's "Me to We" team are raising awareness about local hunger by participating in a We Scare Hunger campaign to raise donations for the Richmond Food Bank. We are encouraging students to bring in non-perishable food items from Oct. 19th to the 30th. Me to We members will be inside the doors by the office each morning to collect the items. These Gr. 6/7 students will engage in a variety of activities and initiatives throughout the year that reflect their commitment to raise awareness and funds for local and international initiatives. We believe in the power of young people to change the world! Thank you to our teacher sponsors...Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson, Ms. Chan, Mr. Cho and Ms. Chura!

From our Public Health Nurse

Volunteer for the Richmond Christmas Fund. Join us in brightening the holiday season for Richmond residents. Volunteers are the heart of the Richmond Christmas Fund, as the help that we provide to low-income families would not be possible without the generous gift of time from our volunteers. For more information or to apply, please contact Denise Cheung, Program Assistant at christmasfund@rcrg.org or phone 604-279-7035. Also, **Connect Parent Group** is offering a free 10-week program for the parents of teens and pre-teens. Please see the school website for information.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Students in Gr. 6 and 7 can register for the babysitting course, which will be held at the school on the November 30th Professional Day. Register online at <http://www.firstaidhero.com/babysitting.html>. Spaces are available if it says "Online Registration Form" when you check under Diefenbaker. Forms with more information will also be delivered to classrooms. Please remind your child to bring home a form if you would like him/her to take the course. Mail registration deadline is Nov. 23rd, and the online deadline is Nov. 29th.

Let's Talk SD38: Our Schools, Our Students, Our Future

In most of Richmond, declining neighbourhood enrollment has resulted in underutilization of school capacity. In some schools student populations are so small that the School District cannot offer the optimal range of programs. Trustees need to make a decision on which schools to close to ensure facilities are used in an effective and fiscally responsible way. Trustees want to hear from you as they gather information to inform their decisions and make their way through this process. Please visit <http://letstalksd38.ca> and register on the site to provide your input and receive regular updates.



The district has scheduled a number of information sessions from 7:00-9:00pm:

- Tuesday, Oct. 20 – Burnett Secondary, Multi-purpose Room
- Thursday, Oct. 22 – McNair Secondary, Gym
- Tuesday, Oct. 27 – McMath Secondary, Gym
- Thursday, Oct. 29 – Cambie Secondary, Gym

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 19-21 Scholastic Book Fair
Oct. 20 Early Dismissal for Conferences (1:38pm)
Oct. 21 K Hearing and Vision Screening
Oct. 22 PAC Bake Sale
Oct. 23 Professional Day
Oct. 29 PAC Meeting (6:30pm)
Nov. 5 PAC Movie Night (Doors open 6:00pm)
Nov. 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov. 10 PAC Family Photo Night
Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (School Closed)

Nov. 12 Early Dismissal for Conferences (1:38pm)
Nov. 13 PAC Family Photo Night
Nov. 17 Photo Retakes (1:00pm)
Nov. 24 PAC Meeting (6:30pm)
Nov. 30 Professional Day
Nov. 30 Red Cross Babysitting Course
Dec. 04 Report Cards Home
Dec. 10 School Performance Evening (Time TBA)
Dec. 18 Last Day before Winter Break

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.