



September 2021

Our Mission Statement – To respect and enable learners to grow intellectually, emotionally and socially by providing a safe, nurturing environment that encourages risk taking.

Principal's Message

September is always a time of great excitement, and we are all happy to have the students back in classes at Savona Elementary School. The summer has brought challenges for our community; not only with continued COVID exposures in the province, but then there was the heat dome, and of course, the wildfires and smoke that directly impacted our community. While taking this into account, I sincerely hope that during summer break, students and families had an opportunity to enjoy the time off, and students are ready and excited to get back to school.

Personally, I am excited to start the school year at Savona Elementary. I am eager to meet the students and parents, and I look forward to being a part of the community. This year, once again, has many inherent challenges with resulting decisions around health and safety, and with that may come questions or concerns. I encourage you to read the information in this newsletter, and if necessary, reach out to me for clarification.

The BC Health Authority regulations have adjusted to the COVID exposures in our area. COVID protocols of mask wearing while in the school building will still be required, as will be utilizing the hand sanitizing stations and most importantly, staying home when ill. If your student CANNOT wear a mask due to health reasons, please inform the school as soon as possible.

As a District, we have been working hard to develop a new Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, and then I have made that plan specific to Savona Elementary. The CDPP is attached to this

newsletter. Please take some time to read it. As always, we will need to be ready to pivot if the COVID landscape changes, but it is our starting point. We will review the details that pertain to students with them in class next week.

I am confident that this school year is going to be one of possibility and growth for our school community, and I am excited to see students in classes, focused on learning and personal development. On behalf of myself and the staff, we all look forward to the year ahead and working together to help our students reach success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office at 250-373-2520.

I can't wait to begin!



Visitors to Savona Elementary

If you need to visit the school, you must call the office in advance at 250-373-2520 and make an appointment. When you arrive, you will need to sanitize your hands, sign in at the office and complete a daily health check. A mask must be worn when you enter the building. There will be a visitor orientation slideshow to view as well. Our front entrance will remain locked so please knock at your appointment time and we will come and let you in.

School Staff 2021 - 2022

Mr. Scott Galloway: Principal, Prep, LART
Mrs. Krystal Lamberton: Secretary
Mrs. Jamie MacBurney (M-W): Gr. K/1
Mrs. Jairyng Gillis (Th&F): Gr. K/1
Mrs. Heather Graffunder: Gr. 2/3/4
Mrs. Kerry Walker: Gr. 2/3/4 (returning in Dec.)
Mrs. Trish Regan: Gr. 5/6/7
Mrs. Nicole Edmondson: CEA
Mrs. Pat Broad: Custodian, CEA, Lunch Supervisor

Bell Schedule

8:25 am	Warning bell
8:30 am	School begins
10:00 – 10:15 am	Students eat snack
10:15 – 10:30 am	Recess
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Students eat lunch
12:15 – 12:55 pm	Students outside
12:55 pm	Class readiness bell
1:00 pm	Classes Begin
2:41 pm	Dismissal
2:45 pm	Student Bus arrives



School Supply Fees



Savona Elementary offers a user fee program for school supplies. For a nominal fee, we supply all pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons etc. Student fees for 2021/2022 are:

Grades K-3 \$35.00

Grades 4-7 \$50.00

Please fill in the form for your students and return with fees to the office. If requested, Mrs. Lamberton would be happy to issue a receipt. Included with this newsletter package, you will find a Letter of Intent regarding SchoolCash Online. The School District is still working to enter all schools into this system for online payment, and are hoping it will roll out on September 15th. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Indoor Shoes/Change of Clothes

It is expected that all students will have a pair of non-marking indoor shoes that can be left at school. We encourage primary students to keep a change of clothing in a Ziploc bag in their backpack in case of spills or accidents.

Water Bottles

We would like to remind parents that all students must have a water bottle labeled with their name on it that can be brought to and from school daily. We ask that you send the water bottle to school full so that we are able to limit the number of times the bottles need to be refilled and the water stations sanitized. Bottled water is brought in as our drinking water in Savona is often on a boil water notice and unsafe for drinking at that time.

Safe Arrival Program

Please call the safe arrival number at 1-844-350-2647, visit <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or get the app for apple or android to report an absence. If your child will be absent for a prolonged period of time, please let your teacher or the office know. If teachers know of an absence in advance they can organize learning tasks that may otherwise be missed. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Forms and Permissions

With this newsletter, you will find the following forms that require parent/guardian signature. Please ensure these forms are returned to the office as soon as possible:

Student Verification Form (green) - Ensure all information is current, correct, dated and signed

Fruit and Veggie Program (red) - Healthy snacks provided free every couple of weeks

Electronic Use Agreement (purple) - Allows student to use district technology resources

Personal Information (pink) - Allows SD#73 to collect, keep, use and share photos, videos, images and/or names on school or district website.

Lower Risk Field Trip Form (blue) - Allows for short trips around the community: library, public playground, lake (not swimming), Terry Fox Run

Outside Media (yellow) - Allows media (including radio, television, newspapers and other print) that visit the school to take pictures or interview students. See form for more details.

Web access and Cloud Storage (white) - So students may receive a Google Apps for Education account (gedu)

FreshGrade (white) FreshGrade is a “digital portfolio” app that provides a platform for student

portfolios to be shared with parents instantly on smartphone, tablet or computer.

*****Please note not all students will receive all forms. Some forms need to be signed every year, other forms only need to be signed once. If we have a signed copy on file, it will not be included in this year's package. You may review all signed forms on file anytime at the office.***

Additional Forms

Additional forms that may be required can be obtained at the office. These might include:

Medical Alert/Medication - Please ensure that you inform the office if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication during school hours. This needs to be updated every year.

Transportation Assistance - This must be submitted to school board yearly to receive funds

Aboriginal Programs and Services - Only sent home with students who have self-identified as being of Aboriginal ancestry.

PAC - Parent Advisory Council

Research indicates that when parents are involved in their child's learning, student achievement increases. Savona Elementary is fortunate to have a fantastic group of parents committed to the improvement and well being of our school community.



Our PAC is always looking for fresh faces. The first PAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For an invitation to the meeting, please send an email to Mrs. Lamberton at klamberton@sd73.bc.ca and we will make sure a zoom link is sent to you. Dates and plans for future meetings will be decided at this meeting and relayed to parents. Please watch the school website under Parent Advisory Council for future plans.

Terry Fox Run

Our school Terry Fox run/walk is scheduled for Friday, October 1st at 1:45pm. We will be warming up, and then go for a short run through the community and back to the school. Any donation for the Terry Fox Foundation



during the weeks of Sept. 20th – Oct. 1st, would be greatly appreciated. We are looking to better our total of \$60.00 from last year! Together, we can help keep Terry's dream alive and win the battle against cancer.

Emergency Procedures

With the safety of our children and staff in mind, we undertake the practice of both Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills early in the school year. If you or your child feel any anxiety or concern with the drills, and we can help in any way, please contact us at the school.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is Wednesday, September 30th. School is not in session that day in honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day, so we ask all staff and students to wear their orange shirts to school on Wednesday, September 29th.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school

commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

For more information and to watch Phyllis's and other stories go to <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>





UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events

- Sept.7 Back to School (Gr. 1-7)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Sept.8 First Regular Day of classes (Gr. 1-7)
Kindergarten PM ONLY
(1:00 pm - 2:41 pm)
- Sept.9 Kindergarten AM ONLY
(8:30 am – 12:00 pm)
- Sept.10 Kindergarten – First full day
- Sept.14 PAC Zoom Meeting 6:30 pm
- Sept.27 Non-Instructional Day
- Sept.30 National Truth and Reconciliation
Day & Orange Shirt day (please wear
orange on September 29th to school)
- Oct. 1 Terry Fox Run
- Oct. 12 Lifetouch Picture Day