



**VERMILION FORKS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

"...where learners cooperate in a safe, friendly, respectful environment."

Box #970 - 99 Ridgewood Drive
Princeton, B.C. V0X 1W0
Phone: 250-295-6642 Fax: 250-295-3767

September 02, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year at Vermilion Forks Elementary! We hope you all enjoyed your summer break and are ready and eager for the year.

We welcome all our new enrollees, new Grade 4 students, Ms. Baur (Grades 6/7), Ms. Szymczak (First Nations Support Worker), Mrs. Bransford (EA) and Mrs. Tosczak (EA). Here's to looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Forms to Be Returned:

All beginning of the year parent consent forms will now have to be completed by a parent or guardian online. More information about this will be sent home soon. Please call the office if you require an online parent portal account.

Daily School Day Schedule:

8:55 am	First Bell
9:00 am	Late Bell
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Recess
12:15 pm - 1:11 pm	Lunch
3:00 pm	Dismissal

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

- Updates about our school are posted to our school twitter page (@ForksVermilion) and Facebook page (Vermilion Forks Elementary).
- VFE is a **NUT-AWARE** ZONE! PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO BRING ONLY NUT-FREE FOODS TO SCHOOL. We have students who are highly allergic to nut products.
- Please use the Safe Arrival system to excuse your child from school, record a late arrival or early departure to school. All excuses should be sent in before 9:00 am for that day. Please call our office if you have questions.

- We understand that emergencies happen, and you may need to give a message to your child through the secretary. We ask that if possible, please make the arrangements for your child before coming to school as we have a high volume of messages at the end of each day.
- The staff parking lot and bus drop off zones are not available to the public for the safety of our students. Parents may use the parking lot by the stairs along Ridgewood Drive.
- Included in this newsletter are VFE's code of conduct and dress code for your review.
- We will be updating our school's webpage periodically with event photos, important information pertaining to our school.
- Parents are reminded that the Appeal Procedure Bylaw is available for viewing on the School District #58 website.
- VFE has a limited number of microwaves that are available to students at lunch time. We encourage students to bring a thermos or cold lunch to school to ensure that their eating time is utilized efficiently.
- Students are not permitted to use cell phones or electronics during eating at lunch, however they are able to use them responsibly during playtime at lunch.
- Please contact the school if your child has a new medical condition. Parents of a student with a pre-existing medical condition and have already filled out a medical alert form are asked to come to the office to sign off for this school year.
- All parents who volunteer as a chaperone for a field trip are required to complete a criminal record check which is valid for 2 years. All parents wanting to drive their child and/or students for a field trip are required to complete a driver's abstract form which is valid for the school year. We encourage this to be done as early as possible in the school year.
- Our school participates in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program provides free healthy fruit and vegetable snacks to students periodically throughout the school year. The idea of this program is to encourage healthy eating habits. Should you have any questions or do not want your child to participate in this program, then please contact the

school. We have excluded all fruits and vegetables that are listed as allergies.

- For safety reasons, all students who do not take the bus are asked to start walking home immediately after school, unless they are waiting for a sibling or walking buddy on a bus that drops off at VFE. Your child is permitted to come back to the school to play provided they check in with a parent or authorized adult and get permission to do so. A reminder that our supervisors are on duty in the morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and after school from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm. We ask that you drop off and pick up your child as close to the bells as possible.
- A reminder that students are required by law to wear a bicycle helmet that meets safety standards. Our staff will continue to enforce this law if we see students riding bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc. without helmets.
- We suggest writing your child's name on the inside of their clothing as we seem to always have a high volume of lost and found items. All unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to the thrift store periodically throughout the year.
- All newsletters, important letters and information will be emailed home so that we can be environmentally friendly. Only those who have requested no emails will receive paper copies. Field trip permission slips and hot lunch orders will still be sent home in paper form as those will have to be signed and returned to the school.

Covid Protocols:

- Masks are currently mandatory for staff and students.
- There will be limited access to our building. We ask that you please call ahead to make arrangements to come inside, if needed. All doors will be locked except the backdoor by the office where we ask all visitors to sign in at.

Calendar and upcoming events:

- A copy of the updated school district 2021/2022 school year calendar is enclosed.
- A copy of VFE's school year calendar for 2021/2022 will be sent home shortly. You will be notified of events that are added to the calendar throughout the year.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Here are some upcoming events around the school up until Winter Break:

Thursday, September 30: Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

Monday, October 11: Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

Friday, October 22: Pro-Day Day. School is not in session for students.

Friday, October 29: Halloween dress up day. A reminder that our school is a "NUT-FREE ZONE". Be very careful that all Halloween candy sent to school is nut-free.

Wednesday, November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly.

Thursday, November 11: Remembrance Day. Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

Friday, November 19: Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home.

Tuesday, November 23: Early Dismissal Day for Parent/Teacher interviews. School will be in session from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. School buses will run one hour earlier that day. Homework Club will run from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 24: Early Dismissal Day for Parent/Teacher interviews. School will be in session from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. School buses will run one hour earlier that day. Homework Club will run from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Friday, December 17: Last day of school before the Winter Break. It is also "Tacky Sweater" day where students can dress up in their best holiday sweater, tacky or not.

Tuesday January, 4: School is back in session after the Winter Break.

You will be notified of other events in the school as they come up.

Thank you for your cooperation and support! If you have any questions or concerns, then please call the school at 250-295-6642.