

HUSKIES

Volume 2022/23-1

September 15, 2022

Principal: Mrs. W. Kelemen

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. J. Vossen

Decker Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM

Phone: 250-698-7301 Fax: 250-698-7349

Principal's Message

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students (new and returning), families and staff to the 2022-2023 school year! I trust that everyone is looking forward to having a routine after the summer months.

Our Open House is just around the corner so please mark your calendar! We are hoping that you can stop by the school for this event on **Wednesday, September 21st, from 5:00-5:45 pm** so you can tour the school and meet the teaching staff. The Open House is organized in a passport style format where families receive stamps after visiting various rooms. Once the passport has received the required number of stamps, your child's name can be entered in a prize draw which will take place in the gymnasium at 5:35 pm. If you need to leave prior to the draw and your child's name is drawn, she or he can pick up the prize from the office on the following day.

Getting involved in your child's education is a great investment of your time and energy! One such way is to attend the monthly PAC meetings. The PAC meets in the library and offers free babysitting to those who wish to attend the meeting. Our school benefits greatly from many PAC sponsored events, such as the hot lunch program, etc. If you can lend a hand on an intermittent or regular basis, I know that the PAC executive and school community will appreciate your time.

Let's work together to make 2022-2023 a wonderful year of learning, excitement, and academic growth!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Kelemen, Principal

Daily Health Check - Yup, We Still Have to Do This

⇒
Are you or your child experiencing any of the following?



- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Fever higher than 38°C or chills | ☐ Extreme fatigue or tiredness |
| ☐ Cough | ☐ Runny nose |
| ☐ Shortness of breath | ☐ Sneezing |
| ☐ Sore throat | ☐ Diarrhea |
| ☐ Loss or change of sense of smell or taste | ☐ Nausea or vomiting |
| ☐ Headache | ☐ Body or muscle aches—aches and pains in your body that you don't normally have |

Or

If you answer **Yes** to any of these questions, **Please stay home** and away from others until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you do not have a fever.

If you answer **No** to **ALL** of them, you are **welcome** to come to the school!

If you're not sure, take the BC Govt. COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>. If you think there is a possibility, use a free Rapid Antigen Test available to adults-only from DLES or free from any pharmacy in BC.

Mark your Calendar

September

- 16 Terry Fox Run 2 PM
- 19 Queen Elizabeth II's National Day of Mourning—**No School**
- 21 Open House 5-5:45 PM
- 23 District Planning Day—**No School**
- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 30 National Reconciliation Day—**No School**

October

- 7 Lockdown Drill with RCMP

At DLES, masks are optional. If your child wants to wear a mask, they are welcome to! And did you know that **washing** our hands **with soap and water often** and after touching our faces or bodies is THE **best** way to keep healthy? Hand sanitizer is good, too, for a second-best choice.

No School

Monday, September 19, 2022, to observe the National Day of Mourning for Canada's Queen Elizabeth II



Decker Lake Start-Up Info...



Did You Know?
Attendance Really Matters.
➔

If your child misses school...	It will equal...	Which is...	And over 13 school years (Gr K to 12), that is...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly one-and-a-half years missed
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over two-and-a-half years missed
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over FIVE years missed
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly EIGHT years missed

This is what Decker Lake Elementary’s Absences looked like during the 2021/2022 school year:

	Percentage of DLES students
5 days or less	4%
Between 6 – 10 days absent	8%
Between 11-15 days absent	9%
16 days or more	79%

With your help as parents and guardians, let’s try to give our students MANY more opportunities to achieve a full, well-rounded education for this 2022/2023 school year.



"I'm not a quitter."

2022 is 42 years since the courageous young man, Terry Fox, ran across Canada after losing his leg to cancer. His legacy still lives on as Decker Lake will again hold our annual Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 16, 2022, at 2 PM. Parents and caregivers are welcome! All funds raised goes to cancer research.

Thank you, Terry. Your determination inspires us still.



What does the Decker Lake Elementary Open House and Save-On-Foods have in common?

If you guessed gift cards, you’d be correct!

Come to the Open House for a chance to win one of 10 Save-On-More gift cards!



Lockdown Drill

On Friday, October 7, at 10:10 AM, Decker Lake will be having a Lockdown Drill. The RCMP will be helping us during the drill. So if you see lights flashing and hear some noise, and your child(ren) come(s) home excitedly to tell you all about how DLES had police at the school, this will be the really cool and exciting reason why!



Thursday, September 29, 2022, Decker Lake will acknowledge and recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange. We hope to colour-up our school and playground in orange!



DLES Library has BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS on Terry Fox!!!

Welcome back to Decker Lake Elementary Staff!!!

Decker Lake Staff 22-23

- Mrs. Kelemen - Principal
- Mrs. Payne - AEA
- Mrs. Blair - PAA
- Mrs. Burleson - Custodian
- Ms. Giesbrecht - Gr 1-2
- Ms. England - Gr 5-6
- Mrs. Vossen - Admin. Assist.
- Mr. Williams - Indigenous Ed
- Mrs. Stevenson - PAA
- Mrs. Coulson - PAA
- Mrs. Benoit - Gr 6-7
- Mrs. Trottier - Librarian
- Miss Lee - Resource Teacher
- Ms. Menzel - LSW
- Mrs. Lowe - Gr 3-4
- Ms. Hushard - LSW
- Ms. Eftodie - Custodian
- Mrs. Shelford-Schneider - K-1

Student Verification Forms have been sent home!!!

It’s time for the annual check on Student Verification Forms. Every child at Decker Lake Elementary will get one. 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, so 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.

**School Code of Conduct and
District Code of Conduct for Students**

Your child will be coming home with a copy for you to have a good look at. Please have a look at them with your child(ren).
Thanks!



Jr. NBA Youth Basketball (JNYB) is geared toward youth between the ages of 5-12 focusing on skills, sportsmanship, and basketball. To register, find them on Facebook, the Village office, or email burnslakebasketball@gmail.com

Board Office Biz...



Helpful Tips:

- Concerns are best addressed when small, don't wait
- Write down your thoughts. Use your important points with you to help you stay focused
- Write your goals/requests at the top of your note page
- Write details about:
 - Record meeting date and attendees
 - Take note of the action plan and timeline
 - Ask for clarification if needed
- Separate meetings with respect of having the common goal to solve the concern
- Avoid placing blame
- Look for ways to work together
- Pause before posting on social media

Need more guidance or support through the process? Want to know where to find a SD91 policy? Contact SD91 District PAC at: sd91dpac@gmail.com

Created by SD91 DPAC, April 2022

SD 91 DPAC Quick Guide for Parents: Steps to Resolving Concerns

"Concerns can be something minor or more a matter that has become more complicated, but the steps remain the same."

"The Board of Education believes in the importance of employees, students, and parents working together in good faith to create a positive and inclusive school culture that empowers for every student. The values of trust, respect, responsibility, and collaboration set the tone for how the entire school community works together to pursue common goals."

Excerpt from SD91 Policy No. 204.4
[Policy No. 204.4](#) [Regulation \(a\) Policy 204.4](#)

1. Clearly identify the concern:
 - a. Try to be specific
 - b. Consider possible solutions
"Complaints are the issue. This is the outcome I am looking for. How can we work together to solve this?"
 - c. Review SD91 Policy 204.4 - Resolving Public Concerns Regarding Personnel, Programs or Procedures
2. Meet with the staff member:
 - "This will most often be the teacher but ask if you are unsure"
 - a. Email is a great option to set day and time
 - b. If meeting in the office or classroom feels uncomfortable for you, ask to meet in the library or another quiet space
 - c. Ask a support person to attend if needed
 - "It's a good idea to advise the staff member if you're bringing others to a meeting"
 - d. Prior meeting follow up
"After the meeting, send an e-mail confirming what you heard, actions that will be taken, and a follow-up plan"
3. If things don't get solved at the first step:
 - a. Repeat all the above with the school principal
4. If still not resolved:
 - a. Repeat all steps with the school supervisor
5. If all other steps have been unsuccessful:
 - a. Provide your concern in writing to the superintendent

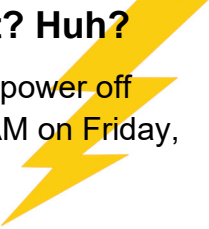
The SD91 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) would like to introduce a new resource section on the SD91 webpage for parents. Under the 'Parents & Students' tab, please click on 'Parent Resources' to see the new 'Quick Guide for Parents: Steps to Resolving Concerns' Watch this section for more quick guides for parents to come in the future.

SD 91 DPAC Quick Guide for Parents:

For more information about DPAC, please email sd91dpac@gmail.com

'Sup? Wat'sat? Huh?

BC Hydro is turning the power off between 12 AM and 4 AM on Friday, September 16.



And the last word goes to:



Bulkley Valley CREDIT UNION

For their very kind donation of some school supplies available for students who may need a few missing bits.
A HUGE Thank You!!!



Decker Lake Elementary School

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The Ministry of Education & Childcare has provided the school district with a one-time only Student & Family Affordability Fund. The aim of this fund is to make life more affordable for families who are temporarily facing financial challenges and need temporary assistance with the costs of **school supplies, education-related fees**, and dealing with **food security** that impact children's learning.

To help us accurately respond to the needs of our school community, we would like to respectfully invite you to provide some input by returning this lower portion of the newsletter to the school. Our aim is to confidentially support any DLES family without prejudice. Your opportunity to reach out for support does not expire with this newsletter. If your level of financial comfort were to decline at any point during this school year, please do reach out. We are happy to support your family with this fund to offset the cost of healthy groceries, school supplies and/or field trip fees.



↓CUT HERE AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION↓

.....

Your name: _____

Yes, I would appreciate support with:

☐ School supplies and/or school supply fees,

☐ Recess snacks

☐ School lunches

☐ Field trip fees