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We are glad that you have arrived

Welcome to Davidson Road Elementary

Information for Kindergarten Parents

Spring 2023

What will the first two weeks of school be like?

In mid-July, you will receive an email from the school about kindergarten start-up, which will include your child's class placement. In September, all kindergarten students are introduced gradually to the classroom times and routines. The classes are divided into two groups, morning and afternoon. The small groups allow the children to learn the routines of the classroom and get to know their teacher. On the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 5, all kindergarten students and parents will meet in the gym and then go together to their classroom. Parents will receive a package of information and forms to complete. The other gradual entry days are for students only. This is a time for your child to become comfortable with the teachers, the kindergarten rooms, the school, and basic routines. The Wednesday, Sept 6, Thursday, Sept. 7, and Friday, Sept. 8 sessions will be 90 minutes. Monday, Sept. 11 and Tuesday, Sept. 12 are half-days. Wednesday, Sept. 13 will be the first full day of school for kindergarten students.

The Kindergarten Team



Mrs. Marshall

Miss Olsen

Mrs. Sveistrup

Ms. Alfred

In September, Davidson Road Elementary School will have about 420 students, including about 80 new kindergarten students. This year, Mrs. Sveistrup, Miss Olsen, Mrs. Marshall, and Ms. Alfred have been our kindergarten teachers. Ms. Beeger is a part of our team as well. When your child starts

kindergarten, and you have questions about their learning, these teachers will be the best people to ask. They will work closely with the administration and support staff to help your child. For a full list of our support staff, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Busing for kindergarten students does not start until Wednesday, Sept. 13

Rob Aviani, Principal

rob.aviani@sd23.bc.ca

Jennifer Adamson, Vice Principal

jennifer.adamson@sd23.bc.ca

Why Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a bridge that helps your child transition from home to school. Kindergarten helps develop children's social and communication skills as well as their independence. The program promotes the development of problem solving skills and self-esteem. There is an focus on social emotional learning which are the foundational skills for a child's long-term success in school. Kindergarten also begins the journey in supporting your child to become a reader, writer, and mathematician.



DEVELOPING SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

- Taking turns
- Eye contact & polite words
- Speaking in complete sentences
- Keeping hands & feet to ourselves

DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE

- Dressing independently
- Hand washing skills
- Carrying & packing their back-pack
- Eating & cleaning up

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Observing others before speaking
- Sitting quietly
- Facing the speaker
- Raising hand and waiting turn to speak
- Using polite words

About Davidson Road Elementary School

Davidson Road is a K-5 elementary school located in the heart of Lake Country, BC. Built in 1984, we are a school with a rich and diverse student population that has a strong and equal focus on the academics, the arts, and sport.

Davidson Road Elementary School has approximately 420 students in grades K-5. We have nineteen classroom teachers, twelve education assistants, a teacher librarian, an ELL teacher, and a learning assistance teacher. The

school also has two itinerant counselors, a resource teacher, and a speech language pathologist.

At Davidson Road Elementary, we believe that learning is an ongoing, personalized journey which takes patience and time. Meaningful learning happens in a safe environment where we can take risks and learn from our mistakes. This journey is supported by collaboration, curiosity, reflection, and our relationships with others.



**"DISCOVERY, RESPECT,
ENCOURAGEMENT"**

Supporting your child's learning at home



- Model reading for pleasure
- Read stories to your child
- Predict what is going to happen next in the story
- Practice retelling the story
- Play board games and card games
- Play counting games/word games in the car
- Ask about your child's day – did your teacher read you a story today? play at centers?

Lunchtime

Our lunchtime has a playtime and an eating time.

Playtime

All Kindergarten students will slowly be introduced to playing at designated areas of our playground. We strive to help make sure the students learn the rules and feel comfortable during play.

Eating Time

During eating time, your child's teacher has time to have their lunch break. Kindergarten children are supervised inside their classrooms by older students and an adult supervisor. Each child should bring one healthy snack, their lunch, and a water bottle. For safety reasons, we discourage students from trading and sharing food at school. We are an allergy aware school, so please only send food which is "nut" free in your child's lunch. Families also can purchase hotlunch for their children through the PAC's Munchalunch.com website.

Moving? Remember to keep the office updated about changes to phone numbers, address, caregiver information.

Supporting My Child's Transition

Drop Off & Pick Up

In the morning, kindergarten students will wait outside of their class' designated entry door. At the end of the day, all kindergarten students will be dismissed only to those who are approved by parents to pick up their children. Your child's teacher will be asking you for a list of who can pick up your child in September. For the first week, bus students will be helped to the bus which will take them home.

Stay Connected

Davidson Road Elementary sends home a weekly newsletter to families via email called the "DRE Dynamo News." The newsletter will have important dates, events, and information each week. From time to time, your child's teacher also will send home notices and forms with information for parents. So, please check your child's agenda regularly. Finally, our school website often is updated with the latest information. The site can be found at <http://www.dre.sd23.bc.ca/>.



Attendance

Regular attendance is a key factor in ensuring a student's social, emotional, behavioural, and academic success. Much of the learning at school occurs in classroom learning environments where teachers are constantly monitoring student progress - to miss class time negatively impacts student learning. Thank you for working with your child's teachers and school staff in ensuring your child's regular attendance.

How can I get involved at Davidson Road Elementary?

PAC

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets monthly in-person in the school library (see the DRE website for a list of PAC meeting dates). The PAC advises the Board, the principal and vice principal, and staff on matters relating to the school. We also are thankful to the PAC for their fundraising efforts to help support important initiatives at our school.

Volunteer

There are many opportunities for parents to volunteer at DRE. From time to time, there will be a need for field trip helpers, one-to-one readers, sports team coaches, and more. If you think that you might want to volunteer during your child's time at DRE, you will need to get a criminal records check which is valid for four years. Please see Mrs. Senger and Mrs. Ball in the school office, not the RCMP, for a criminal records check form.

Ask Questions

Your child's teacher will have the most accurate information about your son or daughter's learning. If you have a question or a concern, we encourage you to ask your child's teacher.

"Parents are always welcome at Davidson Road Elementary"

DISCOVERY, RESPECT, EXCELLENCE

DRE Phone Number: (250) 870-5117
DRE Fax Number: (250) 870-5017
DRE Website: www.dre.sd23.bc.ca
DRE Email: dre@sd23.bc.ca

What if I have a question?

Here is a list of staff who you may contact with any questions about your child's transition to DRE.

Mrs. Kathy Senger & Mrs. Melissa Ball
- School Office

Mr. Rob Aviani - Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Adamson - Vice Principal

Mr. Dante Wetherow - Learning Assistance

Mrs. Brita Colero & Ms. Kelli Cook – Counsellors

Mrs. Tina Maclean – Resource Teacher

Ms. Cheryl Elsworth – Speech Language Pathologist

Mrs. Carleen Faubert - ELL Teacher

Ms. Amie Edwards – Indigenous Advocate

Check out the DRE website
www.dre.sd23.bc.ca

Details to remember



Label all Belongings

When organizing supplies for September, be sure to remember a pair of Velcro indoor running shoes, a backpack, a lunch kit, a water bottle, and a Ziploc bag of spare clothing. Backpacks should be big enough to carry a lunch kit, water bottle, agenda, and picture books home from the library and other treasures.

School Supplies

There is no need to buy school supplies. These items are provided by the school through your child's school fees. In total, student fees are \$45 which includes \$35 for school supplies and a \$10 cultural fee.

School Cash Online

In September, we will encourage all families to pay for school fees through centralokanagan.schoolcashionline.com/. School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay your children's school fees.

Important Dates

- April 19 - Early Learning for Families (ELFF) Night (4:00-5:00)
- June 7 - Kindergarten Orientation (4:00-5:00)
- Sept 5 - First day of school. Kindergarten students and families meet in gym at 9:00am (60 minutes)
- Sept 6 - Kindergarten Gradual Entry (90 minutes). Students only.
- Sept 7 - Kindergarten Gradual Entry (90 minutes). Students only.
- Sept 8 - Kindergarten Gradual Entry (90 minutes). Students only.
- Sept 11-12 - Kindergarten Gradual Entry (half-day). Pack a snack.
- Sept 13 - First full day of school for Kindergarten students. Pack a full lunch.

A letter with your child's schedule will be emailed to you in mid-July.

**School District #23
Attributes of a 21st
Century Learner**

Learner

Thinker

Collaborator

Contributor

Innovator

