

École Dorothea Walker Elementary

Welcome Back and Welcome New Students!

This year, we had the exciting opportunity to welcome an entire new group of students to the school. About 100 new students, including approximately 80 Grade 3 students have started their journey at DWE. We also welcomed a dozen or so new students to the school in the other grades. It has been a very smooth start up so far. We are already two weeks into this new school year. Since the first day, we already enjoyed the PAC welcome back coffee on the first day, and their Pancakes and Pajamas event last Thursday. The second event was particularly well attended and it was so nice to reconnect with so many families. As a school, we participated in our own Terry Fox Fundraiser, assembly and run. We raised approximately \$700 for the Terry Fox foundation and cancer research. What a great start to a new school year!

Our Terry Fox event and the PAC Welcome Back evening were two great examples of this year's school district theme of "Togetherness".



During the last week of September we will hold Truth and

Reconciliation Week. The focus will be to help our students understand the meaning of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and to explore how they can play a role in supporting equity in our community. Please remember that there will be no school on September 30, the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Dates for your calendar

September

- 17 - PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm
- 20 - School Spirit Day - Wear Blue/Grey or Spirit Wear
- 25 - Picture Day
- 26 - Gardom Lake Information Meeting for parents of students in Fl. Gr. 6 & English Gr. 5 @ 6pm
- 27 - **Orange Shirt Day at DWE**
- 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - No School

New Faces

Once again, we have the pleasure of welcoming a number of new team members this year and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce them. We have two new CEAs (certified education assistants) and three new teachers. From left to right: Mr. Burd and Ms. Wernicke (CEAs), and Mrs. Foster (Inclusion Teacher), Mme Light (Gr. 5 FI), and also new but missing a picture, is Ms. Diadio (Gr.3 with Ms. Lebbon).



Nut Allergies and Food Sharing

Please remember that we strive to keep our school nut free. Peanuts are especially critical and we ask students, parents and others who come into the building to avoid bringing peanut products as we have children with potentially deadly allergies to peanuts. We also have students who have allergies to other nuts; therefore, we ask that we avoid nuts altogether. If a child brings a snack containing nuts or nut products to school, we will simply ask him or her to let their teacher or another staff member hold on to it until the end of the day, at which point they will be asked to take it home. We will not let students go hungry and will make sure that we try to contact you or provide an alternate snack or lunch when necessary.

We hope that by educating children and adults, as well as by encouraging hand washing before coming to school when peanuts have been consumed, we can help make the school a safer place for our children who suffer from these allergies.

No Pets on School Grounds

While we do love pets, pets are **NOT ALLOWED** on school property for safety and health reasons.

Schools within School District #23 have a policy where dogs are not permitted on school property at any time (even on a leash).

This is a health and safety issue where the School District must comply with Division 1, Part 107 of the Workers Compensation Act (WCB). By bringing dogs onto school grounds, the health and safety issue is exposing students and staff to the hazards of dog bites, dog fights, and dog feces which has to be cleaned up by school staff. Even if dog owners clean up messes, the residue can still be left on the grass where children play. Therefore, in order to stay in compliance with the Regulation and our own School Policy, dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time.

Student Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student injuries** that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness.

To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, [click here](#).

Safe Driving and Common Courtesy

We appreciate how everyone is driving safely around the school as school zones are back in effect. We appreciate everyone using caution as they drive in our proximity and we want to remind you to keep an eye out for students stepping out to cross the side streets as sometimes parked vehicles can block the view.

We ask that **parents do not enter the staff parking lot to drop off and pick up** as it is a very busy area with children walking to and from school. Please drop off along the sidewalk and keep an eye out for all children including those waiting to cross. I understand that everyone is in a hurry in the morning, but the potential risk is not worth the few seconds you might save by not being courteous or by speeding. Thank you to all of you for the efforts made in keeping our children safe.

Once again, we have been asked by our neighbours to remind parents to be aware of where they park. Please do not block driveways and respect the “no parking” zones, the “no stopping” zones, as well as the “parallel parking only” zones. Please remember that there are a number of walkways giving access to the school grounds from subdivisions surrounding our school. Using the different drop off points reduces the congestion up front during pick up and drop off.



Partners for Inclusive Education Offering Letter to Parents

Please [click here](#) to view the letter. This district group’s first meeting is via Zoom on Tuesday September 17th. See page 5 for more details.



Central Okanagan Public Schools Policies

Appeals

The School District Appeals Policy states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in School District No. 23 may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student".

For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the ‘Policies’ link under the Board of Education heading on the School District’s homepage – www.sd23.bc.ca.

Hardship

Within School District Policy 425 – Student Fees (see www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated “that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship”. This clause in the policy provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school principal, Mme Bedard, at 250.870.5138 if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

TIPS TO HELP THE OFFICE

- ★ Please use the online payment option. If you must send a cheque or cash, it must be submitted directly to the office by the student or parent.
- ★ Absences: please remember to notify the office in regards to any absences or lateness, even if you have let the teacher know. Please use *School Messenger*. See more information at [http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=).
- ★ If your child is late, she/he must check in at the office upon arrival before going to her/his classroom, otherwise he or she remains marked as absent. If you sign out your child early with the help of *School Messenger*, you must still call the office upon your arrival to pick them up.
- ★ Medical Alert: If your child has a medical alert, please make sure to contact the office to obtain and fill out a Medical Alert Planning Form.

Home Support

We would like to encourage you to start off the new school year on the right foot by establishing routines early on. Encourage your child to go to bed early in order to be alert and fully benefit from his/her time at school. Send healthy snacks and lunches to school with your child and establish a homework routine which includes a quiet space to work and a regular homework time. Remember to include daily reading as part of your routine.

French Classes with Centre Culturel Francophone de l'Okanagan

Follow the link for information: <https://www.leccfo.org/en/french-classes/>



Partners for Inclusive Education

Partners for inclusive Education (PIE) is a welcoming online space committed to supporting parents/guardians to learn more about the how students with neurodiversity, disability, support needs and/or diverse abilities are supported in their neighborhood school.

PIE is a space where parents/guardians, staff and community come together as partners to champion inclusive education by learning and supporting each other as we navigate the school years together. We connect virtually five times a year offering workshops, speakers, and opportunities to connect with other parents/guardians.

The purpose of Partners for Inclusive Education can be found on the School District website under Parent Resources

Next Event Date:

The next Partners for Inclusive Education meeting is scheduled for:

Date: September 17, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Topic: "Your Child's Team...Who is Who?" "The first few weeks of school." "How to Prepare for your Child's IEP."

Location: Zoom: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/8569391842>