



# WINCHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**P.O. Box 1208, 140 Renz Road,  
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**[www.wes.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.wes.sd69.bc.ca)**

**Ian MacDonald, Principal  
Sheila Spendlove, Vice-Principal**

## **Newsletter #1 – September 8, 2009**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

The staff of Winchelsea Elementary would like to welcome all students and their families back from what seemed like an endless summer. Over the last several weeks we have been preparing the school and classrooms, ensuring that everything is in place for what we believe will be a GREAT year!!!

We would like to extend a special welcome to all the new families who have joined our school and community. We hope you will find Winchelsea to be a safe and caring environment in which your children will learn and grow. We encourage all parents to participate as fully as you can in the programs of the school, classroom activities, and the initiatives of the Parents Advisory Council. Please contact the school at any time if you have questions or information about your child that will assist us in responding to their needs and supporting them in their learning program.

We have had an extremely smooth start to our school year today and have added a number of new students from both within the school district, around the Province and across Canada.

### **CHANGES TO BUSSING REGISTRATION**

As in past years, students requesting transportation service must have a bus pass. However, unlike past years, not all students will be eligible for bus service. The District has had to reduce its bus fleet by 8 busses which has resulted in a complete redesign of its transportation system. To do this, the District will enforce walk limits to 3.2 km for kindergarten to Grade 5, 4.0 km for Grades 6 to 8 and 4.8 km for Grades 9 – 12. The system has been designed to assure transportation to their neighbourhood school for students living outside of the walk limits. Please see our website at [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) and click on "Transportation Information" to view the walk limits and collection points for your school.

Eligible riders are those students living outside the walk limits of their neighbourhood school. Registration fee for these riders is \$40 per student.

Courtesy riders are those riders who live within the walk limits of their neighbourhood school or who are cross-boundary; that is, attend a school other than their neighbourhood school. Transportation for courtesy riders will depend on whether there is room on the bus after eligible riders have registered. Priority will be given to the youngest student living furthest from their neighbourhood school, but within the walk limit. Registration fee for courtesy riders is \$100 per student.

### **PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 11, 2009.**

After September 11, 2009, all applications, whether they are from eligible or courtesy riders, will be considered on the same basis. PREFERENCE MAY NOT BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE WALK LIMITS IF THE APPLICATION IS RECEIVED AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2009.

The Board Office (100 Jensen Street, Parksville) will remain open until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, September the 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to receive applications.'

### **SEPTEMBER RECONNECTING START – CLASS PLACEMENT UPDATE**

As we shared with parents in June, as usual, we are beginning the year with a reconnecting start. Today students returned to their previous classroom and teacher, where they will remain for the first two days of school [Tues & Wed September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>]. During these two days we have planned a variety of classroom and whole school multi-aged learning activities with a focus on social responsibility. During this time our staff will be re-organizing classes and adding additional staff to reflect a growth in enrollment over the summer. On Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>, students will initially return to the classroom they have been in for Tuesday & Wednesday then move to their new and permanent classrooms.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Many of our families have pre-ordered school supplies. The bags of supplies have arrived, however we are waiting to distribute these until after Thursday when students have moved to their new classrooms. Also, we are asking students who have brought their own supplies to keep them packaged up until Thursday.

## **INDOOR SHOES**

One of the things that parents will notice is how clean and shiny our school is this year. Our new custodian Robert Lawrence has worked really hard all summer to make sure everything is sparkling and ready for student to learn. One of the ways that we can assist Robert to keep the floors and classrooms clean is by students having an extra pair of indoor shoes to wear whenever inside the building. This also helps us keep the carpeted areas in classrooms much cleaner and more sanitary to sit on. As usual at the beginning of the year we will be looking for students who are wearing marking soles which can quickly change the appearance of our floors.



## **Safe Attendance System**

Please call the school office in advance to notify us of student absences and late arrivals. Our answering machine will take messages before / after office hours so you may call at any time (250-248-3296). Late students must check in at the office, and parents picking up their child early are asked to also advise the office. If your child must go to a different location after school, please write a note to the classroom teacher.

## **Welcome Back to School Booklet**

For information on policies, general bus information, parent involvement, addresses, school calendar, Board of School Trustees and District Administrative staff, please refer to the "Welcome Back" booklet that students will be bringing home today.

## **Calendar of Events**

Sept 10	All grade 1-5 students move to new classrooms
Sept 11	Kindergarten students 1 <sup>st</sup> day
Sept 24	Open House @ WES 6-7 pm
Sept 24	Tour de Rock (around 2:00 pm)
Sept 25	School Based Planning Day – classes not in session

## **Community News**

**Parkville Ballet School** is open for registration now! Fall season begins on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. Dance classes for all ages (18 mths – adult). Ballet, Jazz, Kinder Classes, Musical Theatre, Tap, National Dance, Hip-Hop, Fusion and Modern. Please call 248-9522 for more info.

**Awana** – Oceanside Community Church presents a free BBQ and information session on Wed, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at their Church – 1420 Alberni Hwy. Please rsvp 250-248-5333 or [info@oceansidecommunitychurch.ca](mailto:info@oceansidecommunitychurch.ca)

**Brownies & Sparks** are holding registration on Wed, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> @ St Edmunds Church (at the corner of Wembley Rd & Church Rd – 407 Wembley). Between 6:30 – 7:30 pm.