

Kanaka Creek Elementary

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

At Kanaka we strive to develop a community of responsible learners who strive to attain their potential in a safe, cooperative and healthy environment.



Are You Ready?

It's hard to believe it has only been a year since I first arrived here at Kanaka. When I think back to last year, I can't believe the number of great activities and learning opportunities we packed in to those 12 months. Further, when I think of all the help we got from staff, student and parents for activities, fundraising, and lessons, I feel so grateful to be part of this community. It also gets me excited to think of all the great things we will be able to do with our students this year.

As we start the year, it is important to implement a few simple ideas/strategies that will start the year off right and ensure you and your child(ren) have a successful year. There are many great blogs online that have some great tips but here's a few I felt were very important: 1. [Connect with us](#) – Be sure to connect with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) early and often during the term to ensure they are progressing through their school work. Ms. Fuhrmann and I are available outside most mornings/afternoons so be sure to come and let us know how things are doing. 2. [Get Involved](#) – Be sure to know your child(ren)'s friends and their parents. Volunteer in the school or class if you can and show the importance of education. 3. [Structured Homework Space](#) – As students get older, there typically will be some requirement for homework throughout the year. Have a scheduled time/space where this gets done daily. 4. [Extra-Curricular Activities](#) – Try to get your child(ren) involved in at least one activity in the school/community to burn off a bit of steam – it'll be worth it.

We look forward to working with your family through the course of this year. As always, if you have questions/concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chad Raible

Weekly updates will be available through the sd42 portal where you can approve field trips and sign forms.

Be sure to sign up at:
<http://parents.sd42.ca>

More Information Online

Updates, calendar information, and so much more can be found on our school and district websites:

<http://www.sd42.ca>
<http://elementary.sd42.ca/kanakacreek/>

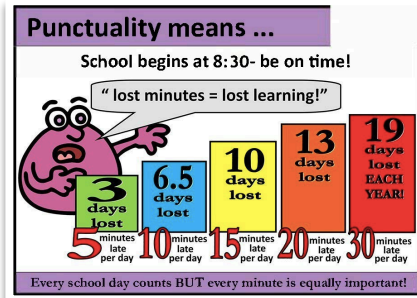
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Highlights @Kanaka



We'd like to welcome (and for some welcome back) the following new staff to Kanaka:

Ms. Beyer (support), Ms. Belo (EA), Ms. Bonny (EA), Ms. Downey (secretary), Ms. Godfrey (music prep), Ms. Mah (gr 4/5), Ms. Mantel (gr 6/7), Mr. Mitchell (gr 2), Ms. Steil (support) and Mr. Wason (EA). Please feel free to welcome them to our Kanaka community



We are hoping our families at Kanaka can help us this year encourage our students to be more punctual in the morning. Our school day starts at 8:30am and we would like to encourage all our students to be here even a few minutes early to ensure they are ready to start the day. Even 5 minutes late over the course of a year adds up.



If your child has an existing medical condition you must yearly complete the appropriate medical forms which are in the office. Forms may be sent home with your child. As per School District #42 Policy, staff won't administer medication to students unless appropriate forms are completed. These forms should be filled out and returned to the school ASAP. If your child has a serious life threatening medical condition we recommend they wear a Medical Alert Bracelet. If you are interested, please enquire at the office for further information regarding this matter.

WITS

WITS is a pro-active program encouraging children to make safe and positive choices when faced with peer conflict.

The WITS acronym – **Walk Away, Ignore, Talk It Out and Seek Help** provides a common language that children and adults can use in their environment to solve social problems.

Please visit the WITS Program website for more information. <http://www.witsprogram.ca/kids/>

Bell Schedule

8:28	Warning Bell
8:30	Classes Begin
10:10–10:25	Recess
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch
2:20	Dismissal

Volunteers?



There are so many ways to get involved in our school. Our teachers always need help with activities and material preparation. You could don a safety vest and help us in the drop off/pick up line. Our librarian also needs help daily managing our large book collection. PAC is always needing help with activities, hot lunches, popcorn days, and much more. Our grade 6/7 teams also often need volunteer coaches or sponsors. If you have another way you think you could help us out, please come and see Mr. Raible. We look forward to working with you this year.



Student Information Verification Forms

These forms will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. Carefully check the accuracy of the data and note any changes directly on the form. Please return to the office as soon as possible.

Parking Procedures

Please assist in keeping driveways clear of cars of and co-operative when asked to move to allow the homeowners to enter/leave their driveway. **It is important to be respectful and park legally.**

To drop off your child(ren) enter through the first white gate and exit through the north white gate on 234A Street. Due to safety concerns, the parking lot will be closed to traffic for the end of the day pickup from 2:00 to 2:20 pm, unless you have a designated pass. Street parking is available on Kanaka Way or 234A Street. Please notify all other caregivers who may be dropping off and picking up your child of these restrictions. Passes for daycare vans and for families dropping off students with mobility issues are required prior to 2:20.

You may consider the "Drive to 5" program, which is simply, to have a prearranged spot that is five minutes from the school where you can drop off and pick up your child(ren). The program helps to develop a healthier school, reduce the emissions and congestion from vehicles in our parking lot and make walking or cycling a safe and fun event.

Inside Shoes

Students need non-marking runners to use as indoor shoes. This will help to maintain our gym floors. Thank you for your co-operation!

School Fees and Planners

Kindergarten to Grade 3 supply fees are \$45 plus \$5 for planner if required. Please don't pay these until you see the announcements coming out on the portal next week. Fees can be paid online or, if needed, by cheque/cash to your child(ren)'s teacher(s).

New Playground Installation

The dynamo will be installed starting Sept 4th. Please remind your children to stay behind the fencing. Please thank PAC members for this great addition to our playground.

Student Photos

Photo Express will be here on Monday October 1. If your child(ren) is absent retakes have been scheduled for Monday, October 22.

Volunteers and Visitors

In the interest of safety and security it is imperative we know who is on school grounds at all times. If volunteering or dropping something off for your child, please FIRST check in at the office (*do not go onto field or playground to find your child*).

Lost and Found

Items will be displayed on the racks inside the front door to the right of the library until the end of November at which time they will be donated to a local charity. Smaller more valuable items will be held in the office. Please check regularly.

Nut Free Lunches, etc.

A few students have life-threatening nut allergies; therefore, we encourage nut-free snacks and lunches. As well, students do not have access to a microwave for heating lunches so please send hot foods in a thermos or send food that does not require heating. Also provide spoons and forks if needed.

Dress for the Weather

Students are outside for recess and lunch most days. Children need to be appropriately dressed for rainy west coast weather (e.g. water-proof jackets/pants, boots, umbrella, etc.). Students are encouraged to keep a spare change of clothes in their backpacks.

Student Safety

Children should wear a helmet when riding a bike, scooter or rollerblades. Students are not permitted to ride these on school property.

Head Lice

To prevent head lice please remind your child to not share personal items such as combs, brushes or hats. Further, parents should regularly check your child's head for head lice. Early detection and appropriate treatment will significantly reduce the spread of lice.