

SD83 NEWSLINE

OCTOBER 2020

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A letter from Superintendent of Schools/CEO Peter Jory

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I writing to you after a hectic but overwhelmingly successful school start-up. Things have gone very well for the most part, which is tribute to the hard work of our staff, the patience of our parents, and the resilience of our children. There is much of which to be proud, and I will take yet another opportunity to thank everybody who has had a part in making this happen.

As you may know from previous publications, the majority of our students have returned to learn with us for the 2020-21 school year. About three hundred students have chosen to do so through the graduated return, or "Soft-Start" option, or to join our Education Outreach Program (EOP) as an online learner, either temporarily, or for the balance of the year. Our overall funded enrollment now stands at 6429, which is 98.6% of the 6517 we were projecting. This should be considered a success, and I believe that this number puts us ahead of many other districts in the province during this unique pandemic context.

However, a significant financial issue has come to light over recent weeks, and it has come in three parts. The first part is the initial reduction of student-based funding caused by the loss of 98 students, along with the lower level of funding generated by students in an online program. The second part is the realization that a disproportionate number of students who did not return were students with funded Individualized Education Plans, so our Inclusive Education Department is facing a significant funding reduction. The third part is a bit more complicated, and that is the impact of the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF).

Since the Supreme Court ruling in 2017, our district has been receiving approximately six million dollars a year in additional funding to restore classrooms to reflect restored local contract language. We are expected to staff in accordance with that contract language, then we receive grant money to pay for the difference in the number of teachers required. We staffed in accordance with the old language, but reduction in students has meant that we no longer qualify for the CEF grant in

several of our schools.

At this point, the combination of factors has resulted in a deficit of more than 2 million dollars, which may end up being significantly more before we complete our CEF application process. In response to these challenges, senior staff began working on plans to draw down the number of teachers in schools where there are enough empty seats to do so and still meet the restored contract language. More reductions will certainly follow across a number of staffing categories, and some programs approved at the Board table will need to come back for reconsideration. Some have wondered about our using the Federal Grant monies to offset staffing reductions. This will remain a consideration, but it should be noted that the majority of it will be easily spent covering the increased costs it was intended to support.

All in all, this is not what we wish to be talking about as we move into fall. Some of your children have already been impacted by these changes and we have received a number of communications on the matter. On behalf of everyone, I apologize profusely for the inconvenience and additional stresses, but please know that every one of these decisions is done carefully and thoughtfully, and that they all weigh heavily on us.

In closing, we look for your continued support as we continue to navigate the tricky waters of this COVID-19 scenario, and the further challenges that no doubt will follow in the pandemic economy. Despite all this, we hope that you and your family can take a much needed break and have an enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend,
Peter

Peter Jory, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Kindy registration - Welcome Grads of 2034!

It is hard to believe but registration for the Kindergarten Class of 2021 - or the Graduating Class of 2034 - starts on Tuesday, Oct. 13th at your neighbourhood school. Registration for the district programs of Early French Immersion and Outdoor Learning also open. Seen in photo are two of this year's Early French Immersion class.



New online registration option

Just a bit more information for those registering their kindergarten students on October 13th or afterwards. There is a new online registration option. Please read about the process and other changes due to COVID-19. We'd also really appreciate it if you would share this information with any others you may know that will be registering their child but might not receive this newsletter. Thanks!

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Moving to shorter daily health check form

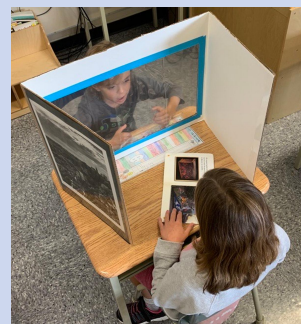
Under the advice of the Ministry of Health & Education, the daily health check list which parents have asked to do each day has been updated, and School District is adopting the new check list for Tuesday, October 13th. Superintendent/CEO Peter Jory notes, "A number of symptoms have been dropped from the revised list, as these were determined to have little or no statistical connection to the frequency of positive COVID-19 tests."

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Great to have our students back at school!

After a month in school, our students are not only learning the curriculum but also proper hand hygiene and sanitizing! It is wonderful to have our students back at school!



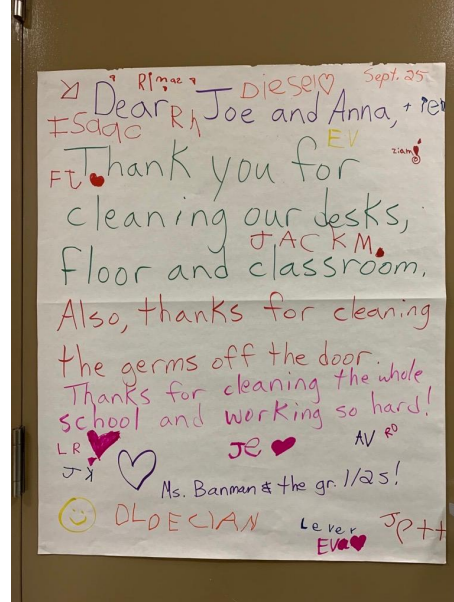
Appreciating cleaning . . .

The emphasis on wellness, safety and cleaning has



included removing some items from classrooms. It has also brought a new appreciation

for those helping keep homes, schools and other areas clean and virus-free!



We Stop - You Stop ... PLEASE!

With thousands of students riding our school buses each day we are asking that drivers PLEASE be extra cautious around our buses and schools. If the red lights are flashing, students are loading and unloading. PLEASE do not pass. In September we had 25 drivers pass a school bus when the red lights were flashing.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

Orange Shirt Day recognized in SD83



Orange Shirt Day is recognized every year on September 30th. It is a sign of communities coming together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because every child matters. Typically SD83 would hold a district event at one school with smaller events and activities held at most others. This year most schools held class activities or took part in online events. Seen above are the staff at the District Education Support Centre (DESC).

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Delicious creations at Sullivan!

Be prepared to be hungry after you look at these pictures of the food being prepared by students in the Culinary Arts program at Sullivan. Thanks to the expertise of teacher Chef Nimmi Erasmus students are creating some amazing dishes! Erasmus is a Salmon Arm Secondary graduate, who has returned to Salmon Arm to take over the program from her mentor, retired teacher Chef Alex Varga. Principal Rob Cadden comments Erasmus has been a tremendous addition to the school community and students have quickly become quite attached to her.



Upcoming dates:

Monday, October 12 - Thanksgiving (stat holiday)

Tuesday, October 13 - Kindergarten registration opens for 2021-22

Wednesday, October 21 - SD83 Board of Education meeting at 6 p.m. at DESC

Friday, October 23 - Non-Instructional Day (Ministry Designated)

Wednesday, November 11 - Remembrance Day

Friday, November 20 - Non-Instructional Day (Ministry Designated)

[View our Health & Safety Plans Here](#)

