



# Randerson Ridge Elementary

Phone: 250-758-8946

Website: <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/rand>



Principal: Mr. D. Brick

Vice-Principal: Ms. K. Needham

Secretary: Ms. S. Milne

September 18, 2020

Newsletter # 1

## Welcome Back to School ☺

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you all for your kind words and cooperation as we started our 2020-2021 school year. The first wave of organization seems to be over and when I visit classes I see students starting to settle in and learning (and a lot of handwashing) is occurring. COVID-19 has changed the way we all do things in our day to day lives. This will be true for our schools as well, but one thing I have learned is that kids are resilient and often they are the ones to teach us how to do the right thing ☺.

We currently have 19 divisions with 445 K-7 students including 54 kindergarten students. Only one portable is occupied by Ms. Welsh's class and the portable does have water and it's own ventilation system.

With the fall, students change grades and new learning occurs. We will be regularly communicating on curriculum, assessment and student progress through our reporting and ongoing communication of student learning. I encourage parents to visit the ministry website often to gain an understanding of the redesigned curriculum and reporting structures at <http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca>.

Thanks again for all your patience and cooperation and it is great to see how happy the students are to be here.

Hopefully soon, we will even get to do recess!

Sincerely,

Darren Brick

### STAFFING UPDATES

**W**e would like to welcome all of our returning staff members and welcome the following people to our school. We are pleased to welcome each new staff member on behalf of the entire Randerson Ridge school community,

- Ms. Danica Adams- Aboriginal Education EA
- Ms. Jena Fenetti—Counsellor (joined us part way last year)
- M. Lockhart- Secretary
- Ms. Stephanie Pickerell- Kindergarten teacher

### PAC MEETING

Our first PAC meeting of the year will be Monday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm via TEAMS videoconferencing.

All PAC meetings will be through videoconference until further notice.

If you are interested in signing up to attend the meeting, please contact Susan Crowe at: [zuecrowe@gmail.com](mailto:zuecrowe@gmail.com)

**Don't forget to sign up for Cashless On-line (see attachments) and that is how you sign all the consent forms and purchase your planners- all classes use planners except Mrs. Thompson and the kindergarten students. Thank you.**

**Don't forget to send back your paper student information form by Friday, please.**

**If you still have textbooks to return from last year, please return asap!**

*Important Dates for Parents for 2020-2021 (PAC meetings on line)*

First day of class, Grades 1-7 (8:30-10:30 AM) .....	Thurs Sept 10 or Fri Sept 11
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Sep 21
Non-Instructional Day (students do not attend) .....	Fri Oct. 9
Thanksgiving (students do not attend) .....	Mon. Oct 12
PAC (7:00) .....	Mon Oct 19
Formative Conferences (AKA Parent-Teacher Conf) .....	Week of Oct 19-22
Early Dismissal (1:10 PM) .....	Mon Oct 19
Early Dismissal (1:10 PM) .....	Tues Oct 20
Early Dismissal (1:10 PM) .....	Wed Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:10 PM) .....	Thurs Oct 22
Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend) .....	Fri. Oct 23
Remembrance Day (students do not attend) .....	Wed Nov 11
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Nov 16
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Dec 14
Last Day before Holiday .....	Fri. Dec 18
First Day back .....	Mon Jan 4
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Jan 18
Progress Report Issued .....	Fri Feb 5
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Feb 8
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend) .....	Thurs Feb 11
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend) .....	Fri Feb 12
BC Family Day (students do not attend) .....	Mon Feb 15
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter .....	Fri. Mar 12
First Day back .....	Mon Mar 29
Good Friday .....	Fri Apr 2
Easter Monday .....	Mon Apr 5
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Apr 19
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend) .....	Fri May 7
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon May 17
Victoria Day (students do not attend) .....	Mon May 24
PAC (7:00 PM) .....	Mon Jun 21
Formative Report Issued .....	Tues Jun 29
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10) .....	Tues Jun 29
Administration Day .....	Wed Jun 30

*SCHOOL HOURS*

**Monday - Friday**

8:28	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Recess
11:45 - 12:20	Big Recess
2:10	Dismissal

*Important Student Information Consent and Emergency Release Forms*

**P**arents and guardians will be receiving two important forms to sign in the first two weeks of school.

The first is a double-sided document on white paper that provides information about your child (address, phone number, etc), parent/guardian contact information, people authorized to pick up your child(ren), and any legal or medical information about your child(ren). This form came home as a paper document Monday or Tuesday. We hope to have all these forms back from you by Friday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.

The second form involves parents completing a consent form. This is an electronic form that is done through the Cashless Online program. This gives all the consents for the different programs such as google classroom, walking field trips etc. **AN EMAIL WAS SENT HOME ON SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> BY THE DISTRICT DETAILING INFORMATION ON HOW TO SET UP YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT FOR THIS INFORMATION**

### SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

This year our bell schedule is the same all five days! 8:30-2:10 Monday to Friday. A friendly reminder that supervision begins 15 minutes before each morning bell and ends 15 minutes after the dismissal bells daily. Students should not be left unsupervised by a parent or guardian outside of these times. Students should *not* arrive at school before the official supervision begins for safety reasons. **We want to thank you for doing such a wonderful job so far of arriving at the appropriate time and leaving in such an expeditious manner.**

### EARLY DETECTION - PHONING IN ABSENCES

The early detection system is for the safety of all students at Randerson Ridge. We have a 24-hr voice mail so please report students who will be absent or late as early as possible in the morning (or even the night before). This program is for the safety of your child. All absences and lates should be called in. When leaving a message please state your child's name, teacher name, division and if they are ill, at an appointment, or on vacation. Again, the phone number is 250-758-5076.

### VALUABLE ITEMS

Please leave any valuable possessions at home. If we notice items that do not have an educational purpose during school hours, they will be held in the office for safekeeping until such a time that a parent can attend the School to claim the item(s). Parents are encouraged to label all clothing and personal items for their child(ren) before the start of the school year.

### CELL PHONES/CAMERAS, ELECTRONICS

As a school staff, we understand the importance of phone communication between parents and students before and after school. However, we have a "bell-to-bell" policy for cell phones. Cell phones brought to school must be turned off and stored in a backpack, prior to entering the building. Cell phones must be stored in backpacks and are not permitted to be brought out at any point during the school day-unless specifically asked to by their teacher for educational purposes. This also means that they should still be in their backpacks at recess time. This is the responsibility of the student possessing the phone. After school, phones may be turned on and used outside of the school building. Cell phones are not to be removed from backpacks or used in hallways, classrooms, foyers or anywhere within the school building. We understand that there may be times when parents need to immediately contact their children. At Randerson Ridge, it is always possible for parents to communicate with their children in an emergency, via the main office. . If electronic items are used inappropriately on the school site, they may be confiscated. Items will be returned when parents or guardians and the student make an appointment and meet with a school administrator.

### VISITING A CLASSROOM or Talking to Teachers

**\*\*Due to COVID-19 visiting the classroom is not possible...please email your child's teacher or leave a phone message at the office for a call back.\*\*** At Randerson, we want to assure that classrooms function to their capacity as a learning environment. We also must ensure the safety of students at school during school hours. We also like to make sure that we have good communication with all of our parents. If you have a message to give your child or are dropping off items such as homework or lunches, please check in at the office. Please give messages/lunches to our secretary. **WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU IN THE BUILDING OR HAVE YOU KNOCKING ON THE CLASSROOM DOOR.** We will make sure that your child receives the items.

If you need to talk to your child's teacher please call ahead, email, write in the planner, or arrange with our secretary to make an appointment. Teachers are busy and instruction begins when the bell goes. If you make an appointment you can be assured that you and the teacher will have time to have a meaningful discussion.

## TRAFFIC REMINDERS



We are reminding all parents of our parking lot traffic patterns designed to help keep our students safe as they come to and leave our school grounds. The area in front of the school is clearly marked no parking and no stopping. It is a drop off area only. This implies that you must stay in the driver's seat of your car. If you choose to leave your car, for any reason, you must move your car to a designated parking spot. We are also reminding everyone to please slow down as we enter and exit the school zone!

School District vehicles, emergency vehicles, day care buses and school buses take priority in the drop off zone in front of the school at all times.

We need to remind parents and drivers that if we have a bus arriving at the school for or from a field trip, that the bus takes priority in the drop off zone.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping the front area of the school safe for our students. Please respect the handicapped parking spots and do not use them unless you or your child is handicapped.

**SIGN UP FOR OUR SCHOOL MESSAGES** - if you are not receiving school emails please check your junk or spam filter and mark our email address as safe. If you find the emails are not there, please contact the office so our secretary can confirm the email address we have on file for you. ([info.rr@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:info.rr@sd68.bc.ca))

## RANDERSON RIDGE SCHOOL IS "NUT AWARE"

We have students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts, peanut butter, almonds, ground nuts and products which have peanut butter, peanuts or other nuts in them. These students have an anaphylactic reaction to these products. They do not have to eat a peanut product to have a reaction. If someone nearby has a peanut product and touches a student, this can cause an anaphylactic shock.

Now that classrooms are set and if there is a child that has these issues, we ask that you do not send or bring any of these products containing peanuts in your child's lunch and/or snacks.

Our "NUT AWARE" approach offers no absolute guarantees of safety but is our sincere attempt to do everything possible to ensure the safety of all of our students. Your cooperation, understanding and compassion are very much appreciated. Thank you!

## PLANNERS

The current school parent/pupil handbook has been included in the student day planners. We are charging \$8 for the planner. Basic school policies, procedures and programs are outlined in the introductory pages. We hope that this format will serve as a useful reference for use throughout the school year. Almost all teachers use the planner as the primary form of communication between school and home. ***\*\* Please note: the dates and dismissal times in the front of the planner are incorrect, they went to print before we had a chance to change them\*\****

Please read the attachments about the Cashless Online system and how to purchase materials that accompany this newsletter.

## STUDENT SAFETY

If your child rides a bicycle to school, please review the rules of the road with him/her and ensure he/she has a bike lock. Bicycle helmets are mandatory for all riders. It is a good idea to have your child's name on the helmet. Also, students walking to and from school should use designated sidewalks and crosswalks.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>- Terry Fox Run- done on site in cohorts

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>- Orange Shirt Day

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>- Photo Day (weather dependent)

back to  
School

