



Grindrod Elementary School

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September 4th, 2018

Welcome back for another exciting year of learning at Grindrod Elementary! We have been busy redesigning school spaces such as our 6th classroom and our renovated kitchen and planning many interesting units of study for our students. We look forward to sharing the adventure of learning with you as we continue to grow as a student body and staff. Today, we have 121 students and 24 staff working and learning at Grindrod Elementary. We look forward to building relationships as we work together in support of all of our children's education.



Note: Mr. Pare has suffered a broken arm and is unable to begin the school year with us. We expect him back some time in October. We welcome Ms. Ternent to Grindrod School. She will teach in Mr. Pare's grade 5/6 class to begin the year.

Music days are Mondays and Thursdays.
Library is on Wednesdays.
Aboriginal Education is on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Our LRT days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Introducing our Grindrod Staff

K Teacher	Mrs. Foulger
K Teacher	Mrs. Scott
Grade 1/2 Teacher	Mrs. Dodds
Grade 2/3 Teacher	Ms. Kemitzis
Grade 3/4 Teacher	Mrs. Chambers
Grade 5/6 Teacher	Mr. Paré/Ms. Ternent
Grade 6/7 Teacher	Ms. Smith/Mr. Abbott
Library Teacher	Mrs. Levins
Music Teacher	Mr. Koenig
Area Counsellor	Mrs. Rasmuson
LRT	Ms. Lyons
Speech/Language	TBA
Secretary	Mrs. Tessel
CEA/Lunch Super.	Mrs. Young
CEA/Breakfast Prog.	Mrs. Timoffee
CEA	Ms. Berndt
CEA	TBA
Lunch Supervisor	Mrs. Kjelgren
Custodian	Mr. Richardson
Kangaroo Bus driver	Ms. Olsen
Bear Bus driver	Mr. Dunfield
Rabbit Bus driver	Mr. Todd
First Nations support	Ms. Bailey
Principal	Mr. Abbott

Activity Fees

We have attached to this newsletter a detailed copy of our 2018/2019 activity fees. Your support goes a long way toward enabling our school to offer extra-curricular activities to our students. The fee is \$20 per child with a maximum of \$50 per family with three or more students.

School Supply Fee

Grindrod School gets a very good deal on school supplies by buying in bulk. We are able to pass this on to our families. The entire year's supply of school supplies and the agenda book is included in one fee. The **school supply fee** is separate and is \$30 per child and is required for all children.

Preparing Your Child for Learning

Sleep, exercise and proper nourishment are essential to one's ability to reach their learning potential. This is particularly true of children. Please help your child to eat healthy foods at home and at school and get outside to play as much as possible. As well, check your child's energy level. You may find they are lacking sleep. We do our best to model health promoting behaviour at school and we believe our students are benefiting from the many activities we offer. We thank you for supporting us in this initiative.

Office Hours

Mrs. Tessel, our school secretary, will be in the office from 7:50am – 2:20 pm each day.

Mr. Abbott will be in the office on Monday Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at various times. He teaches all day Tuesdays and part time on the other days. We have a very open door policy for our families but because school schedules do change from time to time, please call to make an appointment with the staff.

Electronic Communication with Parents

Grindrod School wants to keep you informed electronically. You will likely have noticed that we are sending you messages via email. By using the email to connect we believe we will enhance our communication with you and enable us to keep you informed about emerging issues and important reminders in an efficient, cost effective manner. **This year, we would like to improve our efficiency and reduce paper usage by doing most of our beginning of the year school and district forms by Parent Connect.** We will send home instructions on how to logon to Parent Connect to read and give your consent on these electronic forms. Please provide the school with your most frequently used email address by returning the attached "Email Communication Form".

School Website:

<http://www.gri.sd83.bc.ca>

We have fully implemented our new school website. Newsletters, the school code of conduct, our school goals and information about upcoming events can all be found on this site. Please check out the **website calendar** to see when events at the school are happening. We encourage families to use this source of information frequently as we are continually adding timely information, pictures and blog updates.

School Goals for 2018-2019

- To improve the reading skills of all students.
- To improve the writing skills of all students.

Beyond these two formal goals, we have many other school goals, such as promoting a safe and caring school community, engaging students through outdoor and hands on learning, teaching good work habits and finding ways to meet the needs of each individual student in our school. We look forward to working with our school community to enhance learning at Grindrod.

Grindrod Elementary Bell Schedule

8:10 morning classes begin
9:50 recess begins
10:05 recess ends
11:45 lunch activity period begins
12:15 lunch eating period begins
12:30 lunch ends-PM classes begin
2:03 dismissal



Although our day begins and ends at the same time as it did last year, we have adjusted the recess and lunch periods to accommodate teaching blocks required to make our timetable work effectively.

We Take Health Issues Seriously

If your child needs to take medication at school for any reason, please ensure that you complete a "Request for Administration of Medication" form. Once completed and filed in the office our staff is able to administer the medication on your behalf. Forms can be obtained at the office. Any medication sent to school needs to be presented to the teacher or administration.

A Few School Policies for Review

Our school is looking great, thanks to all the hard work of our custodial staff. We ask that all students wear indoor shoes while in the building. On rainy, snowy or muddy days, please remove your shoes at the doors and carry them to the classroom.

Supervision is provided before and after school as well as during the break times. Students are expected to remain outside in the morning while the teachers prepare for the morning instruction. On cold (-10 C) or inclement days, children will be invited into

the school. Please be sure to dress for the weather.

It is extremely important that students arrive at school on time as key instruction is always given first thing in the morning. Please make a concerted effort to support your child's learning by having them arrive by the bell at 8:10am.

Safe Arrival

If your child is not able to attend school or will be coming to school late, please call, leave a voice message or email the school (gri@sd83.bc.ca) to notify staff.

A safe arrival call will be made around 8:30am if your child is missing from class without notice, to make sure our students are safe.

Healthy Food

What we eat and drink has a huge impact on how well we can learn. Please ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and packs healthy foods for their lunch and snacks. We will be supporting this effort once again by being involved with the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable nutrition program. Just a reminder, please do not send candy, chocolate bars or pop to school.

A new initiative for 2018-19 is our goal to reduce waste at Grindrod. We are introducing three strategies to help us meet this goal.

1. The first is our strong encouragement to use reusable containers for all foods sent to school. That means not buying prepackaged foods whenever possible.
2. Eliminate the use of juice boxes. The best daytime school drink is water. We encourage students to have water bottles in their classroom. Juice boxes are sugary drinks and the boxes create a lot of waste at the school.
3. We are asking students to take home all wrappers and materials they use in their lunches. This is called our Trash in Trash out program.

Although these three strategies may take a bit of adjustment on everyone's part, we believe it promotes an important global goal to reduce

waste and keep our planet clean. This is a value we want all our students to share as they become the next generation of planet stewards.

Grindrod is a Nut Sensitive School

We have a several students with severe tree nut and peanut allergies. We request that students do not bring peanut butter sandwiches, granola bars or cookies that contain either tree nuts or peanuts. Also any baking for classes or bake sale items need to be nut free. This will help us ensure the health and safety of all students.

Volunteer Requirements

In an effort to ensure the highest level of safety and security for our children, the district has initiated a new directive regarding adults working with students. Effective immediately, all students who work with, drive for fieldtrips or supervise students, that are not under the direct supervision of a district staff member, are required to have an approved criminal record check completed. A copy of the criminal record check completion needs to be provided to the school prior to parents acting in these unsupervised roles. In Enderby, this service is free and can be initiated by going into the local RCMP detachment.

We rely heavily on parent support in order for us to be able to offer the board outdoor education, sports and curricular opportunities Grindrod is well known for. If you intend to drive for fieldtrips, help out in classrooms beyond the supervision of the staff or support the school in any other capacity (and we sure hope you do!), we encourage you to have your criminal record check completed as soon as possible. We appreciate your support very much and I'm sure you all appreciate the school district's effort to ensure the highest level of safety and wellbeing for your child.

Online Forms to be complete via Parent Connect please

1. Walking Fieldtrip Permission Form
2. Code of Conduct Commitment Form
3. Personal Information Consent Form
4. Outside Media in School Form
5. District Internet Use Agreement Form
6. Electronic Device Policy form
7. Network Parent Permission Form
8. Verification of Student Information Form
9. District Cloud Service Permission Form



We are The "G" Team

All students, staff and families of Grindrod Elementary are members of the Grindrod Grizzlies "G" Team. As a team, we work together, learn together and play together in a safe and respectful way. This ensures that the activities we engage in are enjoyable for everyone. We have many exciting activities planned this year and with the support of students and families, we can provide a dynamic and engaging learning environment for all. Welcome to the "G" Team!

Posted on our website gri@sd83.bc.ca we have our "School Code of Conduct" which clearly outlines our school beliefs, expectations and discipline procedures. Please review this with your child. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Abbott to arrange an opportunity to chat.

Our Motto Is All About Respect

At Grindrod School we believe in:

- Respect for **L**EARNING
- Respect for **O**URSELVES
- Respect for **O**THERS
- Respect for **P**ROPERTY

When you do all these things you are in the **LOOP** so to speak.

Early in the year each class will be defining what this means in terms of how we act within our school community.

We encourage you to discuss these concepts with your children to help them understand how they help to foster a safe, productive and positive place for all students to live and learn. Your support is a key ingredient in the success of your child and our school!

At Grindrod School we aim to provide a rich and engaging learning environment for all students. We envision Grindrod School as a place of inspired learning, where students and staff feel encouraged take learning risks and try new things. We see our school as a safe and inclusive environment that fosters collaboration and cooperation at all levels. The RENEWED curriculum in British Columbia allows both students and staff greater opportunities to explore their personal interests while maintaining a strong focus on acquiring the essential skills for continued learning. As we formulate plans for deep student engagement, we intend to get out into the community and learn from those around us and from our environment. As the first and most important educators of your child, we invite you to join us on this journey! We hope you and your child(ren) have a truly wonderful year as members of the Grindrod School community!

Teamwork:

When we all work together,
everyone wins!



Grindrod Elementary School School Supplies List 2018-2019

<u>Grades K&1/2</u>	<u>Grades 2/3 &3/4</u>	<u>Grades 5/6&6/7</u>
<p>\$30.00 fee for supplies (supplies will be purchased by the teacher)</p> <p>This includes some program supplies, such as for cooking.</p>	<p>\$30.00 fee for supplies (supplies will be purchased by the teacher)</p> <p>This includes an agenda book for each student</p>	<p>\$30.00 fee for supplies (supplies will be purchased by the teacher)</p> <p>This includes an agenda book for each student</p>
		Please provide:
		gym bag
		gym strip (shorts, shirt & shoes)
1 box of Kleenex	1 box of kleenex	
inside shoes	inside shoes	inside shoes

Please ensure that your child's name is on their gym strip.

**(Please send payment with the attached "Cultural and
School Supply Fees 2018-2019" form)**