



Thompson Times

Thinking - Learning - Caring

June 2, 2017

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

It is hard to believe that it is the last month of school already. This year has been a great year! All of our students have continued to grow as learners and have continued to develop socially and emotionally. The success of our students is a direct result of the learning community that they belong to. To be supported by a caring and dedicated staff and connected families has allowed each student to grow, make mistakes and learn.

Over my five years at Thompson, I have been impressed by, and grateful for the community that exists in our school. I thank each of you for your support during my time at Thompson, for your patience and your trust as I learned the Principal role.

I will remember and cherish my time as a Thompson Tiger and will miss the students, staff and community.

But in leaving comes a new opportunity for growth and change. **Mr. Juhasz** will be an excellent addition to the school. He is looking forward to coming to Thompson and I know that he will be welcomed just as I was.

For those students, staff and families that are leaving Thompson, we wish you the best of luck. Please keep in touch.

To our Grade 7 students, remember the lessons learned here at Thompson and apply them in your daily lives and you will do well in life. The best of luck to each of you.

On behalf of the staff, we wish everyone a fantastic summer, one filled with fun, adventure and relaxation. I look forward to when our path cross again.

Mr. D. Cherry
Principal

Upcoming Events / Announcements

Staffing Update

Mrs. Svenkeson, who has been on maternity leave for the year, has posted into a job share position at Hamilton.

We wish her the best of luck in her new role and thank her for all of her efforts at Thompson.



Mrs. Keung will also sadly be leaving the school at the end of the year. Mrs. Keung has been an Educational Assistant at Thompson for the past two years. Her enthusiasm, care and hard work will be missed next year. We wish her the best of luck in her new position at Spul'u'kwuks Elementary.

Sports Day

We have been busy planning our Sports Day for this year. It will be held on

Friday, June 9th.

Our theme for this year is Canada in

celebration of our country's 150th birthday. Start planning your costumes now! Remember we want students to be dressed in their team colours (red, blue, green or yellow) and to be dressed in costume if possible.

Check with your child's teacher if you are not sure what colour team your child is on. **Students will need to come to school for 8:30 am, but our actual Sports day events will not start until 9:00 am and dismissal will be at approximately 1:45 pm.** We encourage family members to come and cheer on the children and show Canadian pride by wearing red and white.



Outdoor Learning Area

The School District Grounds Crew has been working at completing our outdoor learning area. So far they have added rocks



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Mr. D. Cherry, Principal

Mrs. K. D'Angelo, Area Superintendent Mrs. Alice Wong, School Liaison Trustee

School web page: thompson.sd38.bc.ca

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and logs to the area. Mulch plants will be added in the fall. The outdoor learning area will provide staff and students with a gathering area, for learning as well as a place for students to experience outdoor play and inquiry. The outdoor learning area was made possible through the generous donations of parents in our school community.

Student Leadership Pizza Party

At Thompson, we have a long-standing tradition of providing opportunities for all grade 5, 6 and 7 students to give back to their school community. In recognition of their service to the school we are planning to host a PAC sponsored **pizza luncheon for them on Thursday, June 15th**.

Talent Show

Congratulations to the students who participated in the talent show last week. Everyone did a great job!

Track and Field

Congratulations to all of our students who took part in the zone track meet last Thursday! The students did a terrific job of showing their STRIPES, competing hard and having fun. Thank you to all the parents who were there to cheer on our students and also to all staff who helped organize the day and supervised children during the event.



Band Concert

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 13th at 6:30 pm** in our gym to see our band students showcase their talents.

Year End Assembly and Grade 7 Farewell Assembly

Like last year, we will be hosting two assemblies at the end of the year. The first assembly will be on **Friday June 23rd**. At this assembly, we will be saying good-bye to leaving staff, sharing the year end slide show and recognizing student leadership. The Grade 7 Farewell Assembly will take place on **Thursday, June 29th** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. At this assembly, we will recognize and celebrate our Grade 7's.

Report Card Changes – Third Term

This year children have been engaged in reflection and self-assessment of their learning in relation to the core competencies of thinking, communication, self-awareness and social responsibility. For the third term a self-assessment document will either be attached to the third term report card or it will be posted on the students' digital portfolio (scholantis) for parents to refer to.

Thompson Says Thanks to....

Special Thanks to: Ms. Conway, Ms. Feng, Ms. Zhang and Ms. Hadley, our four UBC teacher candidates, for being such a valuable part of our staff for the past 10 weeks.

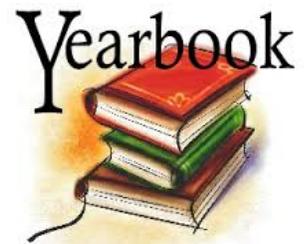
We have enjoyed having you in the school and we wish you the best of luck in your careers.

Thank-you **Mrs. Heinrichs, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Smith** and our **Grade 5 helpers** and **Thompson Staff** for organizing the Volunteer Appreciation tea. Also to **Mrs. Rose** for getting us ready for Sports day and to **Mr van der Veer** for organizing the talent show.

We also want to thank **Mrs. McCaskill**, Thompson staff and all of the student helpers who ran Friday Morning Drop In's this year.

2017/18 - Year Book

A special thank you to our yearbook committee led by **Kathy Tsakumis, Sophia Hsieh, Harjeet Manhas, Elly Cheung, Didi Ho, Elizabeth Ritchie and Grace Lu** and all of the Grade 7 students who were on the committee. The year-book looks amazing thanks to all of your hard work! We all appreciate the many hours that you have put in to create this very special memory for all of us.



PAC News

We had a great turnout for our May PAC meeting. At the meeting the 2017/18 PAC Executive Positions were filled by the following parents:



Jen Dahl – Chairperson

Harjeet Manhas – Vice Chairperson

Crystal Shutian Huang – Treasurer

Mandy Lichtman and Olivia Berumen - Secretary

A special thank you to all parents who were involved in the PAC this year. Your involvement was greatly appreciated by staff and students.

September Welcome Back Reception

The PAC is looking for volunteers to help with the welcome back family reception on Tuesday, September 5th. If you are interested in helping out, please let Jen Dahl know.

Reminders

Items at School

We have noticed that over the last few weeks many students have been bringing their personal belongings to school (Pokemon Cards, toys, electronics etc.). I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about our policies regarding bringing personal items to school.

Any personal items (e.g. toys, electronics, etc.) should **not** be brought to school. We are not able to guarantee their safe-keeping and as a result, cannot be held responsible for their loss, damage, or theft. If your child brings these items to school, you assume 100% responsibility for the item.

Many students have also brought fidget spinners to the school. Unless required by the school for a student's educational programming (determined by staff) these should also be left at home, as they tend to be used more like a toy than an actual learning aid.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

First Week of School Schedule

September 5th - Tuesday

- Grades 1 to 7 students (**This is a change from previous years:**

Report to school at 8:45 a.m. to their last year's teacher. Students will be dismissed at 9:45 a.m.

- Kindergarten students will attend in the afternoon only, from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

September 6th to September 8th (Wednesday to Friday)

- Grades 1 to 7 students:
Full day attendance:
8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Kindergarten students will receive a separate letter by mail in early July outlining their gradual entry to school

Sun Safety



With warm, sunny weather just around the corner, it is important to be reminded of the importance of sun safety. Here are a few tips from Health Canada.

- * Plan to be outside in the early morning or late afternoon.
- * Stay in the shade and out of the hot sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- * If you are in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., wear long pants, long sleeves and a hat with a wide brim to protect your skin from sunburn.

* Wear sunglasses that provide UVA and UVB protection.

* Use a sunscreen lotion or cream that is Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 15 or more.

* Use a sunscreen that says "broad-spectrum" on the label. It will screen out most of the UVA and UVB rays.

* Put sunscreen on your skin 20 minutes before you go out and reapply 20 minutes after being out in the sun to ensure even application of the product and better protection.

* Don't forget your lips, ears and nose. These parts of your body burn easily.

* Sunscreen gets washed off by water and sweat. So, put more sunscreen on after you go swimming or if you are sweating.

NOTICE OF LATE RETURN

If your child is expected to return to school LATER THAN 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 and ON or BEFORE September 15th, 2017 (due to extenuating circumstances), please submit a Notice of Late Return Form to the school principal, if possible, **before June 23, 2017** so that the student's place in the school may be reserved.



Calendar of Events

June

- 3 - Mad Science - **Last Workshop**
- 9 - Sports Day/ Pizza Day
- 13 - Band Concert 1:30 and 6:30 pm
- 14 - Welcome to Kindergarten - 1:15
- 15 - Student Leadership pizza luncheon
- 22 - Grade 7 Farewell Dinner and Dance 4- 7pm
- 23 - Year End Assembly
- 29 - Report Cards Sent Home
- 29 - Gr. 7 Farewell Assembly - 9:00 am
- 29 - Pro - D Day early dismissal at 11:30 am - Last Day of School**

Summer Break is from June 30th - September 4th, 2017

Class Organization Process for 2017-2018

In the process of determining class placements, there is a number of **student and school organizational considerations** involved that we consider prior to making a placement decision. As experienced, professional educators we are sensitive to the needs of each student and review these factors in an educationally sound manner to ensure the best placement possible for our students within existing school operational resources and constraints.

Student considerations in determining placement include:

- Learning styles and strengths
- Age and physical maturity
- Past academic performance and term goals
- Special learning needs
- Degree of independence in work habits
- Previous year's placement including history of placement in the upper or lower grades of a combined class
- Social and personal characteristics (friendships)
- Educational and personal information received from parents about the child

School organizational considerations include:

- Creating heterogeneous (mixed ability) rather than homogeneous class groupings
- Creating a balanced academic and social/emotional educational classroom setting
- Equitable class size and composition assignments as defined by contract

The process for creating class groupings is as follows:

Step 1: Gathering information. During the early part of June, staff will collect and condense information for each student with respect to the student considerations listed above.

Often parents are able to provide their child's teacher with new information about their child not previously shared. This may include written information about the qualities of the learning environment they feel their child needs for next year. A format for that written input is included below. We would ask that this information NOT include comments about/requests for specific teachers.

Please note that I will be sharing all information received from parents with staff as we conduct our discussions around placement decisions. All information will be shared; there will be no private and confidential information with respect to class placement.

Accordingly, I will be discouraging any private meetings with the administration around placement matters, partly for that reason but also because it is simply not manageable for the principal to meet with every parent about a child's placement for next year. That is a dialogue that is best conducted, if necessary, in a respectful manner between the parents and the child's teacher - both of whom should know the child far better than the principal.

Step 2: Meeting together in grade groupings with the administration. In late June, we will combine the information received from parents along with our knowledge of the children in a school setting to make the best placements we can with the resources provided and the constraints that exist within our system. The goal will be to create heterogeneous, cohesive groups of learners for a positive learning environment.

Step 3: Reviewing and adjusting. At the end of June and during the first few days at school in September, the child's present and future teacher, along with the principal, will review the class composition to account for children who may have moved or who may have registered late and been placed in the school by the district's student placement officer. Please feel free to contact Mr. Cherry if you have any questions or suggestions regarding this process. Please feel free to complete the form below with the information you feel may be important for your child's teacher to know in helping to determine class placement for next year. **Return it to Mrs. Fung in the office by June 9, 2017.** If you feel it necessary to communicate more information than the form allows, then please feel free to contact your child's teacher during the next two weeks with that information.

Parent Information re: Class Placement 2017/18

Please print out this form, fill it out and return to the school office by June 9, 2017

Child's Name: _____ Present Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

- 1) Important learning environment considerations for my child for next year are:

- 2) Important social/emotional considerations for my child next year are:

- 3) Other important information:

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

* We cannot accept late requests after the deadline of June 9th, 2017.