



# DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AUGUST 2024 Newsletter

Ms. Dani Morrow, Principal  
Ms. Emily Nickason, Vice Principal  
Ms. Tanya Leech, Head Secretary

*At Discovery, we are grateful to learn on Coast Salish land, play on Coast Salish land, and work on Coast Salish land. We acknowledge the Coast Salish people who were on this land before us. We are grateful.*

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## WELCOME BACK!

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We hope everyone enjoyed a summer filled with all the things that bring you and your family joy! :) We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

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## SEPTEMBER START UP - TENTATIVE OUTLINE

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Similar to the last few years, we need to wait until our enrolment settles before going into "permanent" classes. This may take a few weeks (give or take, depending on how many new students have registered). As of right now, our plan for September is as follows:

**Tuesday, September 2** - all returning students report to their 2023-2024 classroom; new students report to the library. (*Note: 2 hour early dismissal (12:13pm) on Tuesday, September 3*)

**Wednesday, September 3** - all Grade 1-7 students will report to their *temporary* group:

- Grade 1s and 2s - meet by the PAC/gym doors (green wall)
- Grade 3s and 4s - meet in the library
- Grade 5s, 6s, 7s - meet in the gym (please enter via the basketball court)
- NOTE: New Kindergarten Students will be on a Gradual Entry Schedule (see separate Kindergarten email)

**Thursday, September 4 until further notice** (hopefully not too long!) - all Grade 1-7 students will report to the same temporary group ("Home Base") each morning and be dismissed from the same place each day until our enrollment and staffing is finalized. *Temporary* Groups were created alphabetically; teachers will mix the groups up throughout the days, but students will start (8:30am) and end (2:13pm) each day with the same *Temporary* Group (and the same location!) each day.

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## At Discovery, We C.A.R.E.

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Last year, our school spent a lot of time celebrating some of the very best attributes of Discovery learners: their sense of COMMUNITY, their levels of ACCOUNTABILITY, their impressive RESILIENCE, and their capacity for EMPATHY. This year, we will begin the journey of celebrating and acknowledging all of these traits on an ongoing basis. We invite you to use these words at home too!

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## CELL PHONES and PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

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As you may recall, back in the spring, the Ministry of Education and Childcare announced new guidelines around cellphone use in schools. Specifically, "*Boards must ensure their codes of conduct include one or more statements about restricting the use of personal digital devices at school. The Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order has been amended to require Boards of Education to ensure their codes of conduct include statements about restricting the use of personal digital devices to:*

- *Reduce distractions in classrooms and support focused learning environments*
- *Foster online safety, and*
- *Promote provincial consistency"*

To comply with these expectations, we first ask families to encourage students to leave their cellphones at home. Each classroom has a landline phone, in case students need to get in touch with their families during the day, and the office staff is more than happy to take messages for students, should families need to get in touch with students during the day. If students do bring cellphones to school, we will ensure they are safely stored in a secure location.



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## LUNCH RECESS

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For the 2024-2025 School Year, our lunch recess break will be from 11:30am-12:15pm. This is a shift of 30 minutes from last year (and previous years). On Early Dismissal Days, we will adjust this lunch recess schedule by about 10 minutes (likely 11:20am-12:05pm). *NOTE: on the very first day of school (Tuesday, September 3rd, we will run the same Lunch Recess as last year: 11:00-11:45am)*