



ABERDEEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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School Website: <https://aberdeen.sd73.bc.ca>
Principal: Mrs. Carol DeFehr
Vice Principal: Ms. Kristen Crawford

JUNE 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Hard to believe the school year is coming to a close. My thanks to staff, students and parents for a remarkable 2022-2023 school year! Hard to believe you were told at the end of September you were getting a new Principal and now....it is JUNE! WE DID IT! We focused this year on Belonging as our theme. I must say this focus of our hashtag #youbelonghere has transformed the culture of the school. We want every child to feel like school is a place where they see themselves and can be themselves. While we are not perfect, we definitely did a super job as the largest school in SD73. It has been such a fun and rewarding first year for me as principal of Aberdeen Elementary. With our new school learning plan goals well underway, I am excited for September. I am excited to be here on the first day of school with your children. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer full of family time and fun. Take July and August to unwind, relax and focus on the most important people- your kids. Thanks parents for your ongoing support and patience. Happy Summer to all!

Mrs. Carol DeFehr

Follow us on Twitter @AberdeenElem
Follow us on Instagram @aberdeen_elementary

WE ALL BELONG.



THE OWL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

We so excited to announce that Ms. Tracy Clarke and Mr. Stephen Powrie (former Aberdeen teacher) are this years recipients of the OWL Award for Excellence in Public Education for 2023. This award recognizes an individual, a group or an organization that has distinguished themselves by providing outstanding service to public education in the Kamloops-Thompson School District

The nomination package submitted by a parent, was supported by several letters of recommendation. Each letter described how they each have demonstrated immense dedication, passion, and contributions to the betterment of students' lives for over 40 years (Tracy) and 42 years (Steven) of service in Music Education, community service, and extracurricular commitments. Congratulations on this well deserved honor!

2022-2023 Bell Schedule	
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	Warning Bell to end Lunch
1:10	Classes begin
2:41	Dismissal

REIREMENT WORDS FROM MS. CLARKE:

I feel very privileged and grateful to have experienced such a rich and rewarding career working with students from kindergarten (dual immersion) to adults. There have been significant changes in education. Teachers at Aberdeen have worked tirelessly to create optimal learning environments for students based on best practices. I have been inspired and entertained by both students and colleagues and have received incredible support from students' parents and guardians.

Creating opportunities for students to change the world, volunteering overseas, and introducing students to music through the band program have definitely been high points of my career. Being part of the Aberdeen community for more than three decades has enabled me to develop significant relationships with students and staff. I will miss everyone and hope to stay in touch.

During my retirement, I plan to spend lots of time with my family, creating music, and exploring new adventures both here and overseas, such as hiking the 1000 km Camino de Santiago's El Norte Route. Thank you staff, students, and parents, for your ongoing encouragement and support! It's been an incredible journey!

Schools/Teaching Experience

Robert Ogilvie Elementary, Ft St John, BC

Taylor Elementary, Taylor, BC

Aberdeen Elementary 1991 - present

First assignment - Grade 6, Grade 3 science and school wide computers, since then Grade 6/7

Teaching street children in Peru, and students in Thailand and Laos

Representing BC Teachers by teaching teachers in Malawi sponsored by CIDA (Canadian International Development Association) and CTF (Canadian Teachers Federation)

Extra curricular Involvement:

Band (Santa Parades, festivals, field trips)

Me to We since inception

Students' Council/Leadership

Environment Club

Run Club

Flag Football coach since inception

Sponsoring sports teams

Field trips to McQueen Lake, Vancouver (musicals, Science World, Museum of Anthropology, China Town, Vancouver Art Gallery, etc.), Eagle Bay, Penticton Music Festival, and Sun Peaks/Harper Mountain.

Passions

Family - three children and five grandchildren

Helping others - RCMP Victims' Services volunteer and other Kamloops organizations

Music - Playing upright and electric bass for Kamloops Brandenburg Orchestra, Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, Thomspson Valley Orchestra, (and Beyond Brass).

Outdoor activities/fitness - biking, paddling, skiing, yoga, hiking, backcountry backpacking,

Places I've explored - England, Scotland, Wales, Italy, Mexico, Cuba, Peru, US, Dominican Republic, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Netherlands, Cyprus, Panama,

Future Plans:

Backcountry camping

Hiking the Camino de Santiago - El Norte route from France through northern Spain

Relaxing:)



Past students and families of Ms. Clarke are welcome to come to the school library to wish her a Happy Retirement. Open House/Drop-in style. **Friday, June 16th 2:45 pm**



RETIREMENT WORDS FROM SANDRA KONKIN:



After 31 years of teaching I've made the difficult decision to retire. It all started for me back in 1992 when we UVIC teacher candidates were choosing where, in BC, to do our final teaching practicum. With a spirit of adventure I chose to go up north to Burns Lake BC. I was placed in a school called Grassy Plains Elementary High School (K-10 school, pop.156 students) that was accessed by an inland ferry. My accommodation for my 6 week practicum was what we had read about in BC history books of teachers in remote areas, a teacherage, located right on the school property, 10 steps from the front door of the school.

Following my Grassy Plains practicum I decided to stay up north and accept my first teaching position in Terrace. I was one of many music teacher graduates which School District 88 (specifically the assistant superintendent, an opera enthusiast) recruited from universities in BC, Saskatchewan and the east coast. We music specialists had so much fun teaching in an incredibly strong and supported K to 7 music program. I put on Christmas concerts, musicals, concerts in the local park and the local shopping mall. I joined Northwest Singers, a small chamber choir to grow my own musicality (and to counterbalance Twinkle Twinkle Little Star echoing in my head).

In 1998 the spirit of adventure struck again and wanting to try big city life and be closer to my family I moved to Vancouver. I was hired at Fromme Elementary in North Vancouver and there I taught music, ESL and general classroom. While working in North Van I furthered my arts education gaining a post baccalaureate diploma and continued my involvement in choral music by joining the Capilano Festival Chorus.

In 2004 I made one more move, this time to Kamloops. After TTOCing in Salmon Arm and Kamloops and a year at Beattie School of the Arts I accepted my position at Aberdeen. In the 17 years I have taught at this school I hope that I have passed on my love of music.

Many times I have walked down the halls and thought, how lucky am I to have been able to sing, dance and play instruments with children for a living. I am grateful for this very interesting career in the arts and public education but now onto the next adventure...



IT IS HARD TO SAY GOODBYE!

This June we are saying goodbye to some amazing staff members.

On May 26 our wonderful CEA Mrs. Mari Smaby- Stone retired!

We are also saying goodbye to the following staff members:

Miss Eliza Beaudry- Montessori Year 1,2,3

Mrs. Joanna Clark- Montessori Kindergarten

Miss Meghan Naka- Gr. 4 Teacher

Mrs. Laurel Petty- Gr. 3 Teacher

Miss Jenna Denison- Gr. Kindergarten/Gr.1 Teacher

Mrs. Ashley Moore- Learning Resource Teacher

Mr. Clayton Webber (CEA)

Mrs. Sosze Shem (CEA)

Mrs. Jodi Tilburt (CEA)

Ms. Kelsey Woodley- Montessori Year 1,2,3

Mrs. Emily Chretien- Gr. 6/7 Teacher

Mrs. Anna Steele- Gr. 3 Teacher

Miss Heather Graffunder- Gr. 1/2 Teacher

Mrs. Erin Therrien- Teacher Librarian/Prep

Mrs. Alana Milne (CEA)

Mrs. Courtney Schroth (CEA)

Mrs. Deanna Selver (CEA)

Our school will not be the same without all of these individuals. We wish them all the best in their future positions in the District. We also hope many of them will apply for our positions in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME:

Please join me in welcoming the following teachers to TEAM ABERDEEN in September:

Mr. Curtis Wiebe Gr. 6/7
Mrs. Jessica Abata Gr. 3/4

Mrs. Lisa Brunt .4 LART

As a school we have 6 more positions to be filled. We also have 6 CEA positions to be filled. We look forward to welcoming new staff as they continue to be hired in June.

LOST AND FOUND

Parents please encourage your child to check the lost and found. All items not claimed by June 29th will be donated. There are always so many nice items we would hope your kids will recognize what is theirs.

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. Please see link and code below to do this.

[Online application for Volunteer's Criminal Record Checks](#) [Please use access code: 4TXH9C6NSB](#)

UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

It is hard to believe June has already arrived. The Aberdeen LLC would like to remind families to look for misplaced or lost books so we can be sure to have all of the books in by the end of the year. The LLC hopes to have all books back by June 9.

We hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer. Thank you for such a great year!

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY

This will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 21st. This is a national day recognizing people of Indigenous descent, their culture and their importance in history here in Canada. We will be celebrating this day at Aberdeen by participating in various initiatives throughout the month including reflecting upon our work with the Seven Grandfather Teachings and exploring our Circle of Courage. We will spend the afternoon of National Indigenous Peoples day by heading outdoors to connect in nature and playing Indigenous Games.

GROWTH MINDSET

This month our GROWTH MINDSET THEME IS:

“I FOCUS ON MY EFFORTS”



What a great message- FOCUS on YOUR EFFORTS, NOT THE RESULTS!

This is so important to share with our children.

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

June can be a tricky month for kids with lots of emotions- summer is coming, the end of a time with a favourite teacher, moving on from Elementary school, not seeing friends for a couple months and the list goes on....Please this month listen to your child and honour their feelings about the end of a school year brings. While many look forward to summer, many students feel they are losing connections and that is challenging for children.

KACZUR's KORNER: JUNE FOCUS:

Hello there sunshine!

Over the past decade, many studies have linked outdoor learning & play with improved prosocial behaviour, cognitive functioning, concentration, self determination, emotional regulation, and mental well-being.



Time spent outside also promotes social emotional competencies, as children are able to reflect on the interrelatedness of all beings, develop environmental appreciation, make responsible decisions, consider the impact of their actions, and work together toward common goals. *On top of all that, being outside is fun!* (taken from the SD73 SEL and Wellbeing May 2023 Newsletter)

Who knew heading outdoors was so powerful?

Finding movement in nature can be as simple as taking a walk down a tree-lined street and inviting your child to mimic the swaying branches overhead. Or digging for buried treasure together on a sandy beach. Anything that lets you engage with the world through your body, in the presence of nature, will nurture your ability to be alert & engaged. (heartmindonline.org - Dr. Kelly McGonigal)

Five Benefits of Outdoor Play

1. Outdoor Play Provides Challenge
2. Time in Nature is Calming
3. Outdoor Play is Creative
4. Outdoor Play is Social
5. Outdoor Play Increases Attention



Delve into this article to learn more about these 5 benefits! <https://heartmindonline.org/resources/play-outside>
Or explore Getting Back to Nature <https://heartmindonline.org/resources/getting-back-to-nature>

How does being outside in nature make you feel? Enjoy the outdoors this summer.

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

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

AGM June 6th 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 JUNE DATES

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

Thurs. June 1 Zone 1000/1200 Hillside 10 am

Fri. June 2- Spirit Day- SUPER HERO DAY

Fri. June 2- PAC HOT LUNCH Pizza Now

Fri. June 2- Flag Football Jamboree

Fri. June 2- PAC Dance

Fri.; June 2 District 1000/1200 M Hillside Stadium 9 am

Mon. June 5- Hine's Class to Cliffside Climbing

Tues. June 6- Gr. 7's to tour SKSS 11:00 departure

Tues. June 6- PAC Ice Cream Day

Tues. June 6- PAC Meeting 6:00 pm

Wed. June 7- Soccer Clinic for Mrs. Stafford's PE Students RIVERS FC visiting

Wed. June 7- Talent Show – STUDENT only SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Thurs. June 8- Fortem's class to Aberdeen FireHall Station 7 10:45

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-PAC Hot Lunch Senior Frogs Mexican

Fri. June 9-Gr. 7 Freezie Sale \$2 @ 2:45

Fri. June 9- All Montessori Year 1,2,3 to Robbin's Range Heritage School

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 the library

Mon. June 12- Donas' Class to McQueen Lake

Mon. June 12- Eureka Science Presentation- Marican, Thomson and Beaudry
Tues. June 13- Hatch K Class to Dufferin Pond for Pond Studey
Wed. June 14- SAC Thank you Wrap Up 12:10
Wed. June 14- Bale's Class to District POW WOW
Wed. June 14- Eureka Science Presentation- Kaczur, Kruisselbrink, and Marsh
Thurs. June 15- Aberdeen Band Concert Student Body 10:30 am/ Parent Concert 6:00 pm
Fri. June 16- PAC HOT LUNCH Moon Wok
Fri. June 16- Marsh/ Kruisselbrink's classes to BLSC
Fri. June 16 – Perren's Owl Presentation Conservation Society of BC
Fri. June 16 – Open House for Ms. Clarke's retirement 2:45
Sun. June 18- Father's Day
Mon. June 19- K/1 and K classes to Wildlife Park
Mon. June 19- Donas' Class to Robbin's Range Heritage School
Mon. June 19- Montessori Gr. 4/5/6 Classes to McQueen Lake Day Trip #1
Mon. June 19- All K Class and our K/1 Class to the Wildlife Park
Tues. June 20- Montessori Gr. 4/5/6 Classes to McQueen Lake Day Trip #2
Wed. June 21- Gr. 7 Classes to EAGLE BAY(return Friday June 23)
Wed. June 21- National Indigenous Day
Thurs. June 22 – Family Picnic ALL K classes 11:00 - 12:00 on the school field
Thurs. June 22- Bale's Class to Robbin's Range Heritage School all day
Fri. June 23- Spirit Day- Beach Day- Hat and Sunglasses
Fri. June 23- Hine's Class Swimming at TCC
Fri. June 23- PAC HOT LUNCH Booster Juice
Mon. June 26- FUN DAY for K-3 classes
Tues. June 27- Gr. 7 MOVING ON CEREMONY 1:15 pm
Tues. June 27- Marsh/Kruisselbrink's classes to Isobel Lake
Thurs. June 29- Last Day of School/Year End Assembly (students only due to Fire Reglations in gym)
Fri. June 30- Administration Day for Teachers

UPCOMING DATES FOR 2023-2024

Tuesday September 5- School Begins at 10:30
Monday September 25- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Saturday September 30- Truth and Reconciliation Day
Monday October 2- No School for Truth and Reconciliation Day
Monday October 9- Thanksgiving- no school for staff or students
Friday October 20- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Mon. October 23- Early Closure P/T Interviews 12:41 Dismissal
Thursday November 9- Early Dismissal 12:35/Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday November 10- Remembrance Day Assembly
Saturday November 11- Remembrance Day
Monday November 13- No School for Remembrance Day
Monday December 4- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Friday December 22- Last day of school before Winter Break
Saturday December 23-Monday January 7, 2024- WINTER BREAK
Monday January 8- School resumes
Friday February 2- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Monday February 19- Family Day- no school for staff or students
Friday March 15- Last day of school before Spring Break
Saturday March 16- Tuesday April 2- SPRING BREAK
Friday March 29- Good Friday Closure
Monday April 1- Easter Monday Closure
Tuesday April 2- School resumes
Monday April 22- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Friday May 17- Non Instructional Day- no school for students
Monday May 20- Victoria Day- no school for staff or students
Thursday June 27- Last day of school for 2023-2024- Dismissal 11:59 am
Friday, June 28 – Administrative Day for Staff

