**Student Placements** (Organizing Classes for 2024-2025)

In the spring of each year schools begin their planning for the coming fall. We have preliminary staffing meetings with board office personnel and review possible scenarios for organization in the fall. The school population fluctuates as students continue to move into the area, and some students transfer out through to the end of the summer. The final school organization and class placements occur approximately *in the first week of school in September*.

During this time, the professional staff at Diefenbaker Elementary school begin to gather and share information in preparation for student placement in September. We are restricted by grades that are assigned to divisions (based on student numbers), and at times there are few options. We do however devote time, care and effort in determining September placement. We include information about student strengths and learning needs, their social relationships, their interests, their learning styles, and previous placements.

**Parental Input**

Students are placed into classes by the Administration Team with many hours of consultation with their teachers. Every placement in a classroom here at Diefenbaker is an engaging and kind place to be. Should parents wish to describe the learning situation and environment they feel best suits their children, we ask that a letter be directed to Ms. Vosahlo at *rvosahlo@sd38.bc.ca* by **Friday, June 7th, 2024**. Please do not name a particular teacher nor name a specific educational assistant you are wanting for your child, as teaching assignments for the coming year have not yet been made and are seldom confirmed before September. All your letters and emails regarding placement are shared with teaching staff.

**Understanding Combined Classes**

In our classroom organizations, we support having combined classes. Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing individual education plans where warranted for students who need more support.

In a combined grade 3 and 4 class, for example, 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 grade 3 learners into a grade 3/4 class when a grade 2/3 classroom is also available.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Students may become increasingly thoughtful as they learn and work with other students. They may form broader and more varied friendships as older students provide role models for younger students. Teachers in combined classes and straight grades follow the same curriculum requirements defined by BC Ministry of Education. Just as children learn to walk and talk at different ages and just as adults socialize with different aged adults, children learn from and with others of all different ages. We are all unique and each child has so much to offer us.

Please do understand that even if you write a letter to us informing us of your wants for your child, based on all the information laid out above, we cannot guarantee what you necessarily are hoping for. We will need you to please appreciate all the parameters we work within, the training we all have, and trust that all classrooms here at Diefenbaker are great places for your child to be part of.

Sincerely,

Regina Vosahlo Kevin Vines

(Principal) (Vice-principal)