



HALDANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STSA7MAKS TLLCW

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September 23rd, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WELCOME BACK from what I hope was a wonderful and relaxing holiday. To those families that are new to our school/community, we hope that your adjustment has been a positive one. We are hoping that you're ready to get back into the routines of fall and the Haldane staff and I are looking forward to getting to know you throughout the year!

We are expecting approximately 290 students and 32 staff members at the school this year and we hope to have all classrooms configured as soon as possible. All student placements are temporary at this time as changes may have to be made due to enrollment.

The start of the school year is always a busy time with the organization of classes and the school in general. However, I look forward to the challenges that lay ahead to help make this a positive and rewarding school year for your child(ren). With that being said, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me, as my door is always open.

Sincerely,
Mark Orr, Principal

New Bell Schedule

Doors open (first bell)	8:21 am
Morning classes begin	8:31 am
Recess	10:05 – 10:20 am
Lunch	12:00 – 12:45 pm
Dismissal	2:30 pm

Gym Strip

With the Ministry of Education guidelines regarding Physical Education, it is extremely important that children have suitable PE attire (running shoes, shorts or track pants, etc) at school at all times. There will be PE classes EVERY day, starting tomorrow.

Bike, Scooters, and other Fun Things

Many of our students make their way to and from school using wheeled forms transportation. A reminder that students are expected to use and store their bikes scooters appropriately. Students are reminded that these items are not to be used on the school grounds between 8:00 – 4:00 for safety reasons.

After School Plans

Please ensure that your child knows his/her after school schedule before leaving for school in the morning. We are happy to occasionally deliver messages to the students, however there are approximately 290 students attending Haldane. We do not permit students to use the office phones to make after school plans with classmates. Students may use cell phones to communicate with parents before or after school but no cell phone usage of any kind is permitted during the school day and these devices must be stored away.

Medical Alerts & Administration of Medication

Parents, please remember that it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication while at school. School district personnel are not permitted to administer medication to students unless specifically authorized to do so by a Doctor. Please ensure you obtain a form/s from us that authorize the school to administer a prescription or identify the steps to take in a medical emergency. All medication must be clearly labelled with your child's name, the medications name and given to the teacher as soon as the classes begin for the day. School staff is not permitted to administer non-prescription drugs (ie: aspirin) at any time.

VOLUNTEERS

Yes, volunteers are welcome at the school. Volunteers are encouraged to come. We need helpers in the classrooms, in the Library, helpers with the One to One Reading Program, participate on field trips and other areas. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office if you want to volunteer. Volunteers must be aware that they may be obligated to have a criminal reference check completed.

Young Peoples' Concert

This year students in grades K-7 will participate in the Young Peoples' Concerts program. Each student will be attending one performance at the Sagebrush Theatre in Kamloops over the course of the year. In addition, the school will be hosting concerts locally (in the school gym). We will be sending home more information soon. The cost of this program is \$15 per student and is included in the yearly school fees.

PAC News

The first PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1st, 2014 at 6:30 pm. 2014/15 PAC Committee elections will take place. Please come and show your support for your children and their school. Food days, fun days and fundraisers all need the PAC so we look forward to seeing new faces and hearing new ideas. Child care will be provided.

Contact Information

Updated student contact information is essential throughout the school day in case of emergency; if you have a change in contact information, it is important that you contact Ms. Hoogstins at the office with the new information.

Student/Parent Handbook

Please take some time to review the Student and Parent Handbook at the front of your child's agenda. Most of what you and your child need to know about school routines and procedures are included in the student handbook. Please take note of our district Code of Conduct which outlines the expectations for student behaviour in our school. Teachers will be referring to the Code of Conduct along with all of the other items in the handbook with their students throughout the school year.

Breakfast Program

We are fortunate to have a Breakfast Program at Haldane Elementary and we invite children to participate. The program will begin on October 1st in the FN/Multipurpose Room. Students will enter through the FN/Multipurpose Room doors starting at just before 8:00 am. Thank you to Mrs. Terry Chinnock & Ms. Kieran Chinnock for operating this wonderful program for us again this year.

To become part of the Breakfast Program, students need to return a consent form along with payment. The consent form along with more detailed information will be coming home in the next few days. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or suggestions concerning the program.

Lunches and Recess Snacks

Just a reminder for parents to supervise what their child is bringing to school in terms of recess snack and lunch. Several of our students were asking for lunches last year because they did not bring enough food from home to last them through the day. Please ensure that your child has enough food for each school day. We realize that there may be occasions that a child forgets their lunch or situations arise that a child may not have a lunch on a particular day. For these emergency situations, we will have food here at the school to provide a lunch or snack for the child. If this situation arises on a regular basis, you will be contacted by the school.

Milk Program

Watch for information regarding the Milk Program early October.

Aboriginal Programs and Services

Please sign and return the confirmation form regarding Aboriginal ancestry that will be going home this week.

Medic Alert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The *No Child Without* program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy, or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a Medic Alert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, Medic Alert membership; Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their Medic Alert bracelet or necklace. It enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**. It also communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**. It allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed.

Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call Medic Alert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

Student Drop off and Pick up Areas

Please note that the parking lot is for School District #73 personnel only.

NO DROP OFF OR PICK UP IN THE PARKING LOT.

Student safety is of utmost importance to all of us. Please ensure that you review safety rules with your child regarding walking on sidewalks, looking before they cross the street, etc. Also, if you are driving your child to school, please obey all signs in drop off and pick up areas. We will be patrolling our parking lot for the first few days to ensure that all students use the side walkways on either side of the parking lot to get to the school grounds. We do not want students walking through the parking lot behind cars for obvious safety reasons. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Calendar 2014/15

Oct. 7	Picture Day
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving
Oct. 17	Earth Rangers Presentation
Oct. 22	Early Closure for Parent/Teacher Interviews
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Oct. 24	Non Instructional Day
Nov. 4	Kellie Haines – ArtStart performance – 1:30
Nov. 10	Non-Instructional Day
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Dec. 5	Non-Instructional Day
Dec. 19	Last day before Winter Break
Dec. 22-Jan. 4	Winter Break
Jan. 5	School reopens
Feb. 9	Family Day
Feb. 19	Early Closure for Parent/Teacher Interviews
Feb. 20	Non Instructional Day
Mar. 12	Early Closure for Parent/Teacher Interviews
Mar. 13	Last day before Spring Break
Mar. 16-27	Spring Break
Mar. 30	School reopens
Apr. 3	Good Friday
Apr. 6	Easter Monday
Apr. 20	Non Instructional Day
May 11	Non Instructional Day
May 18	Victoria Day
June 25	Last day of school