



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

September 7th, 2021

Newsletter #1

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a great summer holiday. We are really looking forward to the coming year! Although some health restrictions have been lifted, we still have many restrictions and cleaning protocols in place to ensure that we all stay healthy and decrease the risk of exposure to Covid-19. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families. I encourage all parents to become involved with their child's education and set time for homework and connect with teachers early in the year.

New and Retiring Staff Members...

We would like to extend welcome wishes to our new staff members that have joined us for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Murray is our new Vice-Principal as well as the teacher for the Kindergarten & Grade 1 classroom (Division 2). Mrs. Pagens will be working with Ms. Murray and Mrs. Anderson in the K/1 classroom as our new Aboriginal Kindergarten Resource Worker and Ms. Lieb will be filling in for Mr. Last during the first term in Mrs. Kowal's classroom. We are currently in the process of hiring two educational assistants. When those positions are filled, we will provide that information to our Lax Kxeen families. Lax Kxeen Elementary would also like to send best wishes for a wonderful retirement to Mrs. Ellen Braid.

Allergy Aware...

Lax Kxeen is an allergy aware school. We have a number of students with various food allergies and sensitivities. Being allergy aware means that we are mindful of allergies and sensitivities so we are asking everyone to take the necessary precautions and hygiene steps when eating recess snacks and lunch in the classrooms.

Line up and Exit Areas..

Students enter and exit from various areas around the school. Mrs. Trask's class lines up and exit is out the classroom door in front of the school. Mrs. Cavin, Ms. Sanders and Ms. Murray have their students line up and exit at the east end undercover area. Ms. Begley and Ms. Carter have their students line up and exit through the front main entrance. Ms. Bernhardt has her class line up and exit around the back of the school near the daycare entrance. Mrs. Kowal and Mr. Einarson have their students line up at the west end entrance of the school.



Due to limited visitor access inside the school we request that all parents remain outside for drop off and pick up. Thank you for keeping us all safe!

Pick Up and Drop Off ...

Supervision for the playground begins at 8:40 a.m. After school, please arrange for a spot outside to meet your child. After school supervision is not provided so we encourage students to go directly home. Parents may enter in the front main entrance to make inquiries at the office. It is recommended that if any visitors or parents need to come to the school, to make an appointment, but it is not mandatory to do so.

The Bell Schedule ...

8:55 a.m.- Welcome Bell
9:00 a.m. - Classes Begin
10:15 a.m. to 10:30 - First Recess
10:35 to 10:50 a.m. - Second Recess
12:00 to 12:45p.m. - Lunch Break
2:53 p.m. - Dismissal

School Supplies...

This year, the school is asking parents to pay **\$30.00 for bulk school supplies**. Please email the funds to: selina.storey@sd52.bc.ca using password: *supplies*. Mrs. Storey has set up an Electronic Money Transfer (EMT) at the Credit Union for parents and guardians to pay. A second option is to mail a cheque payable to Lax Kxeen Elementary School. Our mailing address is: PO Box 520, Prince Rupert, BC, V8J 3R7. Another option is to place cash in a clearly labelled envelope and drop it off at the school in the beige lockbox near the front entrance of the school. We will be accepting payment for school supplies into September.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs ...

Our school will continue providing breakfast for those students in need. The Breakfast Program will resume in its original location which is by the Westend Daycare kitchen near our gymnasium. The lunch program will continue on as it did previously. Students and parents can pick up a lunch program menu on the front right bulletin board as you enter the main entrance of the school building.

Library...

We are excited to announce that the library will once again be available in the mornings at 8:30-8:55 a.m. for our students to participate in literacy activities with Ms. Kerry.

Telephone Messages ...

We will try our best to make sure that your child gets the message that you leave for them. However, please ensure that your child knows what to do after school **before** they come in the morning. The office is very busy at the end of the day and we are not always able to get the message to your child. If there is an emergency, please call before 2:30 p.m. so we have a chance to locate the class if they are out of their room.



Parking Lot ...

Please note: the parking lot can be a very congested area. Children run in between the parked cars and there is a possibility that they could be hit by cars that may not see them. Directly in front of the school is a No Parking Zone. It can be used as a drop off zone only. So, please do not park in front of the school for more than 10 seconds. At 2:30 p.m. the front gate to the parking lot will be closed. Please do not use the School Board Office or Fellowship Baptist parking lots before, during and after school. Thank you for your understanding.

Sunnyside Child Care Centre ...

Sunnyside Child Care Center offers *Daycare* and a *Before and After school Care* program at Lax Kxeen School. The programs will be open from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily. Please call (250) 622-2257 for more information regarding the programs.

Student Class Assignments ...

Students were placed in their new classrooms on Tuesday. Over the next week, classroom placements may change. This depends on the number of students who do not return from last school year, as well as the arrival of new students. Students will remain in these classrooms until final numbers are determined. We are hopeful that reassignments will be kept to a minimum as we realize that this is very disruptive to students, parents and teachers. Your patience with this process is very much appreciated.

Lunch Break ...

The lunch break is from 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. We encourage students to go home for lunch if at all possible. If they are on the lunch program, they may take their lunch home with them. Lunch program forms are available on the community information board. If they are staying for lunch, it is the expectation that they will eat in their classrooms, clean up after themselves and follow the School Code of Conduct. Unacceptable behavior could result in you having to make alternate arrangements for your child during the lunch break. If your children are staying for lunch, please discuss with them that they are not to leave the school grounds at any time and the behavior expectations for staying at school for lunch. If your child normally stays for lunch, but on a given day you decide they will leave for lunch, a note is always appreciated!

Students in Divisions 1-4 will eat first (12:00 - 12:20) and then will go outside to play (12:25-12:45).

Students in Divisions 5-9 will go outside first (12:00 - 12:20) and then will go inside to eat. (12:25-12:45).

School Calendars ...

Attached is a "year at a glance" calendar. There will also be monthly reminders regarding events that will be happening at school as the year progresses.



School Website...

Our school website has various educational websites links. Please take time to browse the site - a menu of links can be found on the left-hand side of the website.

The monthly newsletters will be posted on the website. We will be sending a hard copy home today as well as emailing one to all families. **If you did not receive the email with this attached newsletter, please call our secretary to make sure we have your correct email address on file.** Starting in October, monthly newsletters will be emailed to all families. Our website address is: <http://laxkxeen.rupertschools.ca>.

As well, join us on Facebook; search (Lax Kxeen) 

Parent Advisory Council ...

The first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is on **Tuesday, September 21st at 6:30 p.m.** in the gymnasium where we can allow for social distancing. We will continue to follow sign-in and sanitizing protocols. Masks are required. The PAC is an important aspect of the school. As a parent of the school, you are automatically a member of the Council and you have the opportunity to participate in your child's education by:

- Keeping informed about what is going on in the school
- Volunteering your time to assist in the school and on field trips
- Becoming members of committees which contribute ideas and recommendations for the school
- Helping organize special events and activities

If you are interested in learning more about our Parent Advisory Council, please call the school at (250) 624-6218.

Popcorn on Hold...

Due to Covid-19, popcorn on Fridays will not be offered until further notice.

Lax Kxeen Spirit Wear Day on Fridays...

Fridays are Lax Kxeen t-shirt/hoodies spirit wear days! We have a number of t-shirts and hoodies left over for sale at the school. Please drop by the office to purchase one if you are interested.

Lax Kxeen ROCS = Respect Ownership Community Success ...

We will continue to reinforce our positive behavior expectations to ensure that Lax Kxeen school is a safe learning environment for everyone. As you enter the school building, you will see the signage in various locations displaying our expectations for behavior. Staff will be teaching and encouraging students to practice demonstrating all of these expectations in settings around the school on a daily basis. There will be particular emphasis on keeping hands and feet to self as recommended in our Back to School Communicable Disease Plan where minimal physical contact is encouraged to decrease the risk of Covid-19 transmission.



Code of Conduct ...

Attached is the Lax Kxeen Code of Conduct. Please review this with your child. Although the large majority of children going to Lax Kxeen will never be sent to the office, it is still very important for them to understand that *if* they are sent to the office, the consequences are clearly laid out. When a child is sent to the office, it is important for them to understand the behaviour choice they made. It is also important for them to learn alternate behaviors they could have chosen for the situation.

West Messenger...

At Lax Kxeen School, we have a telephone message program called *West Messenger*. When important events or information needs to be relayed to all of the parents quickly, you will get a recorded message from the school. Therefore, it is important we have your correct phone number(s). If this has changed over the summer, please contact the school and let us know your new number.

Terry Fox Run...

Lax Kxeen's Terry Fox Run: Friday September 17th

Students at our school will be walking around the neighborhood to show support for cancer research - donations will be accepted. Each classroom will have a money jar for students to contribute. Once funds are collected, a representative from Northern Savings will forward the proceeds to cancer research. Thank you for your support!



Photo Day ...

Shutter Shack will be providing photo services at Lax Kxeen School again this year. The date for school photos is Friday, October 1, 2021.

Non-Instructional Day ...

Our first Non -Instructional Day will be held on Friday, September 24th. There will be no school for students on that day.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation... September 30, 2021

In June of this year, the federal government passed legislation to mark September 30th, 2021 as a new annual statutory day to commemorate the history and ongoing trauma caused by residential schools and to honour those who were lost and the survivors, families, and communities who continue to grieve. The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation will be observed at all schools in B.C. There will be no school on September 30th to allow for our staff, students, and their families to attend memorial events with their families. It is recommended to wear an orange shirt on this day to honour all those impacted by the residential school system.



Important Dates to Remember ...

Fridays are school spirit wear days!

Friday, September 17th

Tuesday, September 21st

Friday, September 24th

Thursday, September 30th

Friday, October 1st

Terry Fox Run at the School: 2:00 to 2:53 PM

PAC Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium

Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

School Pictures

Susan Kobza, Principal

Tania Murray, Vice Principal