



ANDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

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Anderson School

This Week's News! – May 8th – May 12th



Grade 3-5 Soccer – Starting Next Week!

Spring Soccer Fun

- All Anderson students between Grades 3-5 are welcome.
- Meet in the Anderson soccer field every Friday (except May 19th – Pro-D Day) from 8:10-8:40 AM. Starts on May 12th and ends Friday, June 23rd.
- Bring runners, athletic clothes, and a water bottle.
- Hosted by Mme Pauer and Mme Szeto.
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Student Breakfast Club – SO MUCH FUN!



What a great way to start the day! Special thanks to our MANY parent volunteers who helped set up, make pancakes, hand out food and drinks, and clean up. Breakfast Club managed to feed about 200 students and about 75 parents! It was great to see so many smiling faces while enjoying a nutritious breakfast. Special thanks to Raseel for coordinating all the volunteers. Wonderful Anderson Spirit! We look forward to the

next Breakfast Club on June 2nd!

Congratulations to Anderson's Lunch Hour Band!

Special thanks to Mr. Choinski and our Lunch Hour Band for their magnificent performance at the Gateway Theatre on Wednesday Night. Congratulations, as it was great to see your hard work and practice pay off! The audience was thoroughly impressed with the quality of all the performances! Well Done, Anderson!



Supporting Richmond Art!

Hello Anderson Families,

We need your help! Anderson students can support an art installation at the Richmond Art Gallery. Amy Claire Huestis, the artist-in-residence at the Richmond Art Gallery is creating a large bird's nest using recycled materials.

The nest installation in the gallery will be a place for children's book readings, for dance performances, and for conservationists and scientists to share their knowledge and stories. The exhibit will open to the public on June 29th.

Please collect and send into the school all your:

- Bubble wrap
- Plastic padded mailing envelopes
- Styrofoam packing peanuts



(Please note: Please do not purchase these materials. Anything you already have at home and can donate to the school is great!)

- √ Materials can be sent to school beginning on Monday, May 1 and ending Friday, May 12.
- √ There will be collection boxes in the foyer near the Multi Purpose room.

Thank you for supporting this project and reusing materials!

Understanding Combined Classes

It's the time of year when the Anderson staff begins to look at building classes for next year. Staff work very hard to ensure that all students are successful.

Often, the philosophy behind combined classes is misunderstood by parents. Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. In a combined grade 4 and 5 class, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities. **We do not place all of our strongest grade 5 learners into a grade 5/6 when a grade 4/5 classroom is also available.**

Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing individual educational plans where warranted for students who are slower or faster to develop.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Combined classes can help students form broader and more varied friendships as older students provide role models for younger students. Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs well. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry of Education.



Parent Input – Class Placements

Each year at this time, we begin to make school organization plans for September based upon the number of students we know are returning and new registrations that we have received. Before school ends in June, your child's current classroom teacher, resource teacher, educational assistants and administrators will work together to place students for the upcoming school year. These plans are tentative until the first week in September when final student numbers are known. In the first few days of September, all staff meets to confirm teaching assignments and review student placements.

In the organizational meetings, many factors are considered when placing students. These considerations include:

- learning styles and strengths
- work habits
- social/personal characteristics
- gender balance
- special needs
- friendship groups
- ELL levels
- contractual obligations
- age and physical maturity



If you would like the opportunity to provide the school with information about your child's placement for next year, you are welcome to complete a Parent Input form by **Friday, May 26th, 2023**. Please email Mr. Harrington at sharrington@sd38.bc.ca to request an input form – electronic copy. You are also able to pick up a paper version from the school office.

The information you provide should **not include a request for a specific teacher** but rather some important personal or educational information that will assist us in our decision. Students who work well together or recent/ongoing conflict with other children would be helpful in placing students.

With limited placement possibilities, **input can be considered but never guaranteed.** All information provided will be shared with the teacher(s) and taken into consideration. Please be aware the final decision regarding placement will be a school-based decision.

Accepting input after the Friday, May 26th is often problematic, as each child placed into a classroom is an important part of the structure that helps create a positive learning environment for all children placed. Like a house of cards, pulling one from the pile often impacts others and we would like to avoid this scenario.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 9th Grade 4-7 Track Attack (1:30 – 2:30 pm) weather dependent

Wednesday, May 17th **MunchaLunch - SUBWAY DAY**



Friday, May 19th Professional Development Day – **School not in session**

Monday, May 22nd Victoria Day – **School not in session**

Wednesday, May 24th Minoru Track Meet (For a selection of students in Grade 4-7)

