

# Ellison Elementary School

2400 FULTON ROAD • VERNON BC V1H 1S3

Phone (250) 260-4176 • Fax (250) 260-3956

Principal: Mr. Kyle Doerksen

Vice Principal: Mrs. Lisa Quiring



## Principal's Message:

Welcome back to our amazing school community! The staff at Ellison is excited to welcome back all students for the 2023-2024 school year. Our team has been busy preparing for the first day of school on September 5<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to our custodians and maintenance department for their hard work making sure our school is ready for the school year!

This year, our school has grown by a division, with a total of 18 classes. There have been a few staffing changes, as we have said farewell to some teachers and support staff and welcomed several new faces to the Ellison team. Mr. Smyth has taken a leave of absence for this school year, and we wish him the very best in his new adventures!

### First Day Back: Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30-11:30

- Students will return to the same teacher that they had last year.
- Before school, we will have teacher names on cones on the blacktop to indicate where students will line up. If your child's teacher has moved to a different school, we will have a new or returning teacher take the class for the first day.
- New students will check in with Mrs. Palmer and Ms. Shore at the Welcome Table.
- After recess, we will have a welcome back assembly as a school.
- Early dismissal will take place at 11:30.
- For students in kindergarten, their first partial day of school will be September 6<sup>th</sup>. Gradual entry schedules were sent out earlier this summer. Please contact the school office at 250-260-4176 if you have any questions about your child's kindergarten gradual entry schedule.

Our hope is to have students placed with their new teachers on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. This will depend on the number of changes that have taken place over the summer. If we are unable to settle our classes for Wednesday, students will be back with the same teacher they were with on Tuesday. We will keep you informed via email of the plan, depending on how things play out. We ask for your patience while our team works to ensure that your child is placed in a classroom that best meets their learning needs.

On a personal note, I am absolutely thrilled to be back at Ellison as Principal this year. Lisa Quiring, our new Vice Principal, and I are excited about the amazing group of students, families, and staff that we are privileged to work with. I know that we will have a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kyle Doerksen

**Bell Schedule:**

8:10 – 8:25 a.m.	Outside Supervision
8:25 a.m.	Welcome bell
8:30 a.m.	Classes begin
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Recess
12:10-12:22 p.m.	Eating Time
12:22-12:58 p.m.	Playtime
12:58 p.m.	Bell to come inside
1:01 p.m.	Bell- Classes Resume
2:30 p.m.	Dismissal
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Afternoon Bus Supervision

**Important Dates:**

- **Sept 5:** First Day of school 8:30-11:30
- **Sept 6:** First Full Day. First Part Day for Kindergarten Students
- **Sept 14:** First Full Day for Kindergarten
- **Sept 15:** Terry Fox Run
- **Sept 25:** Non-Instructional Day (No School for students)
- **Sept 29:** Orange Shirt Day
- **Oct 2:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School)
- **Oct 9:** Thanksgiving Day (No School)
- **Oct 18:** School Photo Day
- **Oct 20:** Pro-D Day (No School for students)
- **Oct 26-27:** Fall Conferences (Early Dismissal)

**School Fees**

School supply fees are a way for us to provide a common set of materials for all students in each class at a cost that is economical for families. Fees are as outlined below:

- Kindergarten.....\$50.00 (supplies for year and cultural fee)
- Grade 1-3.....\$55.00 (supplies for year, agenda, and cultural fee)
- Grade 4-7.....\$60.00 (supplies for year, agenda, and cultural fee)



You may pay in person at the school or by using our online payment system through MyEd BC. More information will be sent the first week of school about how to pay school fees.

**Demographic Information**

If you have a change in address, phone number, or contact information, please stop by the office. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all our information is up to date and accurate.



## Before and After School Planning

**Safe Arrival:** Please make sure to call the school office at 250-260-4176 to inform us if your child is sick or will be absent from school. If we have not received a call and your child is absent, we will need to call to ensure student safety.



**After School Plans:** Please arrange after school plans with your child prior to school drop-off in the morning. This should include who is picking them up after school, and where they are to go at the end of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation, as this helps to reduce the amount of confusion and phone calls for students at the end of the school day.

**Student Supervision:** Supervision begins at 8:10 and after school supervision is provided for bus students only. Students are expected to go directly home after school.

## Allergy Reminders & Medical Alert Updates

Please avoid including peanuts, peanut products, in your child's lunches. We have several students with severe food allergies.

Please avoid using strong fragrances while on school premises, as we have staff and students who are sensitive to fragrances.

If your child has a medical alert, please ensure that you contact the school office to update the appropriate forms for planning purposes.



## Dress for the Weather

With the weather changing, please help ensure your child dresses appropriately for the weather. We expect all our students to go outside for exercise, play, and fresh air in **all** weather conditions, except during times of extreme weather.

## Volunteering at Ellison

We encourage and welcome parent volunteers in our school. Parents who wish to help must have a completed criminal record check (CRC). This is at no cost to you through the Ministry of Justice. Your completed CRC will be sent directly to the District Office via email to be forwarded to our school. If fingerprinting is required by the ministry of Justice, the cost is the responsibility of the volunteer.

This process is all online and should not take more than 5 minutes.

**Access Code: T8YMWQVAFD Web link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC>**

We also have some Noon Hour Supervisor positions currently available at our school. These positions are one hour per day (12:00-1:00). Please refer to website:

<https://makeafuture.applytoeducation.com/>

## Ellison PAC

We are blessed with an incredible group of PAC members at Ellison. Our PAC president is Kathy Nadurak. For updates on PAC activities at Ellison, please refer to their Facebook Page: "Ellison Elementary PAC – Home of the Eagles." **Our first PAC meeting will be Sept 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** All parents are welcome to attend PAC meetings. It is a great way to connect with other parents and to share your ideas of how we can make Ellison and even better place for our students.

The PAC is in need of parent volunteers to assist with the Hot Lunch Program. Without the support from our families, we will not be able to offer this program. Please email [ellisonpac@gmail.com](mailto:ellisonpac@gmail.com) if you are able to help even one day a month for 45 minutes. Thank you!

## Parking Reminders

Our parking lot is a busy place every day, particularly just before and after school. **A few things to be aware of:**

- Please do not leave vehicles unattended unless you are in a designated parking spot.
- Please make note of which pull-through lane to use.
- No parking in the Pull-through Lane.
- Please remind your children to use the crosswalk and to make sure drivers can see them when crossing the parking lot.
- Please be patient and courteous to other drivers.

Thank you for your help in making our parking lot safe for everyone!

