



# Thompson Times

Thinking - Learning - Caring

September 9th, 2016

Welcome back to



Dear Students and/or Parents/Guardians:

We wish to extend the warmest of greetings to both those who are new to our school community and those who are returning. We hope that you all had a wonderful summer break. We are excited to be back today and look forward to another great school year, full of many possibilities for us all!

Throughout the year we encourage all of you to come into the school, connect with us and check out the fabulous learning going on. To keep connected electronically to the school please visit our school website @thompson.sd38.bc.ca or follow us on twitter @thomptigers1. Our hope is that more families will use our website and twitter to get information about the school. If you have any questions please feel free to ask. It is going to be a great year! We can't wait to get started!

Mr. D. Cherry on behalf of the Thompson Staff

### Staff Changes

Over the summer we have very few staff changes. Mrs. Svenkeson is on maternity leave. Filling in for her will be Ms Daredia, LRT/ELL Teacher. Welcome Ms. Daredia to Thompsom!



### Teaching Staff 2016-2017

Mr. D. Cherry	Principal
Mr. C. van der Veer	Div. 1. Grade6/7 Teacher
Mr. K. Dimmick	Div. 2 Grade 6/7 Teacher
Mrs. L McCaskill	Div. 3 Grade 5/6 Teacher
Mr. N. Badyal	Div. 4 Grade 4 Teacher
Mrs. C. Heinrichs	Div. 5 Grade 3/4 Teacher
Mrs. K. Watts	Div. 6 Grade 2/3 Teacher
Mrs. T. Rose	Div. 7 Grade 1/2 Teacher
Mrs. L. Byrne	Div. 8 Grade 1/ Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. A. Smith	Learning Resource Teacher
Ms. M. Wiens	Learning Resource Teacher
Ms. F. Daredia	Learning Resource Teacher
Mrs. J. Fong	Teacher-Librarian
Ms. L. Duthie	Music Teacher

### Educational Assistants

Mrs. D. Hansen Mrs. Keung  
Mr. G. McLeod Mrs. N. McLeod  
Mrs. T. Silva Mrs. N. Scott

### Senior Admin. Assistant

Mrs. K. Fung

### Noon Hour Supervisors

Mrs. Y. Yan  
Mrs. M. Ng-Tam

### Custodians

Mr. J. Saria  
Mr. R. Austria

Ms Z. Ratanshi	ECSW
Ms C. Berton	Hearing Resource
Mrs. L. Fehr	Speech/Language
Mrs. P. Chu	SWIS
Mrs. J. Uppal	StrongStart ECE Educator

### SCHOOL HOURS

Just a reminder of the school hours at Thompson.

8:40	First morning bell
8:45	Morning classes begin
10:15-10:30	Recess break
12:10-1:02	Lunch break-Play first
1:05	Afternoon classes begin
<b>2:45</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

### School Supplies/ Planners - CAN NOW PAY ON-LINE

Next week we will be sending home information on how you can pay for school supplies and planners on-line. We are encouraging all families to use this new service.

### ALLERGIES: NUT AWARE SCHOOL

All families should be aware that Thompson School is a "Nut Aware" school. Since we have students who are deathly allergic to nuts, we need to TRY and make the entire school "Nut Free". Please **DO NOT SEND FOOD TO SCHOOL CONTAINING NUTS.**



### DARE PROGRAM

Our D.A.R.E. program for grade 5's will be starting on September 21st. This program empowers students to live safe and healthy lives through personal choice. It is sponsored by the Richmond R.C.M.P. and will run until December.



Thompson Elementary School 6211 Forsyth Crescent, Richmond B.C. V7C 2C4  
Tel: 604 668-6420 Fax: 604 668-6490 Early Warning Answering Machine: 604 668-6426

Mr. D. Cherry, Principal

Mrs. K. D'Angelo, Area Superintendent Mr. Jonathan Ho, School Liaison Trustee

School web page: thompson.sd38.bc.ca

### **Friday Morning Drop In at Thompson**

Friday morning Drop In will begin on September 16, 2016 from 8:00am – 8:35am in the gym. All students are invited to come to the gym to enjoy a light breakfast and some activities. Student leaders under supervision from Mrs. McCaskill and Thompson staff will be running the program again this year.

### **Terry Fox Run**

We have scheduled the Terry Fox Run for **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 – 2:30**. Please come out and join us for this important fund raising event.



### **Meet the Staff Evening**

We are looking forward to our first community event at Thompson! On **Thursday, September 22nd** we will be holding our Meet the Staff Night from **5:30 – 6:30 pm**. M&M Meats will provide food. Everyone is encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity to meet school staff, connect with them and it will also be a chance to reconnect with families in the Thompson community. Please return order forms to school office by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The shape of the evening is as follows:

- 5:30 – 6:00 pm. - Classroom visits with staff
- 6:00 – 6:15 pm - Community Gathering and BBQ
- 6:15 – 6:30 pm - Opening year comments, introduction of staff by Mr. Cherry and welcome back slide show.

### **Nova Food Orders**

We are once again offering Nova Food Orders at Thompson. Families can start to pre-order lunches for the remainder of September and the month of October. If your family is interested in ordering lunches from Nova Foods, please have your child pick up an order form in the office.



### **Strong Start Early Learning Centre at Thompson**

Thompson's Strong Start Early Learning Centre in Room 10 will be open on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This program is for children not yet in Kindergarten, focusing on 3 and 4 year olds and their parents or guardians. Registration is on a drop-in basis. The hours will be Monday Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 am to 12:00 and Tuesday only from 11:45 am to 2:15 pm. The facilitator will be **Jindy Uppal**, who has a background in Early Childhood Education. If you need more information, please visit our school website or the Ministry of Education website at:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/strongstart\\_bc/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/strongstart_bc/)

**SAFE ARRIVAL** – The Safe Arrival system is now fully operational. It is set up to ensure that students who do not report to class are accounted for as soon as possible. \* Remember, if your child is going to be absent from school, please call **604-668-6426** before 8:45 a.m. so the information can be recorded correctly in the attendance books. The phone message system works 24 hours a day, so you can even call the night before. \* If any of the information that you submitted on the Verification Sheet changes, please let the school office know. This includes: cell phone numbers, neighbours, or secondary contacts as well.

### **Parking Lot Reminders**

As we begin to settle into the routine of a new school year we wanted to remind everyone about being safe in the parking lot.

Please use the marked crosswalks in the parking lot only. Crossing through the middle of the parking lot can be very dangerous for children.

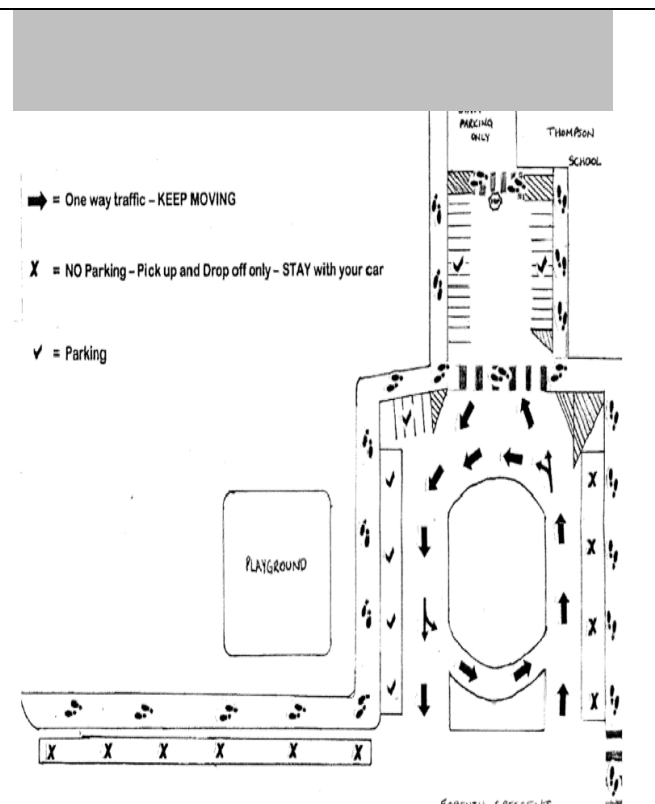
Please do not drop off children at the front door. This often leads to the cross walk being blocked. Use one of the parking stalls instead. It is much safer.

**The front parking lot is reserved for parents/family member or school guests who are parking and going into the school. Please do not park in the parking lot and wait for your child to come out to be picked up.**

Please keep moving in the traffic circle.

Everyone working together to follow these basic parking lot guidelines will help create a safer place for our students.

Thank you for your support and please let me know if you have any questions.



## Understanding Combined Classes

Today students were moved into their new classes. I often get questions about combined classes and placement.

Here is some information that we hope helps clarify our placement decisions and grade levels.

- There are many factors that we consider when placing a student in a particular classroom. There are academic considerations, which involve student learning styles and needs. In addition, there are the different teaching styles of each teacher. We try very hard to meld these two considerations together.
- Social considerations are extremely important. We strive to have each child with at least one of their friends to ease the transition into a new year. Many hours of discussion with classroom and resource teachers and administration are involved in each class placement.
- 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. Students can form broader and more varied friendships. 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 the child's learning styles and needs. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry in curriculum guides.

# PACNEWS

## Parent Advisory Council at Thompson

A supportive Parent Advisory Council is an important part of any vibrant school. The Thompson PAC is an active group that finds lots of ways to support the school, its students and programs. They do an amazing job and make many valuable contributions to our school community. **All Thompson Parents have full membership in the school PAC so please come out and get involved** as we plan how to support our school during the coming year.

**Our First PAC Meeting is Scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Library**

## Calendar of Events

### September

12	Welcome back assembly – 10:30 am
13	Grade 6/7 Job Fair
16	Fire Drill
20	PAC Meeting – 9:00 am
21	DARE
22	Meet the staff BBQ – 5:30 pm
23	<i>Pro-D Day – school is not in session</i>
27	Newcomer TEA and Talk
30	Terry Fox Run – 9:15 am
30	Pizza Day

## RICHMOND READS

SEPTEMBER IS COMMUNITY LITERACY MONTH



## Make Time To Read

Mayor Malcolm Brodie has proclaimed, September is Literacy for Life month here in Richmond. To help support this community endeavour, we have invited district staff to come and read to children in our schools.

Each elementary school has been connected with a District Staff reader.

Each reader will receive reading tips, information and a picture book to read and leave with the school.

District Staff and School Principals are asked to arrange the date and time for the reading visit.

