



# DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 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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Thank you to our entire Discovery School Community for a great first week back! We are still existing in a "holding pattern" of temporary groups, while we await confirmation on our division numbers and staffing. This period of time can be challenging; we are so grateful for your understanding and patience. We are also grateful for the feedback we've received on how we can make those first few days feel a bit smoother. We will continue to evolve this challenging "start up" processes in the coming years to make this transition as easy as possible for our students, our families, and our staff.

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## SAFE ARRIVAL VIA SCHOOL MESSENGER

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Below, you will find information about the District Wide School Messenger service. This platform also hosts our Safe Arrival procedures, but the Safe Arrival features will not be implemented until classes are finalized. Until that time, please call Tanya at the front office if your child will be absent.

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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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## A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE DISTRICT

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- 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:
  - [Administrative Procedure \(AP\) 164 - Food and Nutrition](#)
  - [AP 104 - District Code of Conduct](#)
  - [Policy 13 - Appeals Procedure Bylaw](#)
  - [Policy 25 - Identity, Belonging, and Connection](#)

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## SCHOOL MESSENGER - BETTER COMMUNICATION

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School Messenger is a great way for us to tell you about important things happening at school. You'll receive messages about events, announcements, and updates. You can even get instant messages and notifications, so it's easier for you to hear from us. Whether it's news for everyone or a message from your child's school, School Messenger will make sure you know what's going on. It will also help us tell you quickly if there's a snow day or other emergencies. School Messenger is compliant with the [student privacy pledge](#). Your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone. As we continue to implement School Messenger, we want to provide the option of communication through SMS (text). If you wish to receive this type of communication, please complete the procedure (outlined on Page 2) for opting into SMS messaging. Or, just text "YES" to 978338.

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## INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

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'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!

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## DAILY REMINDERS

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Last year, we began posting daily reminders and notices on our Social Media Pages. If you use [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), please follow us for regular updates and cool photos!



**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Monday, September 23 - No School (Non Instructional Day)
- Monday, September 30 - No School (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)
- Thursday, October 3 - 1 Hour Early Dismissal
- Monday, October 14 - No School (Thanksgiving)
- Wednesday, October 23 - 2 hour Early Dismissal
- Friday, October 25 - No School (Non Instructional Day)

[Full Calendar for 2024-2025](#)

SMS Text Opt-In



### Parents and Guardians

#### You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number:

For CANADA-BASED numbers: 978338

For US-BASED numbers: 61569 (see next page for QR code)

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#) so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



\*if your number is Canada-based.

### For Canada-Based Numbers:

Opt-In from  
your mobile  
now!



Just send "Y"  
or "Yes" to  
978338

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## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL INFORMATION

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Our wonderful PAC continues to be hard at work, raising funds for our school! If you have any questions about the information below, please contact [discoverypac@gmail.com](mailto:discoverypac@gmail.com)

### Next PAC Meeting:

The next PAC meeting will take on WEDNESDAY, September 11th at 6:45pm. This will take place in-person, in our school library. There will also be an option to Zoom in, in case you are unable to attend in person.

Meeting ID: 972 1650 7905

Password: 2204

<https://zoom.us/j/97216507905?pwd=Foxv7kBsp2Pu9NCSjDI6rsCzotnZRv.1>

### Join the Team:

We are still looking to fill our secretary position. The commitment for this role is taking minutes at our meetings via zoom the second Wednesday of every month at 6:45pm and posting them to our Facebook Page.

### Stay Connected:

Please join our Facebook group [Discovery Elementary PAC](#) for school information, hot lunch reminders, fundraisers and more!

### Hot Lunch:

Hot lunch will be open soon! We are just waiting for classes to be finalized. Stay tuned!

## ONGOING FUNDRAISERS



### COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS

SAVE YOUR COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS AND DROP THEM OFF AT THE OFFICE OR SEND THEM TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.



### CO-OP NUMBER

#78530  
CAN BE USED AT CO OP OR THE SHAWNIGAN GARAGE



### MABLES LABELS

SELECT "DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY PAC" AT CHECK OUT



### BOTTLE RETURNS

BOTTLES CAN BE SORTED AND DROPPED OFF AT EITHER THE COBBLE HILL OR DUNCAN BOTTLE DEPOT UNDER "DISCOVERY PAC" ALTERNATIVELY LADYSMITH BOTTLE DEPOT ACCEPTS UNSORTED BOTTLES.

