



## 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 06, 2023

Dear Families,

We hope that everyone had a great first day yesterday! It was so nice to see some new and familiar faces!

**Going forward our school will email parents all newsletters, important letters and information so that we can be environmentally friendly. Only those who have requested no emails will receive paper copies.**

### **Student Fees**

Our only student fee is \$5 for an agenda. You can send cash, cheque or e-transfer to [kaitken@365.sd58.bc.ca](mailto:kaitken@365.sd58.bc.ca) (don't forget to put your child's name in the memo). You can also use this email to transfer money throughout the year for things such as field trips, hot lunch, school clothing order, band fees, fundraisers and all other payments to our school.

### **Daily School Day Schedule**

Please make a note of the following bell schedule that has changed from previous years:

8:55 am	First Bell (line up time)
9:00 am	Late Bell (start of day)
10:20 am - 10:35 am	Recess
11:55 am - 12:55 pm	Lunch
3:00 pm	Dismissal

### **Terry Fox Run**

Our annual Terry Fox Run is on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm. Please call the office if you can volunteer for this event from approximately 1:50 pm to 2:45 pm.

## **Bus Registration**

You will need to register your child for the bus online by **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please follow these steps to do so:

1. Go to [www.sd58bc.ca](http://www.sd58bc.ca).
2. Under the "Parents and Students" tab, click "Bus Information".
3. Scroll down and click "Princeton Bus Registration".
4. Answer the questions as they appear. This should take you less than a couple of minutes. You may sign your child up for more than one bus route if your child resides in more than one home.

This year's bus students will receive a new bus pass shortly. You will have to notify our office if your child needs to be registered for more than one stop.

## **Communication**

Updates about our school are posted to our school twitter page (@ForksVermilion), Facebook page (Vermilion Forks Elementary) and our school website (<https://vfes.sd58.bc.ca>).

## **Medical**

Please contact the school if your child has a new medical condition. Parents of a student with a pre-existing medical condition have been sent an email from our secretary already.

## **Attendance and Messages**

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.

## **Before & After School, Recess and Lunch**

Please review the daily school schedule as our recess and lunch times have changed. Please note that your child will eat prior to playing outside during their lunch time opposed to eating after playing like we have done in the past.

VFE is a **NUT-AWARE** ZONE! PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO BRING ONLY NUT-FREE FOODS TO SCHOOL.

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.

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.

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.

### **BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation**

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.

### **Code of Conduct**

We have included a copy our Code of Conduct.

### **Appeal Procedure**

Parents are reminded that the Appeal Procedure Bylaw is available for viewing on the School District #58 website.

## **Parent Volunteers**

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.

## **Lost and Found**

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.

## **Calendar and upcoming events**

- A copy of the updated school district 2023/2024 school year calendar is included.
- A copy of VFE's school year calendar for 2023/2024 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:

**Tuesday, September 19:** School Photo Day in the morning. This is for individual and classroom group photos. We have covered the new cost for each student to receive a classroom group photo.

**Friday, September 22:** Terry Fox Run.

**Friday, September 29:** Orange Shirt Day.

**Monday, October 2:** National Truth and Reconciliation Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

**Monday, October 9:** Thanksgiving Day Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

**Tuesday, October 10 to Friday, October 13:** Scholastic Book Fair.

**Wednesday, October 11:** Open House from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

**Friday, October 20:** Pro-Day Day. School is not in session for students.

**Wednesday, October 25:** School Picture Retake Day.

**Tuesday, October 31:** 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.

**Friday, November 10:** Remembrance Day Assembly.

**Monday, November 13:** Remembrance Day Stat Holiday. School is not in session.

**Friday, November 17:** Term 1 Report Cards are uploaded to the MyEducation Parent Portal Account.

**Tuesday, November 21:** 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 22:** 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 22:** 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.

**Monday, January, 8:** 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.



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