



Hello Thompson families

I would like to begin by thanking the staff, students and parents for a smooth start up this week. We have grown by two new divisions this year at Thompson, and I would like to welcome all of our new students and staff! Thank you to the PAC for organizing the "Sweet Start" to the year on our first day of school. It was lovely meeting many of our new families. Please see below for some information regarding class placements and other upcoming events.

Class placements

We will make every effort to place students into their 2023/24 classrooms by the end of day, Friday, September 8th.

Friday September 8th

For students in grades 1 through 7

- Students will line up outside of their last year's teacher's classroom (same as Tuesday-Thursday this week)
- Students in grades 1-7 will be placed into their new classroom during the day on Friday
- **Parents can pick up their children at the end of the day on Friday at the same location that they dropped them off in the morning. (Last year's classes).** Students can then show their parents and caregivers where their new classroom entrance is.
- **Kindergarten students** will continue with their gradual entry schedule. Class placements will be communicated to parents at pick up on Friday September 8th, and Kindergarten students will report to their teacher on Monday, September 11th.

Class Placements:

Our teachers have very thoughtfully placed our students in their new classes considering learning styles, a balance of learning needs and strengths, social relationships, gender balance, and other considerations. Thank you in advance for supporting your child as they transition to a new school year with a new teacher, new classmates and/or new classroom. What if, your child is concerned about their placement? The first step might be to consider doing nothing – in most cases, when the parent has an open mind, this helps ease the anxiety of the child. One strategy is to acknowledge their concern and anxiety and reassure them that their feelings around a new class and a new teacher is normal and experienced by most students. Another useful strategy is to give it some time. Before making assumptions or jumping to conclusions, giving your child a minimum of a week to settle in can make a huge difference. Almost always, once they have had time to bond with their teacher and classmates, concerns resolve themselves on their own. Perhaps the most important message we can give to parents is to talk to your child's new teacher. They can give you an accurate picture of how your child is adjusting in the classroom. Working together with your child's teacher will help to optimize your child's learning experience and build connections and trust. Finally, some children are more sensitive to change, and September can be especially challenging. These children can be highly impacted by the emotions of their parents and guardians. You can help your child adapt to new situations by remaining calm and reassuring them that it is normal to be nervous or uncertain,

but that you believe in their ability to work through their emotions. Telling your child “I know you can handle this, and your teacher is here to support you” will help to build your child’s resiliency and ensure that they are able to adapt to the changes that are a natural part of life.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or Mrs. Hoffinger.

Monday September 11th

For students in grades 1 through 7

- All students will line up at their new classroom doors.
- **Kindergarten students** continue to follow the gradual entry schedules and begin full day instruction on Thursday September 15th.

Other Information

School supplies are supplied by the school at a fee of \$33 per student. All payments will be collected on line, and information about this, hot lunch and other information, will be sent out at the end of next week.

Please note our new bell schedule:

8:40 Welcome Bell

10:10-10:25 Recess

11:50-12:42 Lunch

2:45 Home

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at 604-668-6420 or email me at shoffinger@sd38.bc.ca

I'm looking forward to having a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Hoffinger

Principal

Important Dates:

Sept 13 – Last day of Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Sept 20– PAC meeting at 9:00 in the Library. All parents are welcome

Sept 20 – Terry Fox Run 1 p.m. assembly and run

Sept 21 – Meet the Teacher night- details to follow

Sept 22 – Professional Development Day – No school for students

Sept 29th – Orange Shirt Day

Oct. 2nd – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)

Visit our webpage at <http://thompson.sd38.bc.ca>