

ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 2020 Newsletter



Ms. Dani Morrow, Principal
Ms. Colleen Mullin, Vice Principal
Ms. Sharon Lachmanec, Head Secretary

We gratefully acknowledge that we are learning together on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People

A DIFFERENT SORT OF “WELCOME BACK”

‘Uy’ Skweyul! Our welcome back to school is a lot different this year; before we get into the details about everything, I wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for our Alexander community. The Wolf PACK mentality is strong within our staff, our students, and our families. Thank you for being so amazing, especially during these unsettling times. As you may have seen on Facebook, or through our previous emails, we have some new Health & Safety precautions in place. Please reach out to us if you have missed these publications. Please visit the [SD79 Website](#) for all COVID-19 information and updates related to School District 79

ALEXANDER’S SYMBOL OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY

‘Uy’ Skweyul! Over the last 3 years, we have embraced the symbolism of the stqeeeye’ (wolf) to represent our school community. The stqeeeye’ shows strength in the family, and the kinship associated with it is known to have strength and loyalty in *all* relationships. This is what we believe about our school community at Alexander. And, like a wolf pack, Alexander learners are POSITIVE, ACCCEPTING, COOPERATIVE, and KIND. Due to some new Health & Safety regulations, we might not be able to celebrate our Wolf PACK in the same ways we have done over the years. We look forward to uncovering some new and creative ways to celebrate our amazing PACK! Stay tuned!

COVID-19 REMINDERS

We are sure you have been inundated with COVID-19 news and updates! We have emailed and posted more detailed COVID reminders as well as new procedures and protocols, but here is a brief summary of things to remember:

- Students will be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands frequently
- We are staggering our lunch breaks and our lunch spaces to allow for more distancing
- Masks are not mandatory, but they will be provided for any student who wishes to wear one
- At this time, only students and staff are permitted in the building. Parents can call ahead to schedule meetings, etc and we will host meetings outdoors as often as we can



WATER ONLY

After 3 amazing and successful years of celebrating “Water Only,” we want to carry forward to healthy initiative! Please save juice boxes, energy drinks, and soda pops for at home ☺

Thank you to our amazing PAC, who have provided us with ANOTHER whole-school set of awesome Wolf PACK water bottles! Thank you PAC!!!!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – REDUCED PRICE!!

We have great news! We are again able to secure the low price of just \$20 per student for our School Supply Service! For only \$20, we will make sure your student is supplied with EVERYTHING they need for the entire year! You don’t have to set foot into a School Supply store; we will do all the work for you! And, we even offer a payment plan! If you are unable to pay \$20 right now, we are happy to collect smaller installations throughout the year.

STAFFING

I would like to officially “introduce” you to some of our new staff:

1. Ms. Ridley is our Division 8 teacher. She will likely be teaching Grade 2/3
2. Ms. Girvan has shifted into a new role at Alexander. She is our new Indigenous Education teacher!

MEAL PROGRAM

A friendly reminder to all of our families – the funding for our meal program comes entirely from grants, donations, and monetary contributions. If your son or daughter will be participating in our meal program this year, please consider making a contribution to this worthy cause. Money (cash or cheque) can be dropped off in the office; we are grateful for every dollar we receive!

WOLF PACK T-SHIRTS

Last spring, we started to sell more Wolf PACK tshirts! These latest shirts have the new logo on them, and are only \$15 each! Let your classroom teacher, or Sharon at the front office know, if you would like to purchase one. All proceeds will go toward supporting Field Trips. Yay Wolf PACK!

INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY *(A message from Charlie Coleman, Principal of Aboriginal Education)*

Uy'skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to another fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success. As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used. If your child has Indigenous ancestry -First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, ined@sd79.bc.ca Please go to <http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/faq/> for more information.

A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE DISTRICT

- Please be aware that there is BC Provincial Government legislation that bans all smoking on any school property, include inside of all vehicles on the property, at all times.
- In accordance with the Schools Protection Program, students and parents are reminded that students' personal property is not covered under the program, so students should not leave personal belongings at the school. Neither the school, nor the School District, are responsible for the loss or damage to students' personal property.
- If any parents require for any medications for their child to be administered by the school, please visit the office to fill out a "Request for Administration of Medication at School" Form.
- Please review these important Policies/Procedures. If you would like a paper copy, one can be provided for you, from the school's main office:
 - Admin Procedure 2550 – Healthy Schools
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/38544?preview=40596>
 - Policy 5100 - District Code of Conduct
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37501>
 - Policy 5110 - Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37502>
 - Appeals Procedure Bylaw No. 2
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/561?preview=20246>

September Dates to Remember

Monday, September 21st – NO SCHOOL (Non Instructional Day)



FOLLOW US ON



FACEBOOK!

We have been working hard at keeping our School Facebook Page more up to date this year. We are posting at least once per day, and sharing things like notices for field trips, weekly updates, amazing photos of our students' art, and of course some important reminders.

Please consider following our page at: fb.me/alexanderelementaryschool

