



## ABERDEEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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School Website: <https://aberdeen.sd73.bc.ca>

Principal: Mrs. Carol DeFehr

Vice Principal: Ms. Kristen Crawford

### MAY 2023

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

An Outdoor Classroom is a space for children to interact with the natural world through play-based and multi-sensory activities. The goal of the Outdoor Classroom is simple: to increase the quantity, quality, and benefits of outdoor experiences for children! At Aberdeen Elementary, we are striving for more PLACE BASED LEARNING opportunities. Outdoor education and play support emotional, behavioral and intellectual development. Studies have shown that students who learn outdoors develop: a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline and initiative. Outdoor education allows students to see that they are part of a whole. Exploring their local environment gives students an appreciation and awareness for their community, which causes them to act more consciously.

#### Adopting an Outdoor Learning System will help students to:

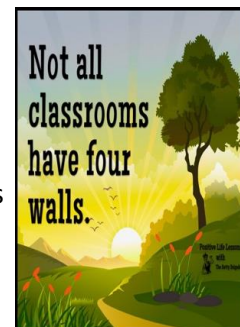
- Enhance academic accomplishment.
- Maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Enhance higher-order learning.
- Encourages students and teachers to practice informal learning and teaching.
- Promotes creativity.
- Makes learning more interesting.

#### At Aberdeen, we are trying to remember that not all classrooms have four walls.

We are thrilled that our teachers are taking learning to our outdoor classroom spaces, using clipboards to complete tasks and using our beautiful school grounds for learning.

Soon the School District will be placing 4 picnic tables with seating by the playground that teachers can use with their classes. Thank you to the PAC for purchasing these tables with fundraising dollars.

2022-2023	
<b>Bell Schedule</b>	
8:20	Welcoming Bell
8:30	School Starts
9:55	Recess begins
10:10	Recess ends
12:10	Lunch
	Primary Eat
	Intermediate Play
12:30	All outside together
12:45	Intermediate Eat
	Primary Play
1:05	Bell to end Lunch
1:10	Classes begin
2:41	Dismissal



May 18, 2023 is OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY! We are hoping many classes are outside to honor the day.

(There is often no wifi in nature, but you will find a better connection. Take time to be with your kids outside.)

Mrs. Carol DeFehr  
Follow us on Twitter @AberdeenElem  
Follow us on Instagram @aberdeen\_elementary

### WE ALL BELONG.



### **KINDERGARTEN SPARK 2023**

OUR WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EVENT THIS YEAR is called **SPARK** (Strong, Prepared, and Ready for Kindergarten) Parents have been asked to come to our last two sessions in May.

- **Session 3 - Tuesday May 2 – Please come to the session you registered for 3:30 to 4:30 or 4:30 to 5:30.** PACIFIC SPORT is coming and your kids will also get a tour of their new school!
- **Session 4- Tuesday May 23- Join us in the library for a PARENT ONLY Session to learn more about Aberdeen.**

Please call Stacey Flynn at the school to register if you have not done so yet.

### **PARENT INPUT REQUEST FOR STUDENT PLACEMENTS FOR 2023-2024:**

Each May and June teachers meet to organize classes with considerations given to gender balance, learning needs, teaching styles, social dynamics, academic groupings, class size limits and where possible, parental requests. Moreover, tentative class lists are made through staff conversations first before parental requests are looked at. However, for those families who have significant concerns about their child's educational placement, we invite you to come to the school and pick up a PINK PARENT INPUT form and return it by May 18, 2023 indicating the educational reasons for your request. While this simply gives parents a chance to advocate for their child and their educational needs, it by no means guarantees that your request will be honoured so please keep this in mind. Ultimately, the SCHOOL ACT, gives the principal the final say on any child's placement in their school. Mrs. Flynn will have these in the office for pick up starting Monday April 3rd, 2023. Please fill out one per child and **please note that name requesting a particular teacher you want or do not want is not the intent of this process.**

### **STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE:**

Parents who are not in our catchment area, but would like their child to attend Aberdeen Elementary, must register at their home school. Once registered there, a parent can fill out a STUDENT TRANSFER FORM and have the principal of the home school sign it so that he/she is aware that they would like to be enrolled elsewhere. For September 2023, parents would not find out if their child had been granted a transfer until the Friday of the first week of school.

For more information about this procedure, parents can go to the School District #73 website and follow the links to our public Administrative Procedures. AP 305 SCHOOL BOUNDARIES AND STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS is clearly written and gives a detailed explanation.

### **ARE YOU MOVING for 2023-2024?**

Parents of Aberdeen Elementary that plan to move for September 2023 should contact Ms. Flynn as soon as possible and let her know your plans to relocate. Our classes are extremely full so knowing we potentially have spots in K-7 would be extremely helpful as we plan for the upcoming school year.

### **YOUNG AUTHOR'S CONFERENCE**

Congratulations to the following students for representing Aberdeen at this year's Young Authors' Conference: Laycee Herman, Nicia Gales, Tavia Laycroft, Madeline Rinaldi, Sydnie Westran, David Burke, Andrew Johnson and Elise Percy. They got to experience wonderful learning opportunities with a variety of authors at TRU on April 28th.

Photos and the anthology will be available on the Young Authors website later this spring at <https://sd73youngauthors.weebly.com>

## **SWIM CLUB TEAM**

Swim coach T-Rex brought a group of intermediate students to participate in the Kamloops Classic Elementary School Swim Meet held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Canada Games pool. Aberdeen swimmers swam competitively, with many students finding themselves on the winners' podium. All of the swimmers who attended agreed they had a great time and were happy they signed up to participate. Congratulations to Myla Canaday, Misty Hayes, Mia DeCicco, Nicia Gales, Stella LePage, Adriana Liu, Lola Cameron, and Elise Percy. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out at the pool on the day of the event.

## **FLAG FOOTBALL UPDATE**

April and May are very busy months for sports at Aberdeen Elementary! The Grade 7 flag football team began their season on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a tie game against Dallas Elementary. Coach Ms. Clarke is proud of the hard work and dedication the flag football players have already put in so far. Be sure to check out the home game against Juniper Ridge on May 9<sup>th</sup> if you are in the neighbourhood.

## **TRACK AND FIELD UPDATE**

May also showcases the very busy track and field season. Aberdeen Elementary will run two school track meets to ensure all intermediate students have the opportunity to participate. Please make note of the following dates:

- Monday, May 8 - 600/800/1000/1200m races for interested students
- Wednesday, May 10 - Grade 4/5 high jump off
- Monday, May 15 - Grade 6/7 jump off
- Tuesday, May 9 - Grade 4/5 school track meet
- Tuesday, May 16 - Grade 6/7 school track meet
- Wednesday, May 17 - Zone 1000/1200m races at TCC
- Friday, May 26 - Zone track meet at TCC
- Monday, May 29 - District 100/1200m races at TCC
- Wednesday, May 31 - District track meet at TCC

## **ABERDEEN HOCKEY LEAGUE "AHL"**

We are already into the third week of the season. There is some really great skill and sportsmanship being demonstrated. Competition has been great so far, but right now the only undefeated team is the Young and the Rest of Us (3-0). Could this be the year that the teachers unbeaten streak comes to an end? Only time will tell! Lastly, thanks to all of the students who have helped to set up and put away equipment each lunch hour, the scorekeepers, and the referees. Mr. Hine would not be able to run this league without all of you.

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

The Seven Grandfather Teaching for the months of May and June will be Wisdom, which is represented by the beaver, or *ském̓c̓is*. *Ském̓c̓is* known to be the medicine keeper who guides communities with the knowledge held in the medicines. The picture of Mount Peter and Mount Paul inside Bear's paw represents how Bear holds the knowledge of Mother Earth in his steps and he has the courage to assist those in need by carrying medicines to them. As a part of the lesson wisdom, students will be asked to self-reflect and share a time they showed wisdom and intellect while exemplifying teamwork.

## **MAY is MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**



Mental health is wealth, especially during Mental Health Awareness Month, which is celebrated in May. The stigma around mental health and treatment has long existed, even though this has started to change. Still, people hesitate to seek help or even talk about it with their loved ones for fear of being judged and facing unnecessary backlash.

This year's theme for Mental Health Week is #ICAREABOUTYOU <https://may7icare.ca>



## CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

ALL PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/ADULTS that are going on ANY trip with your class, are driving as volunteers or are coming into support with class special events must have a CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK. All schools will be transitioning to this practice. This is posted on our website as well under Volunteer/Get Involved for how to complete a Criminal Record Check and I have put the document below with the access code for our school. I would suggest that ANY parents that want to be considered to help us please get this in place immediately. An adult cannot attend, come into the classroom or on field trips until Stacey Flynn receives your cleared Criminal Record Check. Please know your check is in place for three years and is of no cost to parents.

[Online application for Volunteer's Criminal Record Checks](#)

[Please use access code: 4TXH9C6NSB](#)

## UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

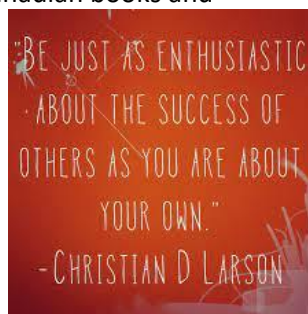
Here is a little poem for you from the library:

Spring has been such an exciting time of year at Aberdeen!  
There are so many exciting things happening that can be seen.  
We have some beautiful new furniture that looks so clean and nice,  
And we have an awesome Aberdeen PAC that has generously contributed a Chromecart and 30 Chrome Books and mice!

Canadian Children's Book Week is coming up from April 30 to May 6. Please celebrate Canadian books and reading with your children this week.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mom's out there!

Thank you from the LLC Staff,  
Mrs. T-Rex and Ms. Cachelin



## GROWTH MINDSET

This month our GROWTH MINDSET THEME IS: "I AM INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS". The quote by Christian Larson says it all "*Be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own*" and this is often very challenging for children. Please try to reinforce this at home.

## SEL (Social Emotional Learning) SCHOOL

Aberdeen continues to be a SEL School. We also believe in the PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention and Supports) mindset. Our goal is to promote our CODE OF CONDUCT and emphasize

R-RESPECTFUL

R- RESPONSIBLE

S- SAFE

The goal is to always remind children to use RRS *so that they make great choices*.

We are so proud of our students and the WITS BLITZ we started April 11<sup>th</sup>! It ends on May 11<sup>th</sup> and we are hopeful we have seen improvement with our conflict resolution skills and by trying to Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out or Seek an Adult prior to hitting or kicking a peer when in conflict.

Our entire school will get a reward on May 12<sup>th</sup> for all their great choices.

Part of the reward along with more play time for an afternoon school wide recess will be a snack. **Teachers will do a reverse consent prior to us feeding your child and you can decline this treat if this does not align with your values. You are welcome to send your own food reward if you prefer.**



## Why WITS?

As a school, we are blitzing our WITS behaviours as these skills can carry us forward successfully into adulthood. Even as adults, we can find conflict resolution challenging in the workplace and at home. This takes courage, honesty, empathy, a calm nervous system and communication skills. Let's work together to support students in engaging in positive, pro-social behaviours.

### **Walk Away**

When the body's automatic "fight, flight, freeze," mode is activated and people *react quickly* rather than *thoughtfully respond* to a situation, it is a great time to walk away and take a break before trying to solve a problem.

### **Ignore**

Sometimes, the preferred option may be to simply ignore the unexpected behaviour.

### **Talk It Out**

Lessons on identifying feelings, perspective taking, empathy, and using *I statements* support students in building capacity to peacefully problem solve.

### **Seek Help**

If your words aren't working, or you don't have the words, seek out adult support.

*Looking for more information on problem solving?*

*Here is an upcoming event parents can register for on collaborative problem solving with Dr. Ross Greene!*

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca/event/2023/05/dr-ross-greene-cps-event>

*Curious to read more? Teaching Kids How to Deal With Conflict*

<https://childmind.org/article/teaching-kids-how-to-deal-with-conflict/>

### **SAFE ARRIVAL**

Aberdeen Elementary uses an automated SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM called SCHOOL MESSENGER. The system handles parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected, and will allow parents to interact directly with the system in a variety of ways:

- by phone either when the system calls, or when a parent initiates a call to notify of upcoming absence - by internet through login controlled webpage interface
- by smartphone app (iOS and Android versions available for free)

Toll-free number to call: [1-844-350-2647](tel:1-844-350-2647) Website for parent access: [asp.schoolmessenger.ca/ktsd73](http://asp.schoolmessenger.ca/ktsd73)

Parents use the above methods to report student absences rather than phoning the school at Aberdeen. **We ask that parents please report student absences before 8:20 am on the day of the absence**, although the system also allows for reporting of student absences long in advance for holidays, trips, etc. For tech-savvy parents, we encourage you to download the iOS or Android apps for free from their respective app stores. To find the app, search for SCHOOL MESSENGER and install the free app.

## **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The MAY PAC Meeting is Tuesday May 2, 2023 at 6 pm in the library. ALL PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. You can also ZOOM into this meeting!

### **Fundraisers:**

Phils Fudge ends May 5th. Get those orders in!

### **Events:**

May 16<sup>th</sup> we will either have a dance or movie night depending on which the students are more interested in.

**AGM** June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the library or via zoom. Review of budget and establishing PAC board members for the 2023-2024 school year.

Join [Aberdeen Elementary Kamloops Events Facebook](#) page for all the information and updates.

## **IMPORTANT MAY and JUNE DATES**

Mon. May 1- FVP Mini Peppers

Tues. May 2- KTFC Track Stations with Gr. 4-7 classes

Tues. May 2- Flag Football- Aberdeen @ Westsyde

Tues. May 2- SPARK Session #3 with Pacific Sport 3:30 and 4:30

Tues. May 2- PAC MEETING 6 pm

Wed. May 3-May 24- Let's Play Wheelchairs at Aberdeen

Wed. May 3- Student Advisory Council Meeting 12:10

Wed. May 3- ART STARTS performance K-3 Rup Loops 1:00

Fri. May 5 – Freezie Friday presented by our Grade 7's \$2 each 2:45

Fri. May 5- PAC HOT LUNCH- Pizza Now

Fri. May 5- Donas' Class to Kamloops Food Bank

Fri. May 5- Gagnon, Chretien and Clarke's classes to SKSS for Drama Production 9:30 am

Mon. May 8- PAC Meet and Greet Morning 8:20 to 9 am

Mon. May 8- School Long Distance 600M/800M/1000M/1200M Runs

Mon. May 8-12- Talent Show Sign Up

Tues. May 9- Aberdeen Track Meet Gr 4/5 Track & Field Day

Tues. May 9- Flag Football Juniper 1 @ Aberdeen

Wed. May 10- Gr. 4/5 Jump Off for High Jump (by teacher invite to participate)

Thurs. May 11- Donas' Class to TCC Gymnastics

Thurs. May 11- Last day of School Wide WITS Blitz

Fri. May 12- PAC HOT LUNCH Senior Froggies Mexican

Fri. May 12- School Reward for WITS Blitz success!- extra afternoon recess and snack!

Mon. May 15-18- Talent Show Try Outs

Mon. May 15- FVP Ambrosia Apples

Mon. May 15- Gr. 7 Eagle Bay Permission forms due

Mon. May 15- Gr. 6/7 High Jump Jump Off (by teacher invite to participate)

Tues. May 16- Gr. 6/7 Track & Field Day

Tues. May 16- PAC Movie Night

Wed. May 17- Zone 1000/1200 M Event

Wed. May 17- Pizza with the Principal Forms due

Thurs. May 18- Outdoor Classroom Day

Thurs. May 18- Gr. 4/5 High Jump Jump Off Lunchtime

Thurs. May 18-PINK PARENT INPUT FORMS DUE to the office

Thurs. May 18- PAC HOT LUNCH Moon Wok

Fri. May 19- NON INSTRUCTIONAL DAY No school for students

Mon. May 22- VICTORIA DAY- No school for students or staff

Tues. May 23- Montessori K's to Isobel Lake

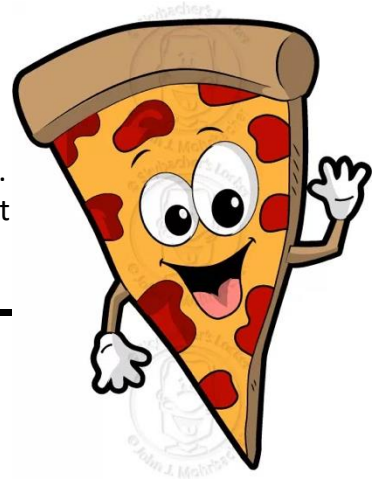
Tues. May 23- Talent Show Practices begin



Tues. May 23- Last day for Let's Play Wheelchairs  
Tues. May 23- SPARK #4 session for Parents 4-5 pm LIBRARY  
Wed. May 24- Milk & Cookie Day (by reverse consent)  
Fri. May 26- Zone Track Meet HILLSIDE  
Fri. May 26- Wear Orange for 215 Memorial  
Fri. May 26- PAC HOT LUNCH Senor Frogs PASTA  
Mon. May 29- DISTRICT 1000/1200 Races  
Wed. May 31- DISTRICT Track Meet HILLSIDE  
Thurs. June 1- Fortems Kindergarten Class to McQueen Lake  
Thurs. June 1- Last day to sign out books from the library  
Thurs. June 1- Gr. 6 Immunizations  
Fri. June 2- Spirit Day- SUPER HERO DAY  
Fri. June 2- PAC HOT LUNCH Pizza Now  
Fri. June 2- Flag Football Jamboree  
Tues. June 6- PAC Icecream Day  
Tues. June 6- PAC Meeting 6:00 pm  
Wed. June 7- Talent Show – STUDENT only SCHOOL PERFORMANCE  
Thurs. June 8- SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Rhonda Nixon Visit 8:45 am  
Thurs. June 8- Talent Show- PARENTS PERFORMANCES 1:15 and 6:00 pm  
Fri. June 9- Primary Montessori classes to Robbins Range Heritage school.  
Fri. June 9-PAC Hot Lunch Senor Frogs Mexican  
Fri. June 9-Art Starts Performance Gr. 4-7 Speed Control 9 am  
Fri. June 9- TYE DYE Spirit Day  
Fri. June 9- All Library books back to T REX in the library  
Mon. June 12- Donas' Class to McQueen Lake  
Thurs. June 15- Aberdeen Band Concert Students: 10:30 am/ Parent Concert: 6:00 pm  
Fri. June 16- Mrs. Kruisselbrink's class to Big Little Science Centre 9:00 – 10:30  
Fri. June 16- PAC HOT LUNCH Moon Wok  
Mon. June 19- K/1 and K classes to Wildlife Park  
Mon. June 19- Montessori Gr. 4/5/6 Classes to McQueen Lake until June 21  
Wed. June 21- Gr. 7 Classes to EAGLE BAY(return Friday June 23)  
Wed. June 21- National Indigenous Day  
Fri. June 23- PAC HOT LUNCH Booster Juice  
Mon. June 26- Primary FUN day  
Tues. June 27 – Marsh/Kruisselbrink to McQueen Lake  
Tues. June 27 – Gr. 7 Moving On Farewell Ceremony 1:15  
Thurs. June 29- Last Day of School  
Fri. June 30- Administration Day for Teachers

**PIZZA LUNCH WITH THE PRINCIPAL**

Did your parents read the newsletter? GREAT! Enter at the office to win PIZZA LUNCH WITH THE PRINCIPAL this month! Fill out the tear off section and return it to the drop off bin at the office by Wednesday April 17th, 2023. Two lucky PRIMARY and two lucky INTERMEDIATE students will have lunch with Mme DeFehr this month. The PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL LUNCH will be Wednesday APRIL 24th at 12:10. Meet Mrs. DeFehr at the library.



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**I WANT PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

My favourite kind of pizza is: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies?: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The most informative piece of information in this newsletter was:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell Mrs. DeFehr what you love to do outside in any of the four seasons.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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