

SUN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4040 Sundance Drive, Sun Peaks, BC
Phone: (250) 578-7227 • Fax: (250) 377-2246
Mailing Address: c/o HGEC, 245 Kitchener Cres, Kamloops
BC V2B 1B9

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another exciting school year. I am very excited to be working up here in this amazing community and getting to know all of your kids. I have spent the last four years as the Vice-Principal of Brocklehurst Middle School, and was the Vice-Principal of AE Perry Elementary before that. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year and hope your children are as well. The following newsletter provides information on the coming year, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office (located at Heffley Creek) at 250-578-7227 or come by. My office is located at the back of the K-1 classroom. Please enter through the back door.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson, Principal

Staff:

This year with the retirement of Ms. Maartman and Ms. Hryhchuk we have many new staff members to welcome. Please welcome Ms. Sue Mark, coming from Marion Schilling who will be teaching the grade 5/6/7 class and Mrs. Jody Oetter coming from Kamloops School of the Arts who will be teaching the grade 2/3 class. Both Ms. Emily Fell and Ms. Katie Friesen are on Maternity leave. The teachers who will be covering their classes will be hired very shortly and the classes are currently being covered by trained teachers teaching on-call. I would also like to welcome Ms. Maria Moutsos as our new custodian for the year.

School Fees:

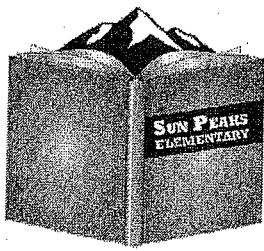
A notice to collect school fees will be sent out later in the week. Please return these forms by September 30th. Fees cover the expense of school supplies as well as a concert series for our students.

Verification Reports and other Permission Forms

The school district requires parents to update Student Verification Records on a yearly basis. Along with this document, a *permission for personal information consent*, an *Outside Media in Schools*, and a *Student Use of District Technology resources* form and a permission slip for local activities done throughout the community are attached to this newsletter and need to be signed. **Please return these forms to the school no later than September 30th.**

Strings program

We will again be offering the string program at Sun Peaks. More information will be coming out in the coming weeks



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Bell Schedule:

Class Starts:	8:30
Start of Recess Break	10:15
End of Recess:	10:30
Start of Lunch	12:10
Warning Bell	1:05
End of Lunch Break	1:10
End of Day	3:45

School Calender:

The Sun Peaks School calender is attached to this package. Please note that although school is generally not in session on Fridays there are several weeks throughout the year that students will attend on Fridays. These days generally occur after a statutory holiday. In addition, please note that there are several Thursdays where the students do not attend. These typically take place before a Professional Development Day.

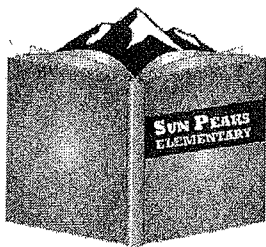
After School Programs

This year we will be offering a variety of extra-curricular sports opportunities for students. The first season is cross-country running which begins on Friday September 15th and will be open for students in grade 3-7. Please encourage your children to take part and volunteer drivers are always needed. Further information will be coming out in the coming week to those students that are interested.

Parent Involvement and Parent Advisory Council

There are several ways in which you can be an active parent at Sun Peaks Elementary. Our Parent Advisory Council meets on a regular basis and the meeting dates are published in the school newsletters. **The first PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18 at 8:45 at the Municipality office in the Kookabura lodge.** Please feel free to attend.

Many people volunteer in our school. Their involvement is greatly appreciated and allows us to expand our programs and to support children in ways that we otherwise would not be able to do. Whenever parents are in the school, we emphasize the importance of confidentiality. Records and personal information are confidential and we expect our parents to respect that. Regular volunteers are required to sign a volunteer agreement, and all visitors to the school must sign in at the office.



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Photo Day

PHOTO DAY - OCTOBER 11th. Prior to photo day, a brochure will be sent home with students advertising the photo date and other important details. After photo day each student photographed will receive a proof to place their order. No payment is due at the camera.

Indoor Shoes

Students NEED “indoor” shoes at school. This will be particularly important once the weather becomes cooler and wetter and the ground becomes muddy. In addition, athletic shoes are required for PE during the fall and spring (Please, no flip flop or open toe shoes). We will be regularly walking around the community and accessing the resources in the community. It will be very important for the students to have proper attire for these outings.

Guidelines for Personal Electronic Devices at Sun Peaks Elementary:

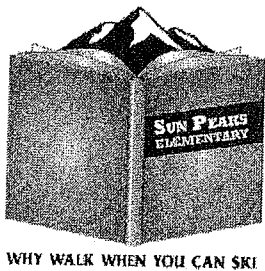
- Students who bring devices such as cell phones, ipods, MP3 players, Nintendo DS's or similar will be instructed to keep these items in their backpacks for the duration of the school day until dismissal.
- As per the *District's Policy 406.1*, the safe keeping of these devices are solely the responsibility of the owners.
- Students needing or wanting to use cell phones to contact parents while at school must use the same procedure currently in place for using the school phone – ask a staff member for permission first - and return device to backpack when finished.
- Students may use e-type readers for quiet reading times upon permission of the teacher (safekeeping is the responsibility of the student).

School Clothing

Our school is considered a ‘place of work’ for students. It is expected that our students will respectfully represent Sun Peaks Elementary both in and outside of school. At school, and at all school functions, students are expected to dress in a manner and style appropriate for school. We ask that students refrain from wearing spaghetti straps, hats, have midriffs showing, underwear showing, and/or inappropriate language on clothing. Please refer to School District policy #612.1 for further information.

Medical Policy

Please contact the school if your child has any health issues or potentially life-threatening conditions that we need to be made aware of. No medications (prescription or non-prescription) are to be administered by school district employees without prior written consent of the parent/guardian and doctors must sign a ***Request for Administration of Medication at School*** form which includes written medical advice from a physician. This form must be renewed/resigned each school year. For more information, please see *District policies 1006.1 and 1006.2* at www.sd73.bc.ca.



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Things To Tell the Teacher

What can you tell a teacher that will help him or her do their job better? Students do best when parents and teachers work together as partners. Not sure where to start?

Health conditions

If your child is diabetic, uses an inhaler, is allergic to peanuts, or has a serious health condition, her teacher should know. It's also helpful to let the teacher know whether your child has been diagnosed with conditions like ADHD, which may affect behaviour and concentration.

Family issues

Fill in the teacher if your family is going through a major change that could affect your child, such as a divorce, a death in the family, or a move.

Personality traits or behavior issues

Maybe your son is painfully shy and is worried about making friends at a new school.

Strengths and weaknesses

If you tell teachers these things up front, they will have more time to help your children

improve in the areas they need it most.

Learning style

If your child learns better through hands-on activities than through listening to explanations, mention that to his teacher. Also share any teaching strategies that you've found work well with your child.

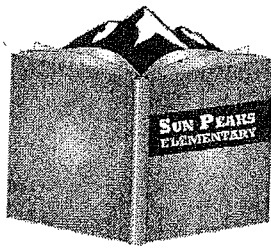
Study habits

Tell teachers about your children's study habits and any issues they face in completing the work. Teachers often can offer suggestions to make homework time go more smoothly.

Special interests

Let the teacher know that your young son loves a particular comic book superhero and that your middle school daughter is a gifted painter.

Emily Graham is a senior editor for School Family Media.
http://www.canadianliving.com/health/mind_and_spirit/8_back_to_s



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Overcoming Anxiety

Let your children know you care

If your child is anxious about school, send personal notes in the lunch box or book bag.

Reinforce the ability to cope

Children absorb their parent's anxiety, so model optimism and confidence for your child. Let your child know that it is natural to be a little nervous anytime you start something new but that your child will be just fine once he or she becomes familiar with classmates, the teacher, and school routine.

Do not overreact

If the first few days are a little rough, try not to overreact. Young children in particular may experience separation anxiety or shyness initially but teachers are trained to help them adjust. If you drop them off, try not to linger. Reassure them that you love them, will think of them during the day, and will be back.

Remain calm and positive

Acknowledge anxiety over a bad experience the previous year. Children who had a difficult time academically or socially or were teased or bullied may be more fearful or reluctant to return to school. If you have not yet done so, share your child's concern with

the school and confirm that the problem has been addressed.

Reinforce your child's ability to cope

Give your child a few strategies to manage a difficult situation on his or her own. But encourage your child to tell you or the teacher if the problem persists. Maintain open lines of communication with the school.

Arrange play dates

Try to arrange get-togethers with some of your child's classmates before school starts and during the first weeks of school to help your child re-establish positive social relationships with peers.

Plan to volunteer in the classroom

If possible, plan to volunteer in the classroom at least periodically throughout the year. Doing so helps your child understand that school and family life are linked and that you care about the learning experience.

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/home_school/b2s_handout.aspx

Here are a few final tips for a fantastic school year

- Get enough sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Try your best.
- Use good work habits.
- Take your time with school work.
- Ask the teacher for help.
- Keep a sense of humor.