

École élémentaire / John G. Diefenbaker Elementary **Student and Parent Information**

School Hours

School is in session daily from 8:45am – 2:38pm for all students, Kindergarten through to Grade 7. Students are welcome in to the school at 8:30am and are expected to find a quiet activity in their class until school starts.

Winter Break

School will be closed for the winter break from Monday, December 25, 2017 to Friday, January 5, 2018. School will reopen after the break on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Spring Break

School will be closed for Spring Break from Friday, March 16, 2018 to Monday, April 2, 2018. School will reopen after the break and the Easter holidays on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

Professional Development Days for 2017-2018

(Schools is not in session on these days)

Monday, September 25, 2017
Friday, October 20, 2017
Friday, November 24, 2017
Friday, January 26, 2018
Friday, February 23, 2018
Monday, April 23, 2018
Friday, May 18, 2018

Other Holiday Dates

Labour Day	Monday, September 4
School Opens	Tuesday, September 5
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13
Family Day	Monday, February 12
Good Friday	Friday, March 30
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21
School Closes	Friday, June 29

Last Day of School for Students is Thursday, June 28, 2018.

Early Warning System (Phone: 604-718-4094)

If your child is unavoidably absent from class, parents must phone the Early Warning line. Parent volunteers, in cooperation with the school, assist in monitoring the safe arrival of our students. Volunteer parents check on children who are absent from their classes without the teacher's knowledge to ensure that no child is lost or experiencing problems between their home and the school.



*Please do not call the office to report an absence, please ensure that you call the Early Warning Line so that this important information is communicated to the right people. Please program the Early Warning number into your phone so that it is easy for you to access when your child/children are absent. Thank you for your support.

If your child will be away from school, please call the Early Warning line at (604-718-4094) before 8:45 a.m. with the following message:

*My name is _____. I am calling to let you know that _____ (child's name) in Division ____,
Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____'s class will not be at school today.*

Failure to communicate with the school will mean that parent(s), guardian(s), or other designated responsible person will be contacted by telephone about the child's whereabouts.

If your child's absence is due to a communicable disease such as chicken pox, measles, mumps, etc. please report this additional information to the school.

It is extremely important that all home, work, and emergency contact telephone numbers as well as those of your babysitter or other designated responsible person be kept up to date. Please contact the school office to update any of this information.

Leaving the School Grounds

Aside from going to their own home for lunch, students may not leave the school grounds without a written, dated permission note. This is a safety precaution to ensure that Diefenbaker students are supervised and safe at all times.

Student Lunches

Please ensure that your child/children are sent to school with a sufficient amount of food to get them through the day. We suggest a healthy snack for recess, and a substantial lunch. We also have a water bottle filling station for the kids to refill their water bottles throughout the day.

Telephone Use by Students

School telephones may be used in the event of an emergency with permission obtained from the child's classroom teacher. All arrangements with friends must be made the night before coming to school.

Dress Code

- Clothing should be comfortable and properly "done up". This includes laces, buttons and zipper.
- Clothing will reflect respect and consideration for our school community, and so will not contain messages that are hurtful or disrespectful. Students are welcome to dress with personal style and flair; however, revealing clothing is not appropriate for school.
- Come to school each day "dressed for success", that is refreshed, well rested, well groomed and well fed, and you will be ready to learn and grow!



Emergency Plans

We conduct regular fire and earthquake drills throughout the year to ensure that the students are familiar with emergency procedures. Each classroom is provided with a kit containing supplies and water to aid us in the event of an emergency.

School Volunteers

An important goal at Diefenbaker Elementary School is to involve parents and other community members in our school activities. We welcome parents who are willing to spare some time either at school or at home. Some ways may include:

- Joining the Parent Advisory Council - meetings are held once a month and the jobs vary in size: large, medium, or small! It's fun too!
- Becoming a classroom liaison parent by helping your child's teacher with various tasks outside of the classroom - such tasks include phoning parents about field trips, cutting and pasting, gathering special materials, etc. This job is ideal for parents who work during our school hours. There is always a lot to be done!
- Attending school meetings and information sessions - your input and cooperation make all the difference.
- Other opportunities include Early Warning calling, library and/or computer assistance, reading with children, leading clubs, driving on field trips, assisting with sports teams, laminating posters, school fundraising. The list goes on and on and we need you!

Accident/Illness

If a student becomes ill or is hurt while at school, we will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or the person listed as an emergency contact immediately, so the student can be taken home or sent home with a brother or sister.

If the illness/injury appears to need immediate attention and we cannot reach you, the student will be taken to the nearest hospital. A member of the school staff will accompany the student and stay with him/her until parents have been contacted and have arrived at the hospital.

Please ensure that emergency phone numbers, including cell phone numbers, doctor and dentist numbers are kept up to date with the school office.

Bicycle Safety

Your cooperation is requested in making certain that you learn and follow proper safety precautions when riding your bicycle. Please ensure that you:

- wear an approved bike helmet at all times
- have a lock to put on your bike when you bring it to school
- ride on the right side of the road
- do not "double" a friend
- walk your bike on the school grounds, including the parking lot and across crosswalks

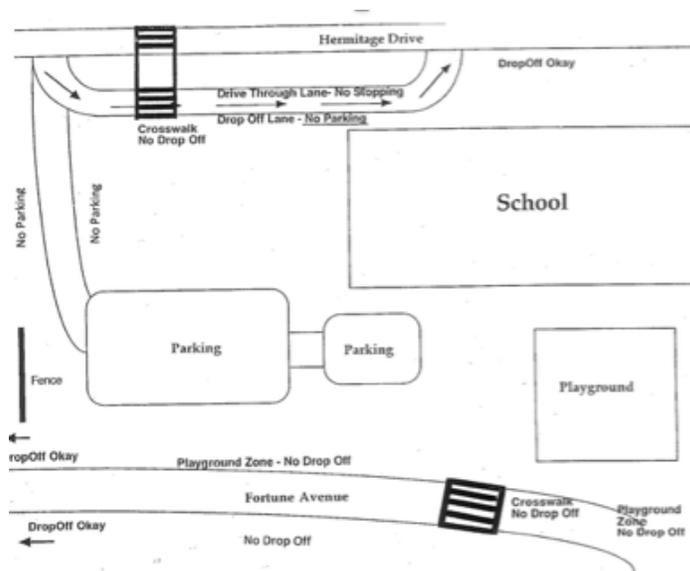


Student Safety

For the safety of all students, please ensure that everyone uses sidewalks, crosswalks and respects the crossing guards on Fortune Avenue and Hermitage Drive.



Please use extreme caution when dropping off and picking up students. Please note that the driveway is a **No Parking Zone**. Traffic congestion in this area during peak periods can pose a danger to young pedestrians. Drivers should remain with their vehicle on the inside lane, closest to the school if they are picking up or dropping off their youngster(s). At no time should the drivers leave their vehicles in this area. It is also important that parents do not stop or park in the drive through lane. There must be an access lane available at all times.



We recognize the limited parking options and ask for your cooperation in providing a safe environment for our children.

Parent Advisory Council

All parents of Diefenbaker students are members of our Parent Advisory Council. The purpose of the group is to:

- support and promote effective educational programs within our school
- provide a forum for parental participation in addressing the needs of students, teachers and parents
- build upon the concept of partnership as it relates to the endeavours of all stakeholders in the delivery of effective educational programs and educational practices
- provide the advice to the Board of School Trustees through the school principal which may be necessary from time to time, to ensure the continued delivery of an outstanding educational program for our students