



What's Happening at ELE

Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 school year! These past two months have flown by and we are excited to welcome back our returning students, and meet all of our new students. The first few weeks of school tend to be busy with everyone adjusting back into routines, kids starting up new activities, and the days becoming shorter. I would encourage you all to take time to connect with your families, get lots of rest, and enjoy what is left of our beautiful Okanagan weather.

We have a handful of new staff that are joining our team at Ellison this year. We would like to welcome Rhea Virk, Leanne Vargo, Cara Dixon, Shannon Nystrom, Grace Bell, Kristy Grinde, and Justine White to our team!

This year will be an exciting year at Ellison and we look forward to having our parents and community join us along the journey. While school will look different, there will still be opportunities to volunteer and participate in the wonderful events that are put on by the staff and students at Ellison. As a reminder, our monthly PAC meetings will continue to take place on the second Tuesday of every month. Please join us in the school gym on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm, for the first meeting. Everyone in attendance will have to register in advance, remain socially distanced, and wear a mask. Unfortunately, there will be no childcare available.

Just a reminder, Thursday, September 10th and Friday, September 11th are Orientation Days. Students with last names A-K will attend on Thursday and students with last names L-Z will attend on Friday. **Please line up at your assigned classroom entry/exit door. This will be mailed out to you on Wednesday afternoon.** All other important start up information has been posted to our school websites at www.ele.sd23.bc.ca. Have a fabulous long weekend,
Sincerely Michelle Relova

Ellison Staff 2020 – 2021

Office Staff

Tracey Csuka - Administrative Assistant Secretary
Donna Hanson - Library Clerk & Office Relief
Michelle Relova – Principal

Instructional Staff

Kim Ito – Teacher
Kristy Grinde – Teacher Intern
Rupy Aujla – Teacher
Justine White – Teacher Intern
Heidi Sawchuk – Teacher
Susan Ito – Teacher
Cara Dixon – Teacher Intern
Teresa Lebbon/Rhea Virk - Teachers
Kristy Fletcher - Teacher
Jane Marshall - Teacher
Brittany Shephard (in for Leanne Baxter's Maternity Leave) - Teacher
Carey Adams – Teacher
Grace Bell – Teacher Intern
Lisa Legree – Teacher
Shannon Nystrom – Teacher Intern
Janet Brucker – Music/Fine Arts Prep Teacher & ELL support
Lisa Kurio - Teacher Librarian & Literacy/SEL support

Student Support Staff:

Meghan Neufeld – Learning Assistance Teacher
Susan Smith - School Counselor
Leanne Vargo – Resource Teacher
Barb Haldane - Aboriginal Advocate
Candice Boden - Speech Pathologist
Johanna Laitinen - School Psychologist
Kathleen Baker – CEA
Carl Berggren - CEA
Kandice McDonald - CEA
Alissa Tuddenham – CEA

New Bell Schedule

Our bell schedule for the 2020 – 2021 school year have been adjusted slightly to account for the correct amount of instructional minutes for the school year.

Warning Bell: 8:25 am
Classes Begin: 8:30 am
Morning Recess: 11:05 am
Lunch: 11:30am
Welcome Bell: 11:55 pm
Classes Begin: 12:00 pm
Recess Group 1: 1:18 – 1:33 pm
Recess Group 2: 1:34 – 1:49 pm
Dismissal: 2:30 pm



Back to School Procedures 2020

On Monday, August 31, 2020, important startup information was emailed to families (you can also find them on our school website). We ask that you please review these documents before your child(ren)'s orientation day on September 10th or September 11th. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



ORIENTATION WEEK - SEPTEMBER 10-11
The 10 days of Orientation Week are designed to help students settle into their new school environment and establish a positive relationship with their teachers and peers. The week will include information about school procedures, expectations, and resources. Students will have time to meet their teachers and classmates, and to get settled into their classrooms.

SEPARATION DAY - SEPTEMBER 11
Separation Day is a day when students will have time to say goodbye to their teachers and classmates, and to get settled into their homes. Students will have time to pack their school bags, and to get ready for the next school year.

LEARNING CIRCLES
Learning Circles are a time when students will have time to meet with their teachers and classmates to discuss their learning goals and expectations. This is a great opportunity for students to share their thoughts and feelings about their learning experience, and to receive feedback from their teachers and peers.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS
Safety is our top priority at Ellison. We have implemented a variety of safety measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff. These measures include social distancing, wearing masks, and handwashing. We ask that you please review these documents before your child(ren)'s orientation day on September 10th or September 11th. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



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SCHOOL SUPPLIES & CULTURAL FEES

School supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, etc.) are available for purchase through the school. The supplies are paid for in September and are distributed to the students, as needed, throughout the school year. The cost is \$35.00 for supplies.

For safety and efficiency, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. Please use the link below to pay your child(ren)'s school fees.

<https://centralokanagan.schoolcashionline.com>



WEEKLY PREVIEW

Monday, September 7th

- Labour Day – No School

Tuesday, September 8th

- STAFF ORIENTATION – no students in attendance

Wednesday, September 9th

- STAFF ORIENTATION – no students in attendance

Thursday, September 10th:

- Students Orientation Day for students with **Last Names A – K** only – please report to your NEW classroom teacher (8:30 – 2:30)

Friday, September 11th:

- Students Orientation Day for students with **Last Names L - Z** only – please report to your NEW classroom teacher (8:30 – 2:30)

Monday, September 14th

- First full day of school for ALL Gr. 1 – 5 students
- Please watch for student verification forms coming home this week

Tuesday, September 15th

- PAC meeting 6:30 pm in school gym – sign up is mandatory. Please visit our school PAC Facebook page.

Wednesday, September 16th

Thursday, September 17th

- First full day of Kindergarten

Friday, September 18th

ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student injuries** that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP), which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

SCHOOL ABSENCES:

Please make sure you have signed up with SchoolMessenger to support our school in being informed as to when your child will be absent from school. For more information and a help tutorial please visit:

<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx>

SchoolMessenger



BUSING for the 2020 – 2021 School Year



If you registered for busing in the spring, you should have received confirmation of acceptance and information regarding payment over the summer via email. All busing inquiries can be done through the Transportation Department by phone at 250.870.5151 or by email at transportation@sd23.bc.ca

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS:

During the first full week of school, verification forms will be sent home with every student at Ellison. PLEASE make sure you double-check all of the information listed on these forms, as this is the information that we use in emergencies.

We are asking that all forms be returned to your child(s) classroom teachers whether there are changes or not.

From the **HEART**

Thank you to our wonderful Parent community for your support and understanding as we navigate through all the changes that have occurred for school startup! We could not do it without your support!

