



ARTHUR HATTON ELEMENTARY

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SEPTEMBER 15th 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! After a wonderful summer of getting re-energized, we are all looking forward to a very successful learning experience for all students, parents and staff in the coming year.

We have enrolled 272 students at the school this year and all students are now placed in their classroom. Thank you all for being so patient with the process! This is now my third year serving as principal at Arthur Hatton. It is a joy and an honour to be the leader of this school! We have terrific children, amazing staff, and supportive parents. This is a real community, and my commitment is to continue to foster growth in all of our students and to do everything in my power to make this school a joyful and dynamic place to be. This is a place where all of us can enjoy being and feel that we can reach for our true potential, both individually and collectively.

A very special welcome to the new staff members at Arthur Hatton, they are:

Mrs. Helen Bailey – K teacher
Mrs. Leanne Neighbour – K/1 teacher
Ms. Claudette Silva – 2/3 teacher
Mrs. Taya Patterson – 5/6 teacher
Mr. Glenn Bowden – Social Emotional teacher
Mrs. Kristy McKay – Learning Assistance Resource teacher
Mrs. Kristin Engleson - Learning Assistance Resource teacher
Ms. Korri Bartanus – K teacher
Mr. Samveer Varatch – Custodian
We will have a new Gr.1/2 teacher early next week. The new division that was added to our school is currently posted. Mrs.Svenson is teaching the class this week.



OPEN HOUSE

Next Thursday, September 24, we are inviting families to come to our school for a meet and greet with us as a school staff. We will be serving ice cream sundaes in the gym, watching a slide show, and getting to know you a bit better, as you get to know us. This will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 in the evening. Students must be accompanied by a parent. We will not be opening the classrooms for this event, but please note, that early closure parent-teacher interviews are coming up soon, on October 21st and 22nd.

TERRY FOX RUN

We will be participating in the Terry Fox Run as a school body next Thursday, September 24, from 11:40-12:15. Parents are welcome to join us for the run. Donations for the Terry Fox Foundation will be accepted at the school office. Every loonie or toonie counts in the support of cancer research!

IMPORTANT!

Your child's safety is important to all of us. We request that you call the school if your child is going to be absent, please call **250-376-7217**. This can be called at any time and you can leave a message. Should we not hear from you, we will call you or the contact numbers that you have provided. Your call does save a great deal of time and saves a lot of worry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Updated student contact information is essential throughout the school day in case of emergency; if you have a change in contact information it is important that you contact Mrs. Gilbert at the office with the new information. Your child will be bringing home a package of information this week. Please take the time to read over each form, complete, and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

SCENT AWARE SCHOOL

We have staff members and students who are **severely allergic** to fragrant smells, cigarette smells, room deodorizer smells among other smells. Please try to remember not to wear perfume or cologne when coming into our school. There is also a staff member who is severely allergic to **KIWI fruit**, so please do not send your child with any. Thank you.

NUT AWARE ZONE

For parents new to the school, please be advised that we have a number of students who get allergic reactions from nuts or from products made using "nut oil". For their safety, our school is NUT AWARE zone. Please check with your child's teacher to see if your child may bring products to school which contain nuts or made using nut oil.

PICKUP AND DROP-OFF

Our hallways can get very crowded at the beginning and end of each day. There may be times when you need to escort your child into the building in the morning, but we are requesting that your drop off your child at the nearest entry door to their classrooms in the morning. Grade 1/2 students in the new class will be in Room 4, so their door will be at the intermediate end of the school. Please note: Preparing classes for dismissal can sometimes extend beyond the 2:30 bell. Parents are advised to remain outside the building and meet their child(ren) at their classroom exit doors to prevent distraction in the hallways which can make prompt dismissal even more challenging. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation! Also please drop off or pick up your children along Schubert Drive or Holly Avenue. Chestnut Avenue is NOT a good place for pick up/drop off because of the congestion with staff/buses. Students dropped off on Schubert Drive or Holly Avenue have direct access to the school playground where staff supervision is available before and after school. The only time students should be dropped off on Chestnut Avenue is after 8:45am as late arrivals have to report to the office. Thank you for your help with this!

I am also requesting that you try to make all child care and after school arrangements prior to the school day. Our secretary, Mrs. Gilbert, is extremely busy, and these types of requests can take a lot of time away from her duties at the end of the day. Once again, thank you for your consideration in this regard.

MEET THE STAFF

Principal: Mr. Anthony Rempel
Vice Principal: Mrs. Deb Pigginn

Secretary: Mrs. Stacey Gilbert

Primary Teachers:

Mrs. Helen Bailey - K
Mrs. Jennifer Ernst – K
Ms. Korri Bartanus – K (Friday)
Ms. Leanne Neighbour – K/1
Mrs. Maria-Rosa Mulligan - 1
Mrs. Marian Allan - 1
Mrs. Aislinn Mulholland – 1/2
To be announced – 1/2
Ms. Claudette Silva – 2/3
Miss Catherine Ross – 3/4
Mrs. Alesha Connolly – 3/4
Mrs. Leanna Hickey – Primary Development Class

Intermediate Teachers:

Mrs. Sharon Parker - 4/5
Ms. Deanna Zander – 5/6
Mrs. Stacey Sample – 5/6
(Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)
Mrs. Taya Patterson – 5/6
(Monday/Tuesday)

LART Teachers:

Mrs. Deb Pigginn
Mrs. Kristin Engleson
(Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)
Mrs. Kristy McKay

District Literacy Resource Teacher:

Mrs. Dianne Dean

Prep Teacher:

Mrs. Marian Allan

Librarian Teacher:

Ms. Rae Carter (Thursday/Friday)

Shusway Language Teacher:

Mr. Murray Casey

Support Staff:

Mrs. Karen Bargery - CEA
Mrs. Charlene Boscott - CEA
Mrs. Lori Caputo - CEA
Mrs. Fabienne Carteron- Library Assistant
Mrs. Dawn Lord - CEA
Ms. Janet Rich- CEA
Mrs. Sherri Rousseau - CEA
Mrs. Leanna Stewart- CEA
Mrs. Donna Thibault- CEA
To be announced - CEA

FNEW:

Ms. Jolene Alec
Mrs. Charlene Cash

Strong Start:

Mrs. Marlene Sheppard

Custodians:

Mr. Brent Johnson
Mr. Samveer Varatch

STAFF PARKING LOT

Just a reminder to parents/guardians that the parking lot in front of the school is STAFF parking ONLY. We have a large staff and limited parking spaces so please do NOT park in the staff parking lot. Thank you for your consideration.

SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

8:20 am	Warning Bell – doors open
8:30 am	Morning classes begin
10:30 am	Recess starts
10:45 am	Recess ends
12:15 pm	Lunch break – Students outside
12:45 pm	Lunch break – Students in to eat lunch
1:08 pm	Afternoon classes begin
2:30 pm	Students dismissed

I would like to remind everyone of our Litter-less Lunch policy. Students should be taking home all recyclable containers and materials and are strongly encouraged to bring reusable containers for lunch items, to reduce the amount of litter. Thanks for your support.

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS

We have red Arthur Hatton cougar t-shirts for sale for \$5.00. We currently have large and extra large in stock. Purchases can be made at the school office.

STUDENT FEES

Students are expected to come to school with required supplies. The school district offers a very reasonable Pupil Supply Program. **Information is found on the Supplies and Fees form attached to this newsletter.**



If you cannot pay the total owing by October 5th, please see Mr. Rempel to arrange a payment schedule.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please check this regularly, all newsletters will be posted and other important information.

MEDICAL ALERTS

It is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school. If your child does have a medical condition that the school should know about you need to fill out a school district form, you can pick that up at the office.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

One very important group at each school is the PAC. We need you to continue to support and be members of this organization. The PAC is an advisory council, a fund-raiser, and a supporter of the school. The first meeting and PAC elections will be held in early October. Please stay tuned. We will post the date and time for this on the entry doors to the school.

BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

Boys and Girls Club, as well as Starbucks on Mondays, will continue to be providing a number of our students with breakfast in the morning. A morning chef will be here for two hours each morning up to the beginning of recess to provide students in need with breakfast. In addition a recess concession will be provided for students and staff to purchase goodies. (Please note: we are still in the process of hiring someone for this position)

***Picture Day is Coming!
Fall photos for everyone – October 21st***

Prior to photo day, a flyer will be sent home with students advertising the photo date and other important details. After photo day, each student photographed will receive a proof to place their order. No payment is due at the camera. Keep on smiling!

CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS

All students are placed in classrooms, temporarily, on the first day. The staff works hard in developing placements for students. Factors such as, male/female ratio, academic groupings, independence level, class size regulations, siblings and parent requests are given consideration. Those parents who contacted the school in the spring have had their request considered, but in the final analysis, **placement of children is the school's responsibility**. Requests are often made based on rumour and not firsthand knowledge. Each year the staff wrestles with placement decisions and, it is usually the case that 99% of placements are fine. Worries that might seem enormous during the first few days of school usually disappear once classroom programs and relationships have been established. As parents, you can do a lot to dispel your child's insecurities about this by your encouragement and support. Every year is an opportunity to make new friends and experience different learning environments. So the tears and fears that may take place in the first few days are only temporary, soon to be replaced by excitement and enthusiasm!

Why are there split grades or multi-aged classrooms? Are straight classes superior to split classes? Staff is assigned to our school, based on projected enrollment, and is not enough for each grade to be taught as a straight grade. The number of students does not equal the size of classes as determined by the teachers' collective agreement, for class size, so we therefore will have split classes where necessary. There is no qualitative difference between split and straight classes. They are more work for the staff. The B.C. curriculum is taught as directed by the Ministry of Education. In most split class situations a combined curriculum is presented. The younger students in the class will not hinder older students nor will the younger students gain any more advantage by being with the older students. The upper grades of split classes are NOT for lower ability students and vice versa.

Why are students placed in temporary classes at the beginning of the year? Our population changes between June and September. We try to have the fewest possible disruptions for students. Once numbers have been confirmed and staffing is finalized, we will move the students to their class. This is usually completed before the end of the first week.

Ways that Parents Can Support Teachers

I have included this article before, but I think it is worthwhile reprinting it, especially as how it pertains to building relationships in our school community. Teachers at Arthur Hatton are committed to helping each and every student be the best they can be. We want to work together with parents to make it a real team effort. Below are a few suggestions that you, as parents, can use to help us and your child have a successful school year:

Get both sides of the story – About 90% of all problems between parents and teachers can be solved by giving each other a chance to tell their side of the story. Children will often give an account of what happened in a way that avoids placing any negative light on themselves, (I can certainly remember that!) and this can lead to big misunderstandings. As a parent, it is hard not to believe every word your child says and to take his or her word for fact, but just remember that before becoming upset or displeased with a teacher you should give that individual the opportunity to tell the story from their perspective. Never jump to conclusions or make assumptions!

Be patient – Beginning a new school year with a new teacher and harder standards is difficult for children. Often they will complain that the work is too hard, that they are given too much homework, or that the teacher isn't fair. Sometimes when they say they don't like a new teacher, it really translates to the fact that they don't like having to do harder work than they did the year before. Please bear with the teacher over the first few weeks and take any complaints from your child with a grain of salt. After all, the most profound learning takes place when we are challenged and placed out of our comfort zone.

Avoid negativity in the home – There are times when you may be upset with your child's teacher. When this happens, I would ask that parents deal directly with the teacher and avoid speaking about the matter in a negative way in front of their children. If a parent shows disrespect for the teacher at home, the child will feel that she or he has the right to show the same disrespect for the teacher in the classroom. I will say as well that if you do have an issue with your child's teacher and call me to discuss it, in most cases I will refer you right back to the teacher, where most issues can be resolved in a respectful manner (and almost always better when it's done face to face!). If you have made an attempt to handle the matter with the teacher and no progress is made, then you are welcome to set up a meeting with the principal.

Contact teachers during appropriate times – Please do not show up at your child's classroom unexpected to have a discussion. Teachers love to have parents visit the school, sit in during lessons, and talk with them about their child's performance. All of those things, however, should be scheduled. Teachers have enough on their plates, and when they are in the middle of a lesson they have worked extremely hard to prepare and all of the students are paying attention, it is distracting to have to go into the hall to talk with someone who has shown up out of the blue. If you do have an emergency where you need to pick up or speak with your child, please come to the office first.



BIKES, SCOOTERS, AND OTHER FUN THINGS

Many of our students make their way to and from school using wheeled forms transportation. A reminder that students are expected to use and store their bikes and scooters appropriately. Students are reminded that these items are not to be used on the school grounds between 8:00 – 3:30 for safety reasons.

2015/2016 Calendar

Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 7 th
School Opens	Tuesday, Sept. 8 th
District Non-Instructional Day	Friday, Sept. 25 th
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, Oct. 12 th
Early Closure	Wednesday, Oct. 21 st
Early Closure	Thursday, Oct. 22 nd
District Non-Instructional Day	Friday, Oct. 23 rd
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, Nov. 11 th
District Non-Instructional Day	Monday, Dec. 7 th
Winter Vacation Period	Dec. 21 st – Jan. 1 st
School Re-opens	Monday, Jan. 4 th
Family Day	Monday, Feb. 8 th
Early Closure	Wednesday, Feb. 10 th
Early Closure	Thursday, Feb. 11 th
District Non-Instructional Day	Friday, Feb. 19 th
Spring Vacation Period	Mar. 21 st – Apr. 1 st
Good Friday	Friday, Mar. 25 th
Easter Monday	Monday, Mar. 28 th
District Non-Instructional Day	Monday, Apr. 18 th
District Non-Instructional Day	Monday, May 16 th
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23 rd
Administrative Day	Thursday, Jun. 30 th