



# Okanagan Landing

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER #1

September 2018

Welcome Back! The staff of Okanagan Landing Elementary School is pleased to welcome back all of our returning students and also extend a warm welcome to those students new to our school community and especially our new kindergarten students who are beginning their journey through school. I am very pleased to be joining this vibrant community of learners and look forward to meeting all of you over the next few weeks. My name is Jodi van der Meer and I join you from S.D. 83 where I have been a principal at three different schools over the past 14 years. I am very excited to move to the Vernon School District and invite you to drop by the school at any time to say hello. The teaching, support, and administrative staff at Okanagan Landing Elementary value strong parent-school relationships and encourage parents to become involved with our school community either through the P.A.C. or in your child's class. Please check with your child's teacher if you are interested in volunteer opportunities. We will all work together to make this a rewarding and successful year for our students.



### Bell Schedule

8:25	Warning Bell
8:30	Start
10:10 - 10:25	Recess
12:05 - 12:52	Lunch
2:30	Dismissal

\* Please remember to pick your children up *after* the final bell. Final announcements and important information is announced at the end of each day.



### New Staff

We are pleased to welcome back most staff members, as well as many new staff members to the school. The following people have joined our staff this fall: Mrs. Kenniphaas (gr. 1); Mr. Nekrash (gr. 6/7 with Mrs. Sutch); Ms. Seabourne (k/1); Mr. Aujla (SBRT); Ms. Parsons (Lit/Numeracy Support and gr. 1/2 with Mrs. Ward); Ms. Sood (Fine Arts Prep.); Ms. Jmayoff (Literacy Intervention); Ms. Gendron (CEA); Ms. Jones (CEA); Mr. Greene (Head Custodian). Please help us to make them all feel welcome at our school.

### Office Phone

Please remember that the phone outside the office is for emergency calls only, not for making after school arrangements. After school arrangements are to be made the day before.



### Arrive Safe Program - Volunteers Needed!

We need a small group of parents to run this morning program. The Arrive Safe program ensures the safety of our students. If your child is not going to be at school or will be late, please call the school before 8:30 to let us know. At 8:45, an Arrive Safe parent will check attendance and phone the homes of any students unaccounted for. Please contact Mrs. van der Meer or Mrs. Colley (542-1181) if you are able to volunteer to be a Safe Arrival parent. Thank-you.



**School individual and class photos** will to be taken on October 2 and 3 with re-takes on November 7.



### School Newsletters

Newsletters will come out once a month at the end of the month. The first newsletter will be sent home with the **youngest or only** member of the family attending our school. After the first newsletter, we will email the monthly newsletter to all families unless you request a paper copy. A calendar of events will be included with each newsletter. Please keep this handy so you are aware of what is going on at OKL. The school calendar and newsletter are also on our web page, [www.okl.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.okl.sd22.bc.ca). You need to have a current email address on file at the school in order for you to complete annual online consent forms through Parent Connect this September. Please complete the necessary forms before September 28. Thank-you.



### Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run is set for **Friday, September 21, time TBA**. Parents are welcome to join us to run or walk. We will run our regular route around the school and neighbourhood. We hope to collect a toonie from each student in our school to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation. Donations will be collected during the week leading up to the run. If you have any questions or would like to help out the day of the run, please contact Mrs. Sutch at the school. Thank-you.



### School Washrooms

For safety reasons, we request that adults using the school washrooms use the washrooms marked "staff." Not only are they a better scale for adults, it keeps our washrooms safe for our students who may be uncomfortable using a washroom where there is an adult who they don't know. Thank-you.



## Student Placement

We take a great deal of care when placing students, considering many factors, including parent requests. However, we are not always able to accommodate requests while ensuring the best placements for all students. When we formulated the 2018/2019 classes, the following factors (in no particular priority) were taken into consideration:

- behavioural and social dynamics
- family relationships
- academic abilities and learning challenges
- teaching / learning styles
- personalities
- parent requests

Our intent is to have well balanced classes that will maximize student learning. Because of our student numbers there will always be some split classes. Student placement is a well thought out process based on sound educational practices. Although friendship may be considered, generally it is not highly significant when compared to other placement factors. Your support in accepting your child's placement will help smooth the transition for your son or daughter. Thank-you.

*\*Due to a high number of new students who registered at OKL over the summer, we may not be able to enroll students in their new classes on Thursday. We will send home email updates to keep you informed.*



## Parking Lot Safety

For the safety of our students, please do not use the bus lane to park at any time. Please arrange to meet your child outside either at their classroom entrance or one of the school entrances to ensure they get safely to your car. Check with your child's teacher to find out the best place to meet. Please do not park along the yellow curb or in the fenced handicapped parking area unless you have the appropriate designation. Thank-you for helping us keep all of our kids safe.



## School Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner for school. School is our student's workplace, so please keep this in mind when selecting what they will wear for the day. Students will be asked to change or will be provided with alternate clothing if their outfit is not suitable for the school environment. If you have any questions regarding the school's dress code, please contact Mrs. van der Meer or Mrs. Sutch at the school. Thank-you.



## Student Supervision

Morning supervision begins once the first bus arrives (~7:45 am). After school supervision is at the front of the school only, until the buses leave. For safety reasons, students *should not* wait for parents at the back playground. Please meet your children at the front of the school where supervision is provided. Thank-you. Please keep in mind that the school is responsible for your children from the time they leave home for school until they return home after school. Literally, "from fence post to fence post". For this reason, it is important that all students, bussing or walking, **go directly home after school**. If they wish to return to the school to play **after checking in at home**, it is up to parents to make that decision. Once the buses have gone, there is no supervision at the school and the doors are locked. Please be vigilant about teaching your children about safety to and from school. They should always walk with a buddy or a small group. Ensure that your child knows to go directly to and from school. Thank-you.



## Bussing

To check on your child's bus stop and time, go to [www.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.sd22.bc.ca) and click on the school bus icon. Sign in as a guest with the password guest; select your child's grade and enter their name and address. Students require a note from their parents to ride on a bus other than their regular bus or if they wish to take the bus with a friend after school. These notes are given to the bus driver who may grant permission to ride the bus if there is adequate seating. Permission is not guaranteed. Please make these arrangements ahead of time. The bussing number is 549-9281. Press "0" to talk to someone there.



## Garbage free Snacks

Please help us keep our playground litter free by sending litter free snacks to school with your children. Some suggestions are granola bars, cookies, and fruit which can be peeled before leaving the building. If we continue to work together, we can maintain a clean, healthy environment, both inside and outside of our school. Thank-you for your support with this effort. Please also remember to send any hot lunch items in a thermos as items cannot be heated at school.



## Custody

If there are legal issues regarding your child's custody, please bring the legal documentation and photos to the school office so that we can develop any necessary safety plans.



## Allergies and Medication

We have students in our school who have severe peanut allergies. Please be sensitive to this when you are choosing items for your child's lunch. Thank-you.

\*If your child has a severe allergy please let the office staff and your child's teacher know immediately. An epi-

pen or other medication needs to be provided for the school and a **Request for Administration of Medical/Emergency Treatment of Anaphylaxis form** needs to be filled out by your child's physician and signed by you. Both of these forms can be picked up at the office.

 **Bicycles and Wheels**

Students need to lock their bicycles when they are at school. Bicycles and scooters are to be **walked** on the school grounds to the bicycle racks and are only to be used during the school day during designated times on the basketball court. Scooters can be taken directly into the school for storage during the day. Students must wear a helmet if they are riding a bike or scooter. As a safety measure, very young students should be accompanied by an adult if they are riding their bike or scooter to school.

 **PAC News**

This year's first PAC meeting will take place within the first few weeks of school. Please stay posted for exact meeting times. There will also be a PAC sponsored welcome back event this month which will give everyone an opportunity to meet new staff and students to our school community. The PAC elections will take place at a formal meeting following this event. In addition to executive members, the Pac is always looking for members at large so please consider getting involved with this important parent group at our school. Information regarding fall PAC events will be sent home soon.

 **2018-2019 Fees:**

At Okanagan Landing Elementary School, fees are charged for agendas, cultural presentations, and school supplies. Activities above and beyond those provided by the standard B.C. curriculum (fieldtrips, guest instructors, guest speakers to classrooms) will be charged, by event, as the activities occur throughout the year. No student will be denied access to a school sponsored program/activity for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point or as the year progresses, please contact Mrs. van der Meer, Principal, to discuss payment options.

Type of fee	Amount	Acquisition details
Agenda only	\$10.00	Provided for each child, gr. 1-7
Cultural fee only	\$5.00	Covers 3-4 performances per year
Kindergarten	\$50.00	Includes agenda, cultural fee, and school supplies
Grade 1-3	\$65.00	"
Grade 4-7	\$70.00	"

*School fees can be handed in to your child's classroom teacher.*

 **A School with Heart**

We continue to work hard with our students to develop respectful behaviours. One way we do this is by modelling the behaviours we wish to see in our students. The influence of positive adult behaviour on a child's development and how they will respond to "the rules" cannot be understated. For this reason, we ask that parents not only support the school rules by reminding their children of them, but that parents also adhere to the rules. Please remember that there is always the opportunity to address a rule which you have concerns about. Please contact Mrs. van der Meer if you wish to talk about any concerns you may have. Thank-you for working with us as we work to develop socially positive citizens.

 **Team Coaches**

If you have a talent for a particular sport and you would like to share that with our students, please let Mrs. van der Meer or Mrs. Sutch know. We are always looking for additional coaches for our sports teams. Every year the grade 6 and 7 students participate in the following sports: Volleyball and Basketball As well, there is cross country running and track and field in the spring.



At Okanagan Landing Elementary School we believe:

- **Be respectful**
- **Be responsible**
- **Be safe**

