



# DAVID THOMPSON ELEMENTARY

1051 Pine Springs Road  
Kamloops, BC V2B 7W3

<http://dthompson.sd73.bc.ca/>  
Phone: (250) 579-9228



Newsletter #1 ~ September 22, 2014

## ~ Message From The Principal ~

### Parents and Students:

Welcome to David Thompson Elementary for the 2014-15 School Year! We, the staff and I, are looking forward to the year with anticipation and excitement. I would like to thank Mr. Chris Wood for acting as the principal of DT while I was seconded to the Ministry of Education. Although I enjoyed the challenge of working for the Province, it is wonderful to be back working with/for students, their families and the staff at DT. Please be patient, however, as much has changed in two short years!

I would like to begin by welcoming Mr. Lorin Toews, Vice Principal, to DT. Lorin comes to DT from teaching in Parkcrest Elementary, followed by being a vice principal in the school district's @KOOL school. I'm looking forward to sharing administrative duties with Lorin. He is going to divide his time between working out of the office and the library. Mr. Toews is very excited to join our school community.

As you are aware, the teacher's strike has pushed our school start date back causing us to revisit our schedule. Please check our website for scheduled, rescheduled or cancelled events. Also, be aware that because academic programming is our priority, some traditionally held activities may not take place this year.

Finally, although I think you are aware, the Kamloops/Thompson School District is piloting an extended Spring Break this year. Therefore, although you may not notice, we have reconfigured our school day by taking nine minutes off the lunch hour in order to make up for it. This allows for us to have a two week break from March 16 to March 27, 2015. Please, when you are in our sparkling clean school, in our fantastic new parking lot, or on our relocated playground introduce, or in some case, reintroduce yourselves to us.

Yours truly,  
D. DeRose  
Principal

### MEET THE STAFF

**Principal:** Ms. DeDe DeRose

**Vice-Principal:** Mr. Lorin Toews

**Secretary:** Mrs. Coralee Morris-Harasemchuk

**Support Staff:** Mrs. Kelly Anderson  
Mrs. Jean Cousin  
Mrs. Audra Funk  
Mrs. Gina Harlock  
Mrs. Marilyn McDonald  
Mr. Dean Padar  
Ms. Maxine Boisclair  
FNEW: Ms. Lisa Bonthoux

**Custodial Staff:**  
Mr. Chris Kudokas  
Mr. Mario Gastaldo  
Ms. Connie Wenzel

**Primary Teaching Staff:**  
Mrs. Faun Jorgenson  
Mrs. Krista Pitman  
Miss. Sandra Yeast  
Mrs. Lucy Poirier  
Mrs. Deanna Webster  
Mrs. Stella Stumpf  
Mrs. Lauri Bentz  
Mr. Chris Mart in

**Primary Prep:** Ms. Carla Thompson

**Intermediate Teaching Staff:**  
Mrs. Lisa Carr  
Mr. Rocco Marchese  
Ms. Sandi Blacquiere  
Mrs. Christine McCauley  
Ms. Amanda Brennan  
Mrs. Terri Hansen  
Mr. Rino Cinel

**Intermediate  
Prep:**

**LART Staff:** Mrs. Brandy Wilkinson  
Mrs. Chelsey Schneider

**Librarian:** Mr. Lorin Toews



## SCHOOL HOURS & BELL SCHEDULE

Office opens.....	8:00 am
Doors open for students (bell).....	8:15 am
Students get ready for the day (bell).....	8:25 am
Classes begin (bell).....	8:30 am
Recess (bells).....	10:15 am – 10:30 am
Lunch (bell)	EAT FIRST ~12:00 – 12:15 pm THEN PLAY ~ 12:15 – 12:55 pm
Afternoon Classes resume (bell) .....	1:00 pm
School Dismissal (bell).....	2:30 pm
Office closes	3:30 pm

**Classes begin at 8:30 in the morning. Doors will open to students in the morning at 8:15 am,** allowing sufficient time to be ready for the start of the day. Parents: please do not drop your children off earlier than 8:15 am, as there is **no supervision** available. Their teachers will be busy preparing for the day's instruction. Students must wait outside until the 8:15 am bell.....

### ON TIME AT DAVID THOMPSON MEANS STUDENTS ARE:

- ⦿ in their seats ready for instruction
- ⦿ have all materials needed BY THE 8:30 BELL

## SAFE ARRIVAL (250) 579-9228

### \*\*REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS\*\*

If your child is going to be late or absent we would appreciate you calling the school office. We have a "safe arrival" program at David Thompson and if your child is absent and we have not received a call from you, we will call your home and other contact numbers. Calling us first saves a lot of critical time and it also ensures that we know your child(ren) are safe! Prior to 8 am and after 3:30 pm you can leave a message on our answering machine. Also, if your child will be arriving late, please remind them that they must sign in at the office. THANK YOU!!! ☺



## STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Children will be moved into their permanent classes as soon as possible. On the first day of school, all students will return to their last year's teacher. Signs will be posted at all entrance doors directing where last year's K's and grade 1's will go the rest of the week until new classes are set. All new students to the school will be gathering in the Library. This year's Kindergarten students will begin full days on \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

David Thompson Elementary has a website, on which you can find a lot of great school information, including newsletters, bell schedule, calendar of events, PAC information, School Board Meeting minutes (Board Notes) and various District Policies. The website can be found at:  
<http://dthompson.sd73.bc.ca/>



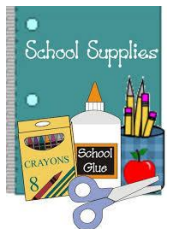
## GOING GREEN



Once again this year our goal is to reduce our paper consumption as much as possible. One way to do this is to decrease the number of newsletters printed each month. September's newsletter will be distributed to all students, however, subsequent newsletters will be available online on the School's website: <http://dthompson.sd73.bc.ca/> and paper copies will be available in the office. Another option is to have the newsletters emailed to you. Simply send a request to the secretary - [cmorris@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:cmorris@sd73.bc.ca) indicating you would like to receive the monthly newsletters via email (please include your child(ren)'s name in the email as well).

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School District#73 offers a Pupil Supply Program that will provide all the needed notebooks, paper, pens and pencils etc. Please see the attached 'School Supplies' notice and complete the form(s) for your child(ren) and remit payment at your earliest convenience. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the office and a payment plan can be arranged.



If you decide not to take part in the School Supply Program, please get a list of needed supplies from your child's teacher before you purchase the supplies. There will be a \$10 charge to cover supplies used for art projects and the agenda (\$7) and YPC (\$15) charges still apply as well.

All students will need to have appropriate gym strip readily available in their lockers or in their backpacks. Please check with their classroom teacher to see what is needed.

## Picture Day is Coming!

Fall photos for everyone –

Retake photo day -

*Prior to photo day, a flyer 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. Payment is due with the order. Enjoy your photos!*

## DROP OFF & PICK UP AREAS

Parents and Guardians we need your assistance in keeping the traffic in the school's parking lot flowing smoothly and in a safe manner. Please park only in designated parking stalls. Parking is NOT permitted in front of the yellow gate, the garbage can or around the island. The handicap stalls are reserved for those with legitimate mobility challenges and are not to be used for Kindergarten drop off or because you are simply running late. Please use the 'drop and roll' area or curb parking on Pine Springs. Your cooperation is appreciated and required in order to ensure the safety of all our children at DT.

By-law officers will be watching and ticketing motorists that are not using the 'drop and roll' zone in front of the school field on Pine Springs Road correctly. This is a NO PARKING zone.

Also, please remember to 'hug the walls' when approaching the front entrance of the school. Do **NOT** walk straight through the parking lot!

## PAC

The PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is a very important part of the school community. All parents are members of PAC. Your support is needed and can be in many forms: attend meetings, volunteer for activities and fund raising just to name a few. Activities of PAC are in support of ALL students at David Thompson.

**PAC MEETING:** The first PAC meeting of the school year will be on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to attend; we hope to see you there ☺!

## LOCKS & LOCKERS



Classroom teachers will assign most students lockers this week. Locks may be used provided that they are combination locks and the teacher is given a copy of the combination number. Key locks are not permitted, as keys tend to get lost.

## BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS & ROLLERBLADES



Provincial helmet laws are in effect and all students riding bicycles, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades to and from school need to abide these laws. **For the safety of all, students must dismount bikes, scooters, and skateboards and 'WALK YOUR WHEELS' while on school property.** Cyclists should be using the bike racks provided and are encouraged to lock bikes while they are in the racks. Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, "Heel Rollers" and

rollerblades are intended for safe personal transportation to and from school and are **not** to be used on the school grounds.

## NUT AWARENESS

At David Thompson we have several students who are anaphylactic and have allergies to peanuts and other types of nuts. Because of this, our school is a 'peanut aware'



school. It is nearly impossible to keep our school peanut free, therefore, only certain classes will be deemed 'nut free'. Once classes are set, please ask your child's teacher if his or her class is 'nut free'. Also, please remind your child to thoroughly wash their hands with warm soapy water after eating any nut products prior coming to school. This will help reduce cross contamination and hopefully reduce the risk of an anaphylactic reaction to those children at risk. Thank you for your cooperation.

### SCENT CONSIDERATE SCHOOL:

Please note that DT is also a 'scent considerate school'. Below is an excerpt from SD73 Policy 1006.5

*"The Board of Education recognizes the need for a safe working environment for all employees and students. This includes the provision of a scent considerate environment. Scented products may cause severe and/or life threatening allergic reactions in some individuals."*

## DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS



***In order to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff members, dogs or any other types of animals are not allowed on DT's schools grounds before, during or after school. We have several students who have allergies or are fearful of dogs. Please contact Ms. Derosé if you have any questions or concerns (250) 579-9228.***