



RUTHERFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
5840 HAMMOND BAY ROAD
NANAIMO, B.C. V9T 5M6
PHONE 250-758-5331 FAX 250-751-0829

Jeff Hasenauer, Principal Nina Sanderson, Secretary
<http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/rutherford/>

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 6

January 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all students, staff and parents of Rutherford Elementary School. Best wishes for a very successful, happy and prosperous 2016. Your child(ren) and the staff have returned from their break refreshed and ready for the learning opportunities that lie ahead. As January unfolds, it is a perfect opportunity to re-establish routines and regular habits to support your child(ren's) school life. Here are six ways to assist you in this regard:

1. Regular bedtimes with time for brushing teeth, bathing and quiet reading time helps to calm active children and enable them to sleep well each night.
2. Consistent wakeup times, healthy breakfasts and sufficient time to dress and gather school books enables children to begin the school day on time and in a calm way.
3. Regular daily homework time (with parental support as needed) is essential to help children feel competent and confident in class.
4. Ensure there is a balance between active play and television or computer time. Time with friends and family is essential to developing positive social skills and sense of belonging.
5. Computers should be in a highly visible area of the house. A child's computer time must be monitored and should follow specific safety guidelines regarding site and program access.
6. Share a caring conversation and a smile with your child each day.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS **FOR 2016-17**

Registration for Kindergarten for September 2016 is underway. Complete information about registration will be available on the school district website www.sd68.bc.ca.

Early and Late French Immersion Application Process

Families interested in this process should check the SD #68 website.

A Special Note About Grade 7-8 Registration

Our Grade 7 students are automatically "transitioned" to Dover Secondary, as Dover is the high school that our school "feeds" in to. There is no need to apply for Dover Secondary as this is automatically taken care of for your child.

Grade 7 students, with the consent of their parent/guardian, who wish to transfer to a secondary school other than our designated high school (Dover) are required to complete an Out-of-Catchment application form and submit **this form to the high school your child wishes to attend. The out of catchment registration started on January 4th and concludes on March 31st. Applications are on a first come, first served, basis so early registration is encouraged.** There is more information at www.sd68.bc.ca.

There is no guarantee that your out of catchment request will be granted at the high school level, however the form is needed at that school to start the process. Please let Mr. Hasenauer know if this is the case for your child and/or if you have any further questions about this process.

If you currently live in the catchment area of another high school and your child plans to attend that high school (ie not Dover) please ensure the student registration forms are completed and submitted to that high school. There is no out of catchment form necessary in this case; however registration needs to be done by June 15th. If this is the case for your child please let Mr. Hasenauer know.

GRADE 7 PARENT NIGHT AT DOVER BAY

There will be an information night and tour of the school for parents of the incoming grade 7's at Dover Bay Secondary School on *March 1, 6:30-8:00 PM*. The grade 8 program will be reviewed and the transition process for Dover Bay. *This can be quite a full evening, so Dover Bay asks that parents do not bring students to this night.*

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT 2016

GRADE 4 and 7:

In January and February, all Grades 4 and 7 students in British Columbia will be taking the provincial Foundations Skills Assessments (FSAs) in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. This year, the FSAs will be administered between January 11 and February 18th.

Are you curious about the content of the Foundation Skills Assessment or FSAs given to all elementary students in British Columbia in Grades 4 and 7? If yes, take a look at the sample questions at the following web address:

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/sample_tests.htm

Students with challenges or who do not comprehend or speak English well enough to be able to meaningfully complete the assessment may be excused. In addition, the Ministry allows principals and parents to excuse students in "extenuating circumstances" (those circumstances which are unforeseen, unexpected, and significantly disruptive and beyond a student's control).

This Foundation Skills Assessment provides a province-wide snapshot of how well students are learning the prescribed learning outcomes for reading, writing and numeracy across British Columbia. While there is debate about how the results are used by the Fraser Institute to compare schools, at present, this is the only province-wide assessment we have to review how well our students

are mastering the expectations set out in our provincial curriculum guidelines.

BASKETBALL

Basketball season will begin the week of February 15th. At this time, we still have need of a coach or coaches for Bantam and Pee Wee boys teams, depending on numbers. Volunteer coaches will be required to go through a criminal record check. We are also in need of referees for our basketball season (schedule TBD). If you are interested in officiating or coaching or need more information please contact me by phone or email: jeff.hasenauer@sd68.bc.ca

PARENTS & VISITORS IN THE SCHOOL

In order to help ensure student safety and to minimize interruptions and disruptions to our students' learning, we request the following:

- Everyone coming into the school or onto our playground after 8:45 AM is asked to check in at the office and to get a visitor's pass if they are volunteering in the school. This allows us to know who is in the building should an emergency arise.
- If picking up children for appointments or dropping items off during the school day, please check in at the office and a call will be made to the classroom.
- If you are picking up your child during recess or lunch recess, please identify yourself to one of the playground supervisors.

These measures will help ensure our students are kept safe and that we know who is on the playground and in the building at any time. Thank you for your support with this important safety issue.

READY, SET, LEARN

Each year Rutherford School holds a Ready, Set, Learn event for pre-school aged children. At the time of writing, our event is still in the discussion phase. Further details will be published as they are confirmed.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

We thank you for ensuring your child comes to school with appropriate rain and cool weather clothing. At Rutherford we believe in the importance of fresh air and outside play for all students and appreciate your assistance in this regard.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURE

It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice.

If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.



We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, www.sd68.bc.ca, and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. **If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.**

We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.

HEAD LICE

Now that we are back at school it is time to remind everyone that LICE love to hang out in schools and other buildings where there are lots of warm heads. Prevention is needed to help stop the spread of these pesky, yet non-health threatening creatures. Please check your child(ren)'s heads on a regular basis and inform the school if you notice any nits or live bugs.

If you discover your child(ren) has head lice please notify the office so a letter can be sent notifying other families that there has been a case of head lice in the class. This letter includes instructions of how to check and treat head lice.

Below are suggestions for treating head lice. Further information can be found on the "Parent" page on the school website under "school documents. If you require further information please contact the Health Unit at 755-3345.

Thank you for working together to control this problem. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

SUGGESTED TREATMENT FOR HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT

- Wash the hair with usual shampoo and rinse.
- Put a lot of (1/2 cup) inexpensive conditioner on the hair.
- Untangle the hair using a wide-toothed comb; leave the conditioner in.
- Comb the hair with a lice comb (special metal comb available at pharmacies).
- Divide the hair into small sections; for thick hair you will have to divide it into smaller sections.
- Place the teeth of the comb next to the scalp and draw comb down full length of hair.
- If the comb tugs the hair add more conditioner or turn the comb around (usually the lice combs are beveled and combing toward the scalp/hair is more comfortable and pulls less).
- After each stroke, rinse the comb in a sink or bowl of warm water and wipe dry, then check the comb for lice (you don't want to give them a ride back to the head).
- Continue section by section until all hair is combed.

Note: It takes about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or more to comb the whole head.

If you find live head lice:

- Repeat the above treatment starting with the conditioner.
- Check all other family member's heads (wet and conditioned).
- REPEAT THE SUGGESTED TREATMENT EVERY 3 TO 4 DAYS FOR 2 WEEKS ON THE HEADS THAT HAVE LICE. This will remove the lice as they hatch, and before they are able to mate and move to another head.

If you choose to use a pesticide shampoo, we recommend that you only use one treatment. For re-infestation, use the combing-conditioning treatment described above.

For more information, please contact the local Public Health Unit at 755-3345.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| January 19 | PAC Meeting 7pm |
| January 29 | Curriculum Day: schools closed |
| February 8 | BC Family Day |
| February 16 | PAC Meeting 7pm |
| February 22 | District Pro D Day |
| February 23 | Pro D Day |
| March 15 | PAC Meeting 7:00pm |
| March 9 | Term 2 Report Cards issued |
| March 11 | Last day of classes before Spring Vacation |
| March 29 | Schools re-open after Spring Vacation |
| March 25 | Good Friday |
| March 28 | Easter Monday |
| April 19 | PAC Meeting 7pm |
| April 22 | School Track Meet |
| May 13 | Pro D Day: school closed. |
| May 16 | Curriculum Day: school closed. |
| May 23 | Victoria Day |
| May 17 | PAC Meeting 7pm |
| May 25 | Zone Track Meet |
| June 9 | District Track Meet |
| June 29 | Last Day of School |