



# DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## September 2023 Newsletter

Ms. Dani Morrow, Principal  
Ms. Brenda Lee, Vice Principal  
Ms. Tanya Leech, Head Secretary

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are learning together on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People*

This newsletter contains:

*Discovery Elementary School information: Page 1 & 2*

*PAC information: Page 3*

*Community Information: Page 4, 5, and 6*

---

### A BIG “WELCOME BACK”

‘Uy’ Skweyul! We are so grateful to finally be settled into our classes! Thank you to all families for your patience and flexibility during our unusual start up. We already have some ideas to make this even smoother for next year! As you may remember from past years, things can still change up until September 30th. Our enrolment has remained very stable, so we are hopeful that nothing will change over the next few weeks. Class placements can be a challenging time for so many of our learners. Settling in, making new friends, and connecting with new teachers can feel overwhelming at times. We are grateful to all our Discovery families for their confidence in our staff. If you feel as though your child may need some additional support during this transition, please let us know. We are here to help.

---

### OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

If your child(ren) are **currently registered (already attending or starting by October 2)** in the OSC Program at your child(ren)(s) school, we are working on getting everyone online using the Esikidz platform. We are hoping to have the online program functional and ready for all by October 1, 2023. To be able to do this quickly and efficiently, please register your child(ren) with this [link](#), which will confirm your child(ren) are "waitlisted", and the OSC offices will get this alert immediately. They will then go into Esikidz manually add everyone's schedules. Once this has been completed, you will receive a "complete your registration" email from Esikidz. You will still need to fill out the Registration online even though you've already done the paper version; the OSC offices cannot add this information for everyone due to privacy reasons. The sooner everyone completes the online profile, the sooner the program can start invoicing monthly, tracking your subsidy, changes in your schedule when needed online, and the online billing will accept Debit, Credit, Apple Pay and Google Pay. (E-transfers are still welcome to cvchildcare@sd79.bc.ca.) The OSC office is working to move away from Cash and Cheque payments. If you wish to continue paying Out of School Care fees with cash or cheque, please do NOT give the money to the OSC teachers in the program, instead, please bring the cash or cheque to Kasey Milligan at the School Board Office (2557 Beverly Street) Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Families that are interested in being waitlisted for the Discovery Out of School Care program, please contact Kasey Milligan directly at cvchildcare@sd79.bc.ca

---

### STAYING HEALTHY

BCCDC Guidance - Please remember that students should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. While we no longer have so many health restrictions, it is important to do a daily health check each morning. A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases within the school settings. Students who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, such as respiratory illness, should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. Those experiencing certain illnesses, such as gastrointestinal illness caused by norovirus, may be advised to stay home for longer. Students can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved, and they feel well enough to return to regular activities. If you are unsure or concerned about your symptoms, connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

---

### PARKING / DROP OFF / PICK UP

A friendly reminder to our Discovery families – if you are dropping your child(ren) off in the morning, or picking them up after school, please pull ahead as far as you are able; this will prevent a back-log of cars along the main road, waiting to come into the drop off zone. The buses arrive in the afternoon at about 2:25pm. Please avoid pulling into the bus lanes between 2:25pm and 2:45pm, so that our buses have room.

---

### SCHOOL FLAG AT HALF MAST

Over the next week or so, you will notice our school flag being flown at half-mast a few times:

Friday, September 22-Monday September 25: in observance of Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day (recognized on the last Sunday of September)

Friday, September 29-Monday, October 2: in observance of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (recognized on September 30 each year)

---

## INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

---

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success. If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at [ined@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ined@sd79.bc.ca)

As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the [UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

---

## A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE DISTRICT

---

- Please be aware that there is BC Provincial Government legislation that bans all smoking on any school property, include inside of all vehicles on the property, at all times.
- In accordance with the Schools Protection Program, students and parents are reminded that students’ personal property is not covered under the program, so students should not leave personal belongings at the school. Neither the school, nor the School District, are responsible for the loss or damage to students’ personal property.
- If any parents require for any medications for their child to be administered by the school, please visit the office to fill out a “Request for Administration of Medication at School” Form.
- Please review these important Policies/Procedures. If you would like a paper copy, one can be provided for you, from the school’s main office:
  - Admin Procedure 2550 – Healthy Schools  
<https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/38544?preview=40596>
  - Policy 5100 - District Code of Conduct  
<https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37501>
  - Policy 5110 - Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression  
<https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37502>
  - Appeals Procedure Bylaw No. 2  
<https://bcsd79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/561?preview=20246>

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

Monday, September 25 - NO SCHOOL (Non Instructional Day)

Monday, October 2 - NO SCHOOL (National day for Truth and Reconciliation)

Monday, October 9 - NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

Friday, October 20 - NO SCHOOL (Pro D Day)

Wednesday, October 25 - 2 Hour Early Dismissal

[Full Calendar for 2023-2024](#)



We continue to work hard to keep our School Facebook Page up to date. We try to post at least once per day, and sharing things like notices for field trips, weekly updates, amazing photos of our students’ art, and of course some important reminders. Please consider following our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and/or [Instagram](#)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023/2024 school year! We look forward to another fantastic year at Discovery. As the year gets started, we have a few things to mention:

**Facebook Page**

If you haven't already, we encourage you to join our Facebook page "Discovery Elementary PAC". This is the best way to keep up to date on fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, events, hot lunch reminders and more!

**PAC Meetings**

Please join us the second Wednesday of every month at 6:45PM via Zoom, this 's a great way to know what's going on at the school. A meeting reminder as well as the zoom link will be provided every month via email and our Facebook page.

**Hot Lunch**

Hot lunch Ordering is now open! Please go to [munchalunch.com](https://munchalunch.com) → Sign Up → Select Shawnigan Lake → Select Discovery Elementary. We encourage payment via the munchalunch website but if you would prefer to pay by cash or cheque, please drop it off at the office with your child's name and division clearly labelled with cheques made payable to "Discovery Elementary PAC".

**Ongoing Fundraisers**

Labels Labels: select "Discovery PAC"

CO-OP: Use our CO-OP number at Co-Op or the Shawnigan Garage Save On in the village #78530

Once Upon a Time: Consign under Discovery PAC

Bottles: Returnable containers can be sorted and dropped off at the Cobble Hill bottle depot, alternatively the Ladysmith bottle depot will sort them for you. Both accounts are "Discovery Elementary PAC". If you are interested in supporting a once-a-month drop off from the school to the Ladysmith bottle depot, please reach out to us!

If you have any questions or would like to put your name forward to learn about future volunteer opportunities, please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email at [discoveryPAC@gmail.com](mailto:discoveryPAC@gmail.com). We hope to see you at the Discovery Halloween Dance, October 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7!

Sincerely,

Your Discovery PAC Executive

Kristin, Arielle, Jessica, Hailey & Maaike

Cowichan Valley Museum – Chief Dan George Exhibit – Oct 5 to Dec 15



Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist is a travelling exhibit featuring the life of Chief Dan George and a timeline of Indigenous history in BC. Please check the Cowichan Valley Museum’s website, [www.cvmuseum.ca](http://www.cvmuseum.ca), for mor information on this exhibit and other school programs.

Invasive Species Council of BC – Invasive-Wise Education Program – K to 12



This program provides resources, curriculum-based lesson plans, and training. They support you to teach about and help prevent the spread of invasive species, while fostering a deeper connection to nature. [Poster](#) [Website](#)

Outdoor Learning – Fall Virtual Workshop Series – Starting September



Several workshop series are available: [Posters](#) [Website](#)

For the season ahead, we’re pleased to provide this ‘[top 10 list](#)’ of resources and opportunities to support your outdoor learning practice:

- 1: Sign-up for our (free!) **Fall Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops** which start on **Sept 19**
- 2: Sign-up for **Take Me Outside Day** by **Oct 15**
- 3: Register for the **4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning** initiative by **Oct 15**
- 4: Join us for the **Outdoor Play-Based Learning: A Learning & Unlearning Series** which starts on **Oct 16**
- 5: Review these **Indigenous Learning Resources** in advance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on **Sept 30** and Indigenous Peoples’ Day on **Oct 9**
- 6: Order excellent **Outdoor Learning Resources & Equipment for Fall**, with **100%** of proceeds going back to supporting non-profit outdoor learning initiatives
- 7: Join us for the **Classrooms to Communities: Connecting to Land through Indigenous Learning** event taking place on **Oct 20**
- 8: Sign-up for the **Take Me Outside for Learning School Year Challenge** by **Nov 3**
- 9: Listen in to our **Earthy Chats Podcast** on your preferred podcast platform
- 10: Sign up for the **Nature Activities for Learners** micro-credential learning course before the early bird deadline on **Nov 30**

For even more excellent opportunities, we encourage you to connect with our **Outdoor Learning Partners** in your region or area of interest!

Historica Canada – Educational Programs Available



Historica Canada offers programs that you can use to explore, learn, reflect on our history, and consider what it means to be Canadian. They are dedicated to enhancing your teaching experience through several available programs. [Sign up for their newsletter](#) to be the first to hear about their newest educational resources, or visit their [website](#) to learn more.

Canucks for Kids Fund – Fin’s Friends Program



The Fin's Friends program is designed to teach the basic elements of character education and social responsibility to primary students throughout British Columbia. Specific children's literature is used as a basis to stress these positive character virtues and all books are included in the package.



- Kindergarten curriculum teaches compassion and fairness
- Grade one curriculum teaches kindness, perseverance, and peacefulness
- Grade two curriculum teaches respect and responsibility
- Grade three curriculum teaches courage and citizenship

[Website](#)      [Poster](#)

**Canadian Mental Health Assoc. – RAINBOWS Program – September & January**

The RAINBOWS program is a free effective peer support program for children their families; whether single-parent families, step-families or families in painful transition. The group is for children who have suffered a significant loss their lives, either by death, divorce or any other painful transition. Groups are offered twice a year in late September and January. [Brochure](#)      [Website](#)



and  
in

**Cowichan Valley Arts Council – Fall Art Programs for Youth – Starting September**



The Cowichan Valley Arts Council has several youth art programs available for the fall. [Poster](#)

**Our Health, Our Community - Health & Wellness Survey – Deadline is Oct 3**



This initiative is a regional health and wellness survey for Cowichan Valley residents 18 years and older. Take the survey and tell them how you are doing; your feedback will help shape services, programs, and policies for our community. [Flyer](#)      [Poster](#)



**CVRD – Parks and Trails Use Process**

The CVRD has recently launched online forms to simplify requests for field trips, volunteer activities and special events, in addition to the existing CVRD online picnic shelter reservation system. Please see the [teacher's guide](#) for a quick reference to the process on using and renting parks and trails.

**Digital Human Library – Orange Shirt Day – OSD10for10 Campaign**



The goal of this campaign is to engage 10% of households to watch Phyllis Webstad share her story that began the Orange Shirt Day movement 10 years ago. [Poster](#)

**CRA – Learn About Your Taxes & Money Management Competitions – Sep 20-Oct 18**

This is an opportunity for middle and high school students. There are cash prizes for the 17 top ranking schools for both competitions, and students will receive a certificate. Sign up through ChatterHigh: [Learn About Your Taxes](#)      [Money Management Competition](#)

**Mind Your Plastic – Circular Economy Ambassador Program**



A free voluntary program for teachers to bring this critical information to their classrooms. They have worked with over 2,000 students across Canada, and have helped them understand the impact of plastic pollution within our environments through cleanups. Together, they collected waste items within their communities, of which over 50% was composed of plastic material. [Website](#)

**H.R. MacMillan Space Centre – Various Field Trip Opportunities**



They offer in-person and virtual field trips for grades 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. [Learn More](#)

**SFU - Professional Learning Series for Educators – Dates Vary**



Simon Fraser University has several themes available to support the ongoing professional development of educators through their Professional Learning

Series. They are offered online or in person, are 3-6 sessions depending on the theme, and are 2-5 hours in length for each session. [Poster](#) [Sign Up Form](#)

**GoByBikeBC – GoByBike Weeks – Oct 16-29**

Fall GoByBike Week is October 16-29; register now! [Website](#)



**NEWSLETTER INSERTS**

**Cowichan Community Centre – Fall & Winter Activities**

[Newsletter](#)

