



Falkland Elementary School

School District No. 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap
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Principal: Shelly Cull

Follow us: www.facebook.com/pages/Falkland-Elementary/264923487025152

Tuesday, September 5th, 2017

Newsletter #1

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a warm welcome to all of our new families. I sincerely hope you had an enjoyable summer. Our Falkland School staff prides itself on our sense of team, familiarity with our families and commitment to the success of your children. It is an honour to serve as Principal here at Falkland School and work closely with our school community. I always say we may be small but we have BIG spirit.

At this time, we welcome 9 new kindergarten students and 8 new students to bring our total student population to 102. This is very positive for our school and our community. ☺ A special welcome to these new students and of course our kindergarten students who start tomorrow, Wednesday, September 6th.

As you are aware, students return to their previous class the first day of school in order for staff to ensure that class placements are done with the utmost care and consideration for each of our students. It's also an opportunity for students to reconnect with their previous teacher and peer group. Our hope is that we can begin with new classes on September 6th. If this is a possibility, class lists will be posted on the morning of September 6th to indicate your child's placement for the 2017-2018 school year. The sooner we know about students registering for the 2017-2018 school year, the better it is for determining our classroom configurations and getting organized into our new divisions.

We are a very busy school with lots happening for kids. The following are ways in which you can keep informed of the happenings at Falkland School:

1. Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Falkland-Elementary/264923487025152
2. School Website: www.fal.sd83.bc.ca
3. Newsletters are emailed home. If your email address has changed recently, be sure to contact Janet at the office to update our records. Thank you! If you would like a paper copy, please contact Janet at the office as well.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, suggestions or any concerns regarding all aspects of Falkland School. ☺

Staff Update and Student Placement

At this time our current configuration consists of five divisions with 102 students. Staff work very hard, given the constraints of class size and composition, on a variety of scenarios to best meet the educational needs of our students school wide. We have worked hard as a staff to consider the best learning environment for your children. Our goal is to create balanced classrooms taking into account social emotional factors, friendship issues, sibling issues, and then the strengths and needs for the overall composition of the class. Academic reasons are also considered, however, learning outcomes from all the grade levels in a class will be addressed. Providing a rich, meaningful educational experience is important to us all. We know that change is difficult, but your trust in our staff and their rationale in student placement is important to us and much appreciated.

Please see below for a list of our staff for the 2017 – 2018 school year.

Division 5 (Grade K and 1)	Mrs. Robbie McAfee
Division 4 (Grade 1, 2 and 3)	Ms. Monique Richoux
Division 3 (Grade 3 and 4)	Miss Minchenko (.7) and Mrs. Cull (.3)
Division 2 (Grade 4, 5, 6 or 5, 6, 7)	Mrs. Adelle Munk
Division 1 (Grade 7 and 8)	Mr. Hugh Clarke
Music (Mondays and Wednesdays)	Mrs. Kyla Kalf
LRT	Mrs. Marcy Corke (.8)
Library	Mrs. Marcy Corke (.2)
Secretary	Mrs. Janet Anderson
CEA	Mrs. Shawnee Scott
CEA	Mrs. Christine Leclerc
CEA	Ms. Marley Ulmer
CEA	Mrs. Tracy Van Damme
CEA	Miss Katherine Clarke
Indigenous Education Worker (M, F)	Mr. Wes Sandy
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Mrs. Shawnee Scott
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Mrs. Christine Leclerc
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Mrs. Nancy Nedjelski (F)
Custodian	Mr. Ryan Ramstad
StrongStart Facilitator	TBA
Speech and Language	Mrs. Jocelyn Duncan
Counsellor	TBA
Explorations (Div. 1)	Mrs. Shelly Cull (.1)
Bus Driver	Dale Graham

A special welcome to all new staff and returning staff. There may be a few additions to announce in the next few weeks as school gets underway.

Regular School Hours

Please feel free to call the school at 250-379-2320, if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to your child's progress, special events, or anything that we can help you with. Our secretary is Mrs. Janet Anderson, and she will be here at the following times:

Monday to Friday 8:00 – 2:30pm

Should you get the answering machine, please leave a message with your name and phone number and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please remember leave any messages pertaining to bussing BEFORE 1:15 pm, as the message may not be picked up after this to relay the information to your child. Thank you for your support with this from home.

Bell Schedule

8:00	Morning Supervision begins
8:15	First Bell – Students line up outside
8:18	Classes begins
9:50	Morning Recess
10:05	Classes begin
11:45	Eating time begins
12:00	Afternoon recess begins
12:25	Afternoon Recess ends – Students line up outside
12:30	Instruction begins
2:11	Dismissal – Supervision until busses leave (approx. 2:25)

Please note there is no supervision at the school prior to 8:00 am and after 2:25 pm.

MORNING: Students are welcome to arrive anytime after 8:00 am. Thank you! Breakfast Club is open to all students each morning at 8:00 am. If not in breakfast club, students are expected to remain outside until the morning bell rings.

AFTER SCHOOL: Students still at the school at 2:25 pm will be asked to head for home or wait inside near the office for pick up. Unfortunately, the phone in the office is not available for students to make after school arrangements. Please ensure after school plans are in place in advance for students. We are more than happy to deliver a message to your child regarding after school arrangements if necessary.

No Peanuts Please

We have students at our school who have severe allergies to peanuts. For some of these students, the allergy is so severe, even the odor of peanuts can cause constricting of the bronchial tubes, and require immediate use of an epipen and hospitalization.

We are requesting parents not send their children to school with peanuts or products containing peanuts. If we all do our part, we can keep everyone healthy and safe. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Similarly, if your child has a medical condition, please contact Mrs. Cull at the office to ensure we have all current medical information and possible medicine updated.

News from Transportation

Transportation of Large Equipment on School Buses

We are providing schools and families with the following School District No. 83 Operational Guideline. This Guideline supports the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations requirements to keep our students safe both to and from school.

1. Any equipment or items smaller than 30 inches (77cm) may be transported if they are kept on the student's lap without impeding the seat of another student, and if carried in an appropriate case.

Examples:

- a. Musical Instrument (in appropriate case)
- b. Ice Skates (in protective canvas bag)
- c. Roller Blades (in protective canvas bag)
- d. Skateboards and Scooters (in protective canvas bag or backpack)

Note: Hockey sticks, skis, poles, snowboards, longboards, large musical instruments, etc. **will not** be transported inside the school bus.

2. Larger items (over 30 inches) used for approved school programs may only be transported after receiving prior approval from the Transportation Office. These items will need to be transported in the exterior luggage compartment under the bus. A pre-approved "safe" bus stop is required in order for this equipment to be safely loaded in the exterior luggage compartment. These items should be in a protective waterproof case. Transportation will not be responsible for damage to equipment

Examples:

- a. Hockey gear
- b. Large musical instruments (ex. trombone, guitar, saxophone, etc.)
- c. Snow boards
- d. Skis, poles and hockey sticks

Note: if a student rides a different bus home which does not meet the above requirements, the items will not be transported. Not all buses are equipped with an exterior luggage compartment.

3. There are a number of unusual items that will require pre-approval from the Transportation Office in order to be transported on the school bus.

Examples:

- a. Pumpkins – small pumpkins may be transported if they are contained within a sturdy canvas bag or backpack. Students need to be able to hold onto the bag/backpack during the trip and safely manage the article while getting on and off the bus.
- b. Class projects - some of these projects are large and difficult to manage safely while getting on and off the bus.

4. The following items **will not** be transported on a school bus: laser pointers, booster seats, weapons, animals, drugs & alcohol, as per Motor Vehicle Act Regulations and District Policy.

Please Note:

It is the Transportation Departments' goal to safely provide as much assistance as possible to support the transportation of equipment for school programs.

It is the Parents/Guardians responsibility to transport any items which are deemed unsafe to be transported on a school bus.

Please remember to contact transportation if you are a new family to register your child on the bus. Only those registered are eligible to ride the bus. 250-546-1922. There have been numerous changes to various routes. All students registered for transportation should have received a post card in the mail with pick up and drop off information. For students not registered who wish to ride the bus after school on occasion, **MUST** be granted permission from the Principal of the school. Please contact the office to make the necessary arrangements.

News from PAC

The PAC will hold their first meeting of the school year on September 11th at 2:30 pm in Room 29, the StrongStart room. PAC is a wonderful way to be involved in making this the best school possible for our children. ☺ All parents welcome. Babysitting provided.

You can keep updated on PAC initiatives and events by liking or visiting their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Falkland-Elementary-PAC-397824727092552/>

Safe Arrival – Reporting Absences

Falkland Elementary continues to provide a safe arrival program where the school secretary (Janet) phones the homes of all children whose absence is unexplained. Please call or email anytime, but preferably before 8:10 am to advise us if your child will be absent and the reason for their absence. You can also email fal@sd83.bc.ca. Otherwise we will be uncertain as to your child's safety and whereabouts. Thank you for your cooperation with the safety program to help ensure that all children all accounted for.

Safe Arrival – Student Drop off

WALKING: Students are expected to enter and leave the school grounds by using the openings in our chain linked fence. Please **DO NOT** have your child enter using the parking lot gate at any time. Students are expected to use pathways and avoid walking through the parking lot.

BIKES: Students are expected to dismount their bikes at the openings in our chain linked fence and walk their bikes along the pathways directly to the bike lock up area. Helmets must be worn. Students are not allowed to ride their bikes on school grounds during the school day. After hours, please refrain from riding bikes in the parking lot when vehicles are present.

BY VEHICLE: Due to increase in staff and limited parking, it is encouraged that parents drop their children off on the school side of Tuktakamin Road. They are expected to enter the school grounds immediately using the openings in our chain linked fence.

Student Information

Arriving or Leaving During Class Time:

For safety reasons, it is important that the school knows at all times where children are, especially once classes commence. Therefore, students who arrive at school after the bell need to be sure to check in at the office to sign in. Students needing to leave early must be accompanied by their parent or an alternate (arranged in advance by the parent with the principal). Parents are asked to meet their child in the school, make arrangements with their teacher, and sign them out at the office.

Students Who Are Ill:

In most cases, we ask that students who are ill remain at home until they are well enough to go outside at the recess and lunch breaks rather than stay inside. Supervision can be a challenge. Also, it helps to keep our school a healthy place to learn. Students who are ill need rest and this is best done at home. Talk to your child's teacher about any learning that is missed. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Mrs. Cull.

Student forms needing your attention

On Friday, September 8th, Janet will be sending home paper copies of the following that must be completed and returned to school by September 28th:

- Verification forms – please note any changes and return to school
- Walking field trip consent form
- Outside media consent form
- Student use of WIFI for individual devices
- Consent to use personal information for School District publications

School Fees

The School District has approved school fees in accordance with district and provincial policy. We work hard to ensure that these are kept as low as possible and are intended in all cases to cover costs of items that are all for the personal use of students (agenda book and cultural performances).

A fee notice for the 2017/18 school year is included at the end of this newsletter. We ask that student fees be paid to the school office.

It is school policy that parents who are unable to pay due to financial hardship should contact Mrs. Cull at the school to make arrangements. Once again I appreciate support from parents with this process.

School fees are due to the office **by Wednesday, September 28th**. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

School Supplies

Prior to September 2016, the cost of school supplies to parents was anywhere from \$41.00 to \$82.00. Since then, with communication with PAC, we have moved toward the school purchasing supplies for student use in classrooms. For the most part, school supplies will remain organized with the classroom teacher to ensure effective organization and management. By moving toward a community approach we are able to offer uniformity in the supplies purchased, consistent quality, greater selection, and less waste as items can be reused, all while saving families money. In the upper grades, we request families purchase reusable supplies like calculators and USB sticks as these supplies are student specific. If you have questions about our practice, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Cull. In keeping with the same costs as last year, Div 1 and 2 is \$41.00 and Div 3, 4, and 5 is \$38.00.

Explorations

We are excited to be able to offer an explorations program for our students in grade 7 and 8. We are looking to providing a variety of activities connecting to the Applied Skills Design Technology Curriculum and Arts Education learning content in the renewed curriculum. These will likely include cooking, pottery, robotics, dance, drama, etc. Explorations will continue to take place Monday afternoon and incorporate our community members when possible. If you have suggestions of offerings related to the development of skills in the Applied Skills Design Technology and Arts Education curricular areas, please contact Mrs. Cull.

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program

We have renewed our partnership with the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program and we are looking forward to receiving the occasional nutritious fruits and vegetables again this year for our students. If you do not wish your child to participate, please contact the office.

School Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers at Falkland School. Many of our programs can only happen because of you. Our district guideline requires all volunteers to complete a Criminal Record Check, when working alone with students. We will be providing more information related to this in the near future.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will be up and running very soon. Breakfast will be available in Room 29. Students will be able to access the breakfast room by its outside entrance only. This door will be open at 8:00 am. All students are welcome. Full bellies make for better learning. ☺ If you would like to make donations of eggs, milk, bread, yogurt, fruit, cereal and other healthy options for breakfast, please contact Mrs. Cull at the school.

StrongStart BC Early Learning Program

Falkland StrongStart Centre

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and caregivers are invited to join in the fun with their preschoolers at our StrongStart Early Learning Centre. StrongStart is a free school-based program for 0 - 5 year old preschool children and their parents or caregivers. Registration for new preschool children is necessary. Registration forms are available at the office or the Strongstart Centre.

We are still in the process of hiring a StrongStart facilitator for the 2017-2018 school year. ☺

Location: Room 29 at Falkland Elementary School

Hours: Every **Tuesday and Thursday**, time TBA

Cost: Free!

Preschoolers and parents/caregivers may attend each day or on a drop-in basis.

Healthy snacks are provided each session.

More information about our new facilitator and days will be announced soon.

What is a StrongStart Centre?

- A program that recognizes parents and caregivers as the key factor in the success of a child's educational career.
- A program that focuses on play-based learning and activities including dramatic play, puzzles, blocks, stories and shared reading, music, and art.
- A program that offers today's families an opportunity to provide their young children with problem-solving skills, self-esteem building practices, and the social skills that will help them successfully manage in school.

The Falkland StrongStart Centre will open on Tuesday, September 19th, 2016.

*“The parent is the first and most important teacher in a child's life.
Increased involvement in their child's education contributes to success.”*

School District No. 83 Core Values and Beliefs

In 2013/2014 the district undertook a review of its Mission, Vision, & Core Values guiding philosophy. After consultation with the educational community, the board adopted the following in May 2014:

As a school district we believe that:

1. For learning to occur, our relationships inside and outside the classroom need to be respectful and caring.
2. Joy, fun, satisfaction and celebration are essential to learning.
3. To nurture creativity and innovation is to motivate and encourage commitment to learning.
4. It is important to approach all issues and problems with a positive attitude focused on finding solutions collaboratively.
5. Students and their learning are our prime focus.
6. We need to build on the diversity and strengths of our students, staff, and families.
7. The pursuit of both excellence and participation are worthy of our attention and support

Falkland Elementary Code of Conduct

Falkland School Code of Conduct

This code of conduct applies while at school, at school related activities, and in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on our school environment.

At Falkland Elementary School we believe in...

- RESPECT of self, others and property
- RESPONSIBILITY for actions
- SAFETY

In Reference to the BC Human Rights Code: Falkland Elementary School promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of individuals in accordance with the law-prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation- in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment. The school will treat seriously behaviour or communication that discriminates based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation (prohibited grounds set out in the BC Human Rights Code)

Philosophy of Behaviour

Behaviour is communicative and usually represents an individual's best effort to meet their needs. A conflict usually arises when the efforts to meet one's needs interferes with the needs of another. Discipline provides an opportunity to learn a better way to meet an individual's needs and fix mistakes with those affected. The ultimate goal of any discipline is restorative, where the individuals and relationships involved are strengthened. Individuals must be willing to accept responsibility for their part in a problem or conflict in order for restoration of self and others to occur. If unwilling, consequences are assigned from a least intrusive to most intrusive approach based on a progressive discipline model.

Discipline Process for Inappropriate Behaviour

The progressive process starts in the classroom with an individual conversation or correction by the classroom teacher. If the behaviour continues, the classroom teacher will contact home and discuss the situation with the parent. Having first tried the above procedure for behaviour management, the student will be referred to the principal using the Falkland Elementary Referral form.

First referral:

A conference with the principal resulting in time in the office and a thinking sheet completed by the student. Depending upon the significance of the incident, an electronic behaviour record is completed. Consequences are assigned from a least intrusive to most intrusive approach based on a progressive

discipline model. Alternative behaviour management strategies are explored with the teacher and implemented. Contact with parents is made.

Second referral:

Another conference with the principal resulting in time in the office and a thinking sheet completed by the student. An electronic behaviour record of the incident and contact with parents are made. Consequences are assigned from a least intrusive to most intrusive approach based on a progressive discipline model. An action plan developed by the student designed for their success, with input by teacher, parents, and principal is developed.

Third referral or more:

Another conference with the principal resulting in time in the office and a thinking sheet completed by the student. An electronic behaviour record of the incident and contact with parents are made. Consequences are assigned from a least intrusive to most intrusive approach based on a progressive model and could include an in or out of school suspension. A meeting may occur to review the action plan with teacher, parents, and principal. Possibly a school based team meeting referral to seek input from additional district staff to develop a more formal behaviour plan.

Each Referral is dealt with on a case-by-case basis depending on type of referral and student involved. If the problems persist we will devise additional plans that may include additional conferences with parents, school based team, Director of Student Support Services, development and implementation of more formal behaviour plans, in or out of school suspension, changes in classroom placement, partial attendance and possible referrals to an alternate school.

Outcomes may include any of the following depending on circumstance:

Restitution
Natural and logical consequences
Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Conference
In-school suspension/Out of school suspension
School Based Team Meeting
District Hearing

Discipline process for Bottom Line Behaviours: Immediate referral to the principal.

1. Office Referral Form completed by staff and notifies the principal, verbally, as well.
2. Principal will gather information via all sources. An opportunity is provided to the student to take ownership.
3. Principal will determine with those involved (including the student and his/her parent/guardian when appropriate) the course of action to best support the student while maintaining student safety and our school beliefs.
4. Affected staff and parent/guardian informed.

Outcome may include any of the following depending on circumstances:

Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Conference
In-school suspension
Out of school suspension
School Based Team Meeting
District Hearing

Bottom Line Behaviours include:

1. Weapons

Defined as anything used, designed to be used or intended for use in causing death, injury or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person. Examples: Knives, Lighters, Laser Pens

Consequences: Immediate Suspension and Referral to District

2. Drugs and Alcohol

Possession of or under the influence

Consequences:

up to 15 days for a first offense

up to 10 months for a second offense

3. Violence: No one is entitled to use violence or threaten violence at our school

- Violence is any act that hurts a person's body, feelings, or things:
- Harassment, intimidation and bullying are violence.

4. "Dangerous" defiance

Students are expected to follow directions from any adult employed at the school or volunteering for the school (field trips, etc.)

5. Stealing or vandalism: If it doesn't belong to you leave it alone.

**When students are referred to the office for "Bottom Line" behaviours,
School District No. 83 policy will be followed often resulting in removal from the group.**

Special consideration may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply with this Code of Conduct due to having a disability of intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

School District No. 83 Dress Code

The North Okanagan-Shuswap School District expects all students to dress in a respectful manner which is appropriate and conducive to a positive as well as safe learning environment.

Appropriate dress is considered to be that which:

- Is safe and respectful of self and others;
- Is free of any reference which promotes alcohol, drugs, gangs, hate, obscenity, profanity, racism/discrimination, sex and/or violence;
- Is not disturbing or distracting to others within the school setting;
- Is similar to office or retail workplace attire.

At Falkland School appropriate coverage is expected. Students wearing clothing which is too revealing including bare backs, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines or muscle shirts will be asked to wear something more appropriate, or be given something to wear. Underwear needs to be under your outerwear, and therefore, should not be visible. Footwear must be worn at all times. Inside shoes are mandatory for all students to be sure our school stays clean.

We ask that hats and hoods must be removed once students enter the building. Hats and hoods may be worn during breaks and lunches while outside. Students who violate the hat policy may have the hat confiscated and held in the office until the end of the day. In conclusion...please, Dress For Success. ☺

Important Dates

Please take note of the upcoming events and record them in your calendars. Please also check out the school calendar on our website as this is updated on a regular basis. The student planner is another great reference for parents to find out about the upcoming events in your child's classroom.

Wed., Sept. 6	Kindergarten Students attend 8:15 – 9:15
Thurs., Sept. 7	Kindergarten Students attend 8:15 – 9:15
Fri., Sept. 8	Kindergarten Students attend 8:15 – 10:05
Mon., Sept. 11	Kindergarten Students attend 8:15 – 12:30 PAC Meeting, Room 29, 2:30
Tues., Sept. 12	Kindergarten Students attend 8:15 – 12:30
Wed., Sept. 13	Kindergarten Students begin Full Day attendance
Thurs. Sept. 14	CHEQ survey for kindergarten parents 1:30 in computer lab with Mrs. Cull
Fri., Sept. 15	Curriculum Implementation Day – students do not attend school
Mon., Sept. 18	Pro-D/Growth Planning Day – students do not attend school
Tues., Sept. 19	StrongStart begins – Tues. & Thurs. time to be announced
Wed., Sept. 20	Welcome Back Event – time TBA
Tues. Sept. 26	Numeracy Expert Visit – Science World
Fri., Sept. 29	Terry Fox Run Orange Shirt Day
Mon., Oct. 2	Registration opens for 2018-2019 School Year: Kindergarten and New Students
Mon., Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Fri., Oct. 13	Outdoor Awesome – more to be announced
Wed., Oct. 18	WE DAY – more information to come
Thurs., Oct. 19	Earthquake Drill
Fri., Oct. 20	Pro-D Day – students do not attend school
Tues., Oct. 24	School Photos
Wed., Oct. 25	School Photos
Wed., Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Assembly – time to be announced
Thurs., Nov. 9	Pro-D Day – students do not attend school
Fri., Nov. 10	District School Closure – students do not attend school
Mon., Nov. 13	In lieu of Remembrance Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Fri., Dec. 22	Last day of school before Winter Break
Dec. 24 to Jan. 7	Winter Break – students do not attend school
Mon., Jan. 8 (2018)	School Reopens after Winter Break
Mon., Feb. 12	Family Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Fri., Feb. 23	Pro-D Day – students do not attend school
Fri., Mar. 16	Last day of school before Spring Break
Mar. 18 to Apr. 1	Spring Break – students do not attend school
Mon., Apr. 2	Easter Monday – students do not attend school
Tues., Apr. 3	School Reopens after Spring Break
Fri., Apr. 27	Pro-D/Growth Planning Day – students do not attend school
Fri., May 18	Pro-D Day – students do not attend school
Mon., May 21	Victoria Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Wed., June 20	Atlantis Waterslides – entire school to attend
Thurs., June 28	Last Day of school for students – Early Dismissal at 10:11