



The Lion's Roar



Date: Friday, September 9, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful summer and are ready for another exciting school year! The Lee staff welcomes all of you, especially those families new to the Lee area, and to our Kindergarten students who are coming to school for the first time. We know our new families will quickly feel at home in the Lee community. The quality of the relationships formed in the school community is central to creating a positive and productive educational environment for learning. On behalf of the staff at Lee, we would like to extend a sincere invitation to join us in making your child's education as rich and rewarding as possible.

K. Elcombe
Principal

S. Tse
Vice Principal



SCHOOL HOURS

Just a reminder of the school hours at Walter Lee:

Monday to Thursday

8:25 am	Doors open for students
8:40 am	First morning bell
8:45 am	Morning classes begin
10:15-10:30 am	Recess break
12:10-1:00 pm	Lunch break - Play first, then eat
12:55 pm	First afternoon bell
1:00 pm	Afternoon classes begin
3:00 pm	Dismissal

Friday

8:25 am	Doors open for students
8:40 am	First morning bell
8:45 am	Morning classes begin
11:15-11:45 am	Runch (Recess/Lunch)
1:00 pm	Dismissal

Walter Lee Elementary School 9491 Ash Street, Richmond, B.C. V7A 2T7
Tel: 604.668.6269 Fax: 604.668.6414 **Safe Arrival: 604.668.6269 & press 1**
Mr. K. Elcombe, Principal Mrs. S. Tse, Vice Principal
Ms. W. Lim, Area Superintendent Ms. A. Wong, School Liaison Trustee
School web page: lee.sd38.bc.ca

SCHOOL CALENDAR: 2016 – 2017

School Opens	Tues, Sept 6
Meet the Teacher Night	Thurs, Sept 22 – 6:00-7:00 pm
Terry Fox Run	Fri, Sept 23 – 11:45 am
School Professional Development Day	Mon, Sept 26
Photo Day	Wed, Sept 28
Parent-Teacher Conferences	Wed, Oct 5 - Dismissal 2:00 pm
Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thurs, Oct 6 - Dismissal 2:00 pm
Thanksgiving	Mon, Oct 10
Provincial Professional Development Day	Fri, Oct 21
Remembrance Day Holiday	Fri, Nov 11
District Curriculum Implementation Day	Fri, Nov 18
School Professional Development Day	Mon, Dec 5
Last day of school before Winter Break	Fri, Dec 16
Winter Vacation – School Not in Session	Dec 19 – Jan 2
School Re-Opens after Winter Break	Tues, Jan 3
Half Day Professional Development Day	Mon, Jan 16 – Dismissal 11:15 am
B.C. Family Day	Mon, Feb 13
Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thurs, Feb 16 – Dismissal 2:00 pm
District Professional Development Day	Fri, Feb 24
Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thurs, Mar 9 – Dismissal 2:00 pm
Last Day before Spring Break	Fri, Mar 10
Spring Break – School Closed	Mar 13 – 24
School Re-Opens after Spring Break	Mon, Mar 27
Good Friday	Fri, Apr 14
Easter Monday	Mon, Apr 17
Common Professional Development Day	Mon, May 1
Victoria Day	Mon, May 22
Last day before Summer Vacation	Thurs, Jun 29
Half Day Professional Development Day	Thurs, Jun 29 – Dismissal 11:15 am
Administrative Day	Fri, Jun 30

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

At Walter Lee School we have a “**Safe Arrival Program**” for our students. Parents are asked to call the Safe Arrival line **before school starts** to report any absences or the late arrival of their child(ren).

Please call **604-668-6269**, then **press 1**, and leave a message with your child’s name and division and whether your child will be arriving late or will be absent. You may call this number at any time... in the evening, during the night, or in the early morning.

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring the safety of your child!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We welcome parent volunteers! There are many opportunities in the school year for parents/guardians to volunteer, including in classrooms, on field trips, during school events, and for PAC-sponsored programs, to name a few.

Volunteering is a great way to learn about the school, to support our children, and to meet other parents! Look for messages from your child's teacher, in school newsletters, and in PAC notices for your chance to get involved!

SCHOOL AND HOME COMMUNICATION

We value clear and open communication between home and school. Individual teachers will communicate with families about happenings in classrooms. As a school, we have two main ways of communicating:

School Website: We have an exciting new format for our website that is much easier for us to update. Please bookmark it and check it out regularly: <http://lee.sd38.bc.ca/>

School and PAC Newsletters and Notices: We will be sending home regular newsletters on the 3rd Thursday of every month. These notices will contain important information about school events and we ask that you take the time to read them. The newsletter will also be posted on the school website. We are trying hard to provide you with electronic communication to save on paper and to ensure that the information gets home. Your email addresses will be used only here at the school by the school office and the PAC and we will not be sharing the addresses with any outside agencies. **Please help us in our effort to reduce waste, save electricity and money!**

In order for us to be able to send our newsletters electronically, parents must consent to receiving them, as per the Canada Anti-Spam Legislation introduced last year. Included in your notices is a consent to electronic communication form – please fill it out so that we can send you emails. Thanks!

BASIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND STUDENT AGENDAS



Once again, the school district will make available the purchase of student school supplies. The school district is able to secure bulk pricing, thus offering parents supplies at a low cost, and the convenience of not having to purchase the items themselves. The price for this year is **\$30.00**, which covers the cost of basics such as exercise books, duo-tangs, paper, pencils & erasers, crayons, felt pens, rulers, scrap books, and glue. If there are any other individual items required beyond those supplied by the school, your child's teacher will notify you. All items brought to school should be labeled with your child's name.

In addition, we will be providing each student in **Grades 1-7 (not Kindergarten students)** with a student planner, which will be an integral part of each classroom program. The cost is **\$5.00** for the student agenda.

This year, we will be using a NEW online payment system! Please read below on how to register so that you are able to pay online.

NEW ONLINE PAYMENTS!



Parents can now pay for school events and activities online. This will include payments for school supplies, field trips and other payables. No more cheques to sign or cash to send to school!

Please set up your online account as soon as possible. We hope that most families will choose to pay online, as it will be very convenient for all. We will, however, still accept payments at school from those families who are unable to pay online. Once you set up your account, it will be valid for the entire time your child is here at Walter Lee.

Setting Up Your Online Account:

Step 1: Go to the website:
<https://richmondsd38.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Select "Get Started Now" and follow the steps.

Step 3: After an email confirmation is received, select "click here" and sign in.

Step 4: Add each of your children to your account. You will need your child's ID number to complete the registration. This number was sent home in June, but will also be put on a label at the front of your child's agenda which will come home sometime next week. If you would like the number right away, or need help with registering, please contact the office.

BC SCHOOL FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Once again, we are participating in the fruit & vegetable program at school.

Eating fruits and vegetables is essential for good health. Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating recommends that we should all eat at least five servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Many children eat much less. In fact, research shows that only 1 out of 4 children eat this daily requirement.



Snacks are served during class time, so teachers can use this opportunity to engage students in discussion about fruits and vegetables and healthy eating habits. Many children will be trying a food for the first time and will love how good these snacks taste and make them feel. These are the building blocks towards a lifetime of healthy eating. For more information please check out: www.sfvnp.ca/

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in this program, please inform your child's teacher.

TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

How do your children get to and from school? Did you know that most of our students live close enough to the school to walk? Walking has been shown to improve health and reduce stress. If possible, take time to walk to school with your child. It will be good for your health, provide some quality parent-child interaction time, and also be good for the environment. While you are walking with your child to school, you might get a chance to connect with other families and build community connections. In addition, reducing the traffic around the school will improve safety for all of our children.

If you must drive, please park only in designated spots in the centre and right side of the parent lot. You may drop off your child(ren) in the drop-off lane if they are able to come inside on their own. **Please do not park in designated staff areas or in handicapped parking spots if you are not eligible to do so.**

ARE YOU "ANY DAY READY"?

We believe that children need lots of time to run, play and be active, and most often, being inside the school on a rainy day does not allow for that. We also realize that being prepared for playing outside on a rainy day is crucial to making this plan work, so we are asking parents to help your children be ready to play outside, no matter what the weather.

To be "Any Day Ready," students are asked to bring the following items at school on rainy days (and on days that look like it may rain):



- a waterproof jacket with a hood (or a rain hat)
- boots or waterproof shoes or a change of shoes
- a change of clothes in case your child is wet from playing outside (e.g. extra pants & socks)

Please make sure to LABEL all of your child's clothing that is sent to school.

We know that having all the students outside each day for fresh air and giving them a chance to enjoy the outdoors no matter what the weather will allow them to become re-energized and ready for learning when they return to their classrooms. Thank you in advance for your support with our rainy day plan!

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

As mentioned, we welcome parents to the school! **Any parent, guardian or visitor who is at the school during instructional time needs to check in at the office and get a visitor's badge.** Please make sure to stop at the office to say hello. This will help us know who is in the building during school time for student safety, and in case of an emergency.

Please do not visit with other parents in the hallways once class has started and before the end of the day as this can be distracting to students in class. Thank you!

We have refreshed our PAWS acronym

Lee Lions are **PAWS**itive!



Problem Solve



Accept Others



We Not Me



Safety First