

Principal's Message

I trust that you and your child(ren) are looking forward to the summer break! One of the tasks that we have been working on as a team before we break for summer is the creation of the 2021/2022 class lists.

Organizing students into classes is one of the more complex things that we do at Decker Lake Elementary School. We go to great efforts to ensure that children are placed in optimal educational settings; teams of teachers work to create what we feel is the best placement for every child. The factors we must consider are numerous – there can be many reasons to place a child in a class and sometimes reasons not to. As well, there can be teacher movement from grade to grade, and to and from the school. Our aim is to build diverse and successful groups of learners who will function and learn well together. To do this, we used a wide range of criteria for grouping students, including:

- Physical and emotional maturity
- Academic needs and progress
- Class size
- Special needs class composition
- Special factors or extenuating circumstances
- Grade level balance in combined classes
- Personalities
- Each child's need for attention in social, emotional, and behavioral areas
- Effort, achievement, independence, and leadership
- Logistical requirements concerning the child's access to the support of a learning support worker, whose service is provided in more than one classroom
- Cultural diversity
- Groupings appropriate for the best learning environment for all, and
- Social needs / friendships.

Additionally, we must make placements within the constraints of staffing allocations and contractual guidelines. In the end, each classroom will have its own character, offering different benefits to each child. We ask that you trust the team of educators working with your child to make the best placement for next school year. Finally, making new connections, meeting new challenges, and dealing with change are all important life skills. Only under rare circumstances will we switch students in the fall as we are confident that your child will settle in to his/her new classroom.

The 2021/22 class lists will be posted in the foyer by 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Please feel free to swing by the school to take a gander at the lists and in doing so alleviate any worries your family may have. Have a great summer break! I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Kelemen, Principal

Mark your Calendar

June

- 25 Sports Day
- 29 Last Day of School—11:47 AM Dismissal
- 30 **Summer Break Begins!**



HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION

Thank you to all who made a donation to our jump Rope for Heart event! We raised \$162.00 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation!



What makes DLES such a great school?

"A steadfast community oriented school with generations of family alumni."

—Anonymous Staff Member

DLES PAC EXECUTIVE 2020-2021

Co-chair: Shawna Abietkoff 250-304-8398

Co-chair: Shawna Belcourt 250-691-1094

Secretary: Amy Dash 250-691-1612

Treasurer: Dallas Matson 250-692-0516

'Ingredients' for a Good, Fun, and Safe Summer!

Summer has so many activities you can include for a recipe of fun. Be sure you check with your parents to make sure whatever you choose to do is safe as well as fun! Try out a few of these warm weather ingredients:

- ☐ play night time hide and go seek,
- ☐ outdoor yoga,
- ☐ climb a tree,
- ☐ play tag,
- ☐ jump in a lake, or
- ☐ paddle a canoe or kayak

Call or text a friend and invite them out for more exciting outdoor adventures!!!

Congratulations Grade 7s!

This year has been challenging for our Grade 7s with COVID-19 looming like a spectre over all of us. Amongst cohort restrictions, science fair presentations by distance means, fewer field trips, isolation due to COVID-19 exposures, our students—especially our Grade 7s—have been incredibly resilient. They've embraced technology to showcase their accomplishments with other classes, other schools, and even other communities. Our students have adapted to the restrictions COVID-19 imposed on our school with enviable flexibility and adaptability. Despite the challenges, these kids came to school when it was safe, did their work, and remained responsible for their health and safety. Kudos to these remarkable kids! This 2020/2021 year will be unforgettable for them, and for all of us!

Grade 7s had a chance to reminisce about Decker Lake Elementary School in the following assignment Mrs. Benoit gave them. Enjoy the excerpts from our Grade 7s below!

"You are in your last two weeks of school at Decker Lake Elementary. Soon, you will be a high school student. Please, take a moment to reflect on your time here at Decker Lake. Answer the questions below in full sentences. Your answers may appear in the last newsletter of the this year!"

6. How has the pandemic affected you and your last year of elementary school?

Less school trips, sad.

- Zane W.

3. What are some special memories you have?

Some special memories I have are when I was in kindergarten when we played in the sand box and in grade 1 we made the greatest art.

- Tessa G.

5. Who was special for you here? Who made an impact on you and how?

Well, to me everyone was special, but if I need to choose I would say Mrs Lee or Kelana because this year has been hard and they have helped me lots.

- Tessa G.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

What I will miss most next year is probably the playground (the swings) because they are fun. Next year I look forward to the library!!!!

- Caiomi B.

2. What are some of your favourite things about Decker Lake?

Some of my favorite things are, the people, everyone is so special in their own way and that is beautiful to me. I also love our mascot, I will always be a hucky.

- Ava M.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

I am looking forward to freedom and a phone. I want to also see all of my friends from other schools.

- Rylan H.

5. Who was special for you here? Who made an impact on you and how?

My favorite teachers has been Mrs Payne because she is really nice and a great cook.

- Blake M.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

I will miss the staff the most, that all so nice to everyone. I will also miss the school over all, I just hope high school is at least half as good as this school.

- Kayley T.

1. Do you remember what it was like when you came to this school? Was it in Kindergarten or later?

I was in kindergarten when I came here and I remember my mom brought me here and I didn't know what was happening.

- Carl W.

3. What are some special memories you have?

First day at kindergarten
first day with the new playground
watching my brother graduate

- Silas T.

2. What are some of your favourite things about Decker Lake?

My friends and P.E., Decker Lake taught me alot
of sports

- Rihanna W.

3. What are some special memories you have?

When I first met Sianna and Rihanna, when I first met Sapphira and
spending time with Sapphira and Rihanna and Sianna.

- Peyton V.

5. Who was special for you here? Who made an impact on you and how?

Kayley was special for me here. Kayley had the most impact
on me and it made me open up to other people.

- Alyssa W.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

I will miss having a playground next year. I'm looking forward
to seeing my friends from T.O.E.S next year.

- Alyssa W.

2. What are some of your favourite things about Decker Lake?

What I like about this school is that all
the teachers are there for you when you
need them most

- Sianna A.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

not seeing the cute new kindergartens. I am
looking forward to see my friend from other schools.

- Taylor M.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

LOTS looking forward to being able to
walk to husky and buy lots of candy for
Zander. Joining the Lego club.

- Hope B.

4. What will you miss most next year? Or, what are you looking forward to next year?

I will miss some of my friends but I will
look forward to 100ers and more people
to make friends with

- Zander B.

5. Who was special for you here? Who made an impact on you and how?

Some special people were Mrs. Pyne and Mrs. Heleman. I wish
I had them for longer. They both taught me so much. I'm really
sad that I only had Mrs. Heleman for one year, but it's better than none.
I'm also glad that I won't be going to Decker next year either, so many good
memories, wish we could make more. I'll have to come back just to see these people
again.

- Kayley T.

6. How has the pandemic affected you and your last year of elementary school?

The pandemic just about made it more special, it made it a more
memorable year rather than just a normal grade 4 year. We learned
together through the pandemic, learned what to and what not to do.

- Kayley T.

2. What are some of your favourite things about Decker Lake?

There is lots of field trips and
I have lots of friends I know here.

- Carl W.

Congratulations Grade 7s! We wish you all the very
best for your next great adventure at high school!

National Indigenous Peoples Day ... Lahal



Tuesday, June 22, the Grade 7s got a chance to learn about and play Lahal. Mr. Bruce Allan came to the school to teach our students about the history and the rules of the game.

It's a game that was nearly lost to time because of the residential school system. It has, fortunately, been rediscovered and is now shared amongst many indigenous groups, each with their own variation of the game.



Pssst ... on the last day of school for this year, Tuesday, June 29, 2021, the dismissal bell will be for 11:47 AM.

Busses will be here to pick up students to take them home for the summer.

National Indigenous Peoples Day ... Bannock and Crafts



National Indigenous Peoples Day ... More Bannock and Crafts



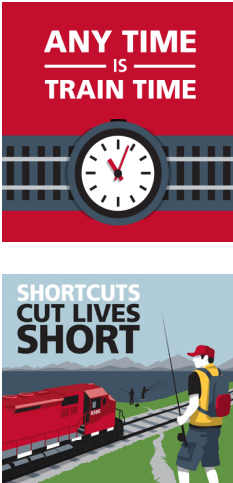
100 Years of Decker Lake School ... Celebrated by Students and Staff!!!



Summer Safety

- Each year, more than 100 people are injured or killed trespassing on railway property in Canada. It can take up to 2 kilometers for a train to stop. A locomotive engineer who suddenly sees someone on the tracks will not be able to stop in time. Some people say: "It won't happen to me". "Stay clear of the train tracks and railway property".
- Trespassing on railway property is illegal and dangerous. You can be fined or arrested. If you see unsafe behavior around the train tracks, report it. You could save someone's life.
- Cross only at a designated pedestrian or roadway crossing. If you cross at any other place, you may be trespassing.
- Do not cross the tracks immediately after a train passes. If it is multi-track a second train might be blocked by the first train. Trains can come from either direction. Wait until you can see clearly around the first train in both directions before proceeding.

- Every year people are injured or killed because they are wearing ear buds, head phones, texting or chatting on cell phones near trains. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Do not attempt to hop aboard railway equipment at any time. Those wheels are made of steel. If you slip and fall under the wheels, a limb may be cut off or you could get seriously injured.
- Trains overhang the tracks by at least 1 meter on either side. If you are too close to moving trains you can be hit by the train's overhang, as well as loose straps or chains.
- Fishing, jumping or walking on railway bridges is unsafe, there is only enough room on the tracks for a train to pass.
- Always walk your bicycle across the tracks, if not, your front tire may get caught in the groove between the rail and the road and you could fall.
- When approaching any rail crossing always LOOK, LISTEN and LIVE. Trains always have the right- of- way. People, cars and even emergency responders must wait for the train to pass.



Board Biz

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 LAUNCHES NEW "JOYFUL JOURNEY" LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR FAMILIES



School District 91 and our District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) partnered with acclaimed reading specialist Dr. Janet Mort to create fun activities to support year-round learning. Literacy development is one of the foundations of the District's Strategic Plan, and this work will help students and families learn through a series of play-based activities.

Dr. Mort created a series of ten (10) videos full of fun ways to learn and practice the skills for reading at home. The research tells us play is the best way for children to learn, so let us help you find a fun game to help your child learn about the alphabet, sounds, or sight words. Our team at SD91 adapted these videos to create condensed learning activities to enjoy anywhere there is an internet connection.

In addition to these videos and play-based activities, SD 91 will be offering prizes for participating in this Joyful Journey. For more information about our "Play to Win" Contest, go to the SD91 website, click on the Parents & Students tab, and find "Joyful Journey". Click on the cycling kids picture!

Please see the link below to explore:

[SD91 website — Parents & Students — Joyful Journey](#)

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 & January 2022

Families receive \$900 per student/month to host students ages 13 to 18 for 5 or 10 months.

Families need to provide meals and a furnished, private bedroom.

RMISP follows federal and provincial COVID regulations to ensure safety of host families, students, and communities.

For inquiries in Burns Lake and Vanderhoof (SD91) please contact Lori Sluth at lori.sluth@sd6.bc.ca or 250-688-6725.



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Jun 14th, 2021

Superintendent Manu Madhok presented his 'Superintendent's Report to the Board' at the June 14, 2021, Board Meeting.

Please click on the link below to view the report:

<https://www.sd91.bc.ca/apps/news/article/820380>

To each of our valued employees, parents and every single one of our students:

Thank You! ~ Mussi! ~ Merci!

~ Sne Kalyëgh! ~ Gracias!

~ Arigato Gozaimasu!

Regardless of how you say it, the Board of Education of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) would like to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation for ALL that you did in the last year to support our schools so they were welcoming and safe places for everyone!

We are proud and honoured to serve our communities and want to express our recognition of the hard work needed by all, especially this last year!

We wish you all a joyful and safe summer and send our best wishes to the graduating class of 2021!



At the Board meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, the following policies were given various readings:

500.2 Appeals Procedures Bylaw - 2nd Reading

602.1 Locally Developed Courses and Instructional Materials - 1st and 2nd Readings for removal

602.4 Board/Authority Authorized Courses - 1st and 2nd Readings

602.6 Childcare Programs in School District Facilities - 1st Reading

Please visit <https://www.sd91.bc.ca/apps/pages/policies-and-regulations> to view the draft policies. Please click on the "feedback" link located above the list of policies to send your comments via email. The closing date for comments is September 15, 2021.

Mrs. Kelemen *insists*

The last word goes to:

Mrs. Vossen for smiling at the start and end of each day!