



Principal's Message

Dear Husky Families,

The leaves are changing colours and the mornings are getting cooler... autumn is upon us at Decker Lake Elementary School!

October is a busy month full of assessments as we begin to collect data on our learners. It is wonderful to see the amazing learning going on in each of our classrooms and the steady progress our Huskies are making already. Thank you for sending your children to school every day ready to learn.

Huskies wrote Core Competency goals this week in each of the following areas: *thinking, communication, personal and social*. Ask your child to share with you about the goals they set for themselves to work on in each of these areas. Students will reflect on these goals three times throughout the year, and their reflections will accompany each report that is sent home.

The DLES Handbook is going home this week. Please look for a copy in your child’s backpack. The handbook contains important information about life at DLES.

Wishing you a lovely Thanksgiving weekend and a wonderful month ahead.

With much gratitude and respect,

Ms. Giesbrecht
Principal - DLES



DLES Shares with Parents...

Mark your Calendar	
October	
12	Thanksgiving—No School
15	Shake Out Drill (earthquake)
19	Photo Retakes
20	PAC Meeting 6-7pm
20 & 21	Book Fair
21	Talk About Learning Time (TALT) Early dismissal 11:47 am
21	Lockdown Drill with RCMP presence
22	PAC Movie Night
23	Pro-D Day—No School
27	Book Character Day
28	D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything & Read)
30	Halloween Costume Day
31	Hallowe'en
November	
11	Remembrance Day—No School
20	Pro-D—No School
December	
17	Christmas Concert 1 pm



No School
Monday, October 12, 2026
for Thanksgiving

Early Dismissal
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
11:47 AM due to
TALT (Talk About Learning Time)
Please make an appointment to
meet with your child’s teacher
through the office @
250-698-7301
(appointments available 2 pm—6 pm)

No School
Friday, October 23, 2026
for Provincial Pro-D



WELCOME

DLES would like to welcome Mrs. Amanda O’Connell to our staff. Mrs. O’Connell will be working in all class-rooms throughout the school. Welcome ~ we are glad you are here!



Volunteering @ DLES

If you are planning to be a volunteer at our school in any way (coaching, field trips), you will require a **Criminal Record Check**. Please drop by our school office for more information.

Visiting DLES

When visiting our school, please remember that all doors are locked except for the front door. **Please sign in and out at the school office.** Please do not go to classrooms without checking in at the office first!!

Student Verification Forms!!!

Verification forms were sent home last month with every child at Decker Lake Elementary. If you have not returned your child’s signed forms, please do so as soon as possible. Please make any changes, such as phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, custody, court orders, or alerts, etc., directly on the form, sign the bottom of back page for each child, and send it back to the school as soon as possible. We need a signed form for every child. Please ensure information is correct for each child. To ensure DLES protects your child properly, please ensure you send a copy of any court orders or other legal documents to the school.

A Message From the Ministry of Education’s ERASE (Expect Respect & A Safe Education) Program

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGES

- Through the Deputy Minister’s Bulletin, we have released a three-week Back-to-School package focused on school culture and climate. Each week of September, the Ministry has shared subject-specific information on upcoming events, available training, and new and existing resources to support districts and schools in fostering safe and welcoming environments for all students.
- Please familiarize yourself with the content in each package:

Week 1: [B.C.’s Welcoming Schools and Safety](#)

Week 2: [Mental Health and Well-being](#)

Week 3: [Diversity and Inclusion](#)

B.C.’s WELCOMING SCHOOLS

- Launching this school year, B.C.’s Welcoming Schools is a new provincial site focused on fostering learning environments where all students feel safe, welcome, connected, and supported.
- Additional information and resources are available on the new [B.C.’s Welcoming Schools webpage](#), bringing together new and existing resources and supports for students, families and school staff.

Safer Schools Together Support

- Connect early with Safer Schools Together – safety teams have access to behavioural and digital threat assessment as well as critical incident support 24/7 through a Ministry contract with school safety experts Safer Schools Together.
- To request support, get in touch with Karie Evans at your earliest convenience.

erased Training

- In partnership with Safer Schools Together, the Ministry offers free online and in-person training to school and district safety team members, students, and families. Sessions are focused on supporting school and online safety.
- The [2026/27 erased training schedule](#) is now available and sessions are open for registration. Additional training sessions may be added throughout the school year.
- New PVP are strongly encouraged to register for [Foundations of School Safety](#) as well as other offerings to support digital and behavioral threat assessment, trauma-informed responses, and to inform critical incident response and management.



Decker Lake Elementary

is on Instagram!!!

Our Instagram account is:

dles_huskies

Our Instagram account is private.

Followers will need to be given
access to join.

Talk About Learning

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

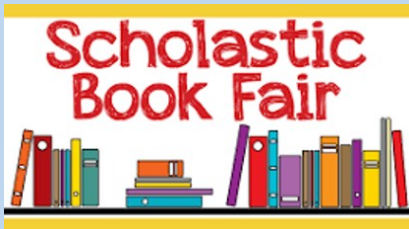
Huskies will be dismissed at **11:47 AM on October 21st** because of **Talk About Learning Time**. Buses will arrive home three hours earlier on this day. Please call the school office at 250-698-7301 to book an appointment with your child's teacher.

Appointments are available from 2 pm—6 pm



Photo Re-Take Day!!

School pictures are scheduled for
Monday, October 19th, 2026



Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

Save the date! The book fair will take place **October 20th & 21st**. Children will access the book fair on Tuesday, October 20th with their classroom teacher. There will be a special family shopping event to coincide with our early dismissal and Talk About Learning Time- drop by anytime during your visit to the school to meet with your child's teacher! Debit, credit card and Apple Pay are all accepted.

Dates & Times

Tuesday Oct 20 ~ during class (students only)

Wednesday Oct 21 ~ 2:00-6:00 (everyone welcome)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

GRADES 4-7

Students in grades 4-7 are responsible for bringing in their own school supplies this year. A list of supplies is listed on the front doors of the school and on our website.

SCHOOL FEES K-3

Students in grades K-3 do not need to bring in any school supplies this year. Instead, all supplies have been purchased for your child. The fee to cover the cost of these items is \$50. If you have not already paid for your child's school supplies, please do so as soon as possible.



HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES



Friday, October 30, 2026

The 6/7 class will be hosting games and a haunted house for all classes on Friday, October 30. If you would like to donate any candy or treats to our Halloween event, please drop donations off at the school office before then. Also, October 30 will be **Costume Day**.



FIDGETS @ DLES

Fidgets are only permitted at DLES if the school district occupational therapist has been consulted and a plan is in place.

Fidgets are discouraged during regular work times as they are distracting to students and teachers.

If your child wants to bring in a fidget to play with during outside break times, that is permitted.

Otherwise, all fidgets should stay at home or be in a child's backpack throughout the school day.

If you would like an OT consultation with our school district occupational therapist, please contact our school office for more information.

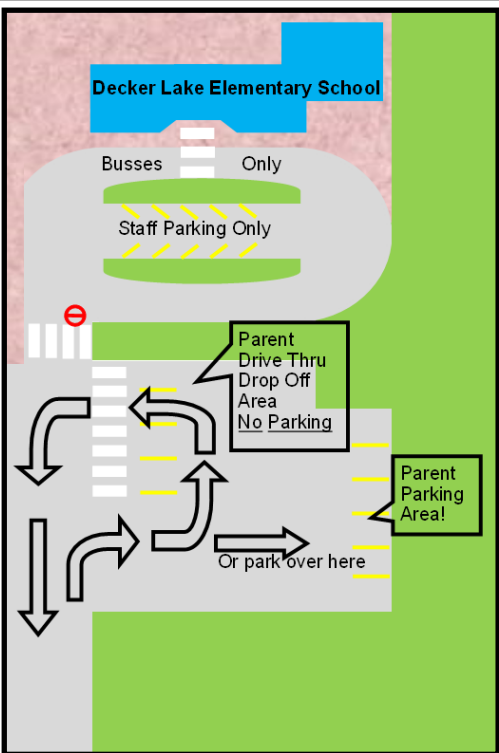
OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED!!!

8:45 AM - 12:15 PM and 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM.



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

We recognized *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* by wearing orange on September 29th. Students discussed, then drew or wrote about *why they matter* in each of their classrooms. We created a display in our foyer of their work. You are more than welcome to come in and view our display.



DROP OFF ZONE

When dropping off your children, please follow the above diagram for their safety! Have your child cross at the crosswalk after checking both ways or walk with them to the school entrance. The bus lane is NOT for parent or staff use. It is strictly for bus use and emergency vehicles only. It is NOT for student drop-off. It is to be always kept clear. The staff parking lot is for staff only. Please do not drop your children off in the staff parking lot. Please drop your children off in the designated area. We appreciate and thank you for respecting this school policy.

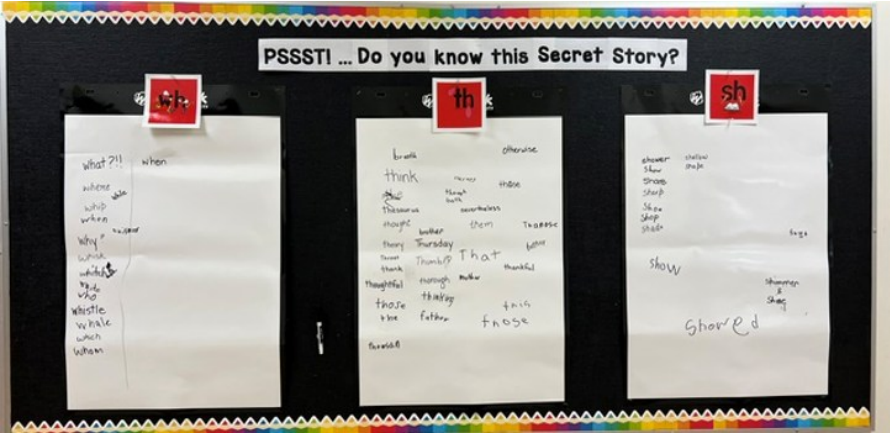


Bus Changes

Bus books are completed in the office by 2 PM. If you must change your child's end of the day bus routine, please phone the school office by **2 pm** and we will **try** to accommodate the change. If you phone after 2 pm, there is **no guarantee** the change will be made.

INTERACTIVE BULLETIN BOARDS

Mrs. Watts is sponsoring two interactive activities on hallway bulletin boards this year. One is a math problem, and the other is a word challenge. Students are welcome to submit their answers and have their names entered into a draw.



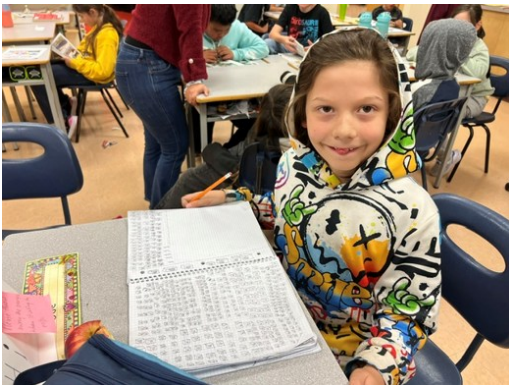
Decker Lake Elementary Parent Advisory Committee

The DLES PAC will hold their next PAC meeting in our school library on **Monday, October 19th from 6-7 PM.** PAC meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month this year with a few exceptions. Meeting dates will be included in monthly newsletters.



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SOGI in B.C. Schools

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY



WHAT SOGI IS



An inclusive approach
to make schools safe and
welcoming for all students.



**Part of anti-discrimination
and anti-bullying efforts**
required under B.C.'s
Human Rights Code.



**A set of optional resources
for educators (SOGI 1 2 3)**
with age-appropriate lesson
ideas and professional learning.



Inclusive of everyone.
All students have a sexual
orientation and gender identity —
including heterosexual and
cisgender people.



Part of broader learning
about diversity, human rights,
identity, healthy relationships
and respect, at age-appropriate
levels throughout the curriculum.



WHAT SOGI ISN'T



**Not a separate curriculum
or course.**
There is no "SOGI class."



**Does not teach children
they are "in the wrong body."**
It does not encourage any
specific gender identity
or sexual orientation.



**Not about persuading
students to be transgender
or LGBTQ+.**
It simply acknowledges
that LGBTQ+ people exist and
should be treated with respect.



Not the same as sex education.
Sexual health education is part
of the Physical and Health Education
curriculum and is separate.



**Not focused only on LGBTQ+
students.**
SOGI inclusion is about respect,
belonging and dignity for all students
and families.





Medication Forms

Has your child developed a new condition such as:

- Asthma
- Allergies

Or **any other condition that requires a medication?** Please contact the school office and we will help you with documentation.

Decker Lake Wants YOU...

School District 91 and DLES have opportunities available well-worth checking into! Try considering a career change or a location change and spend more **awesome** time with your kids while investing in their futures. Your schedule could be aligned with your kids which means they'd be in class on time, at school every day, and they'd benefit from your commitment to your job. Check out "Join Our Team" on SD91.bc.ca. Just a little thing to think about...!