



Falkland Elementary School

School District No. 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap
P.O. Box 10, Falkland, BC V0E 1W0
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Principal: Shelly Cull

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

Tuesday, September 4th, 2018

Newsletter #1

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a warm welcome to 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 you, your children and our school community. I always say we may be small but we have BIG spirit.

At this time, we welcome 12 new kindergarten students and 4 new students to bring our total student population to 97. A special “welcome to the wolf pack” to these new students and of course our kindergarten students who start tomorrow, Wednesday, September 5th.

It is tradition for students to 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 in situations where a particular grade is separated into two classrooms. 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 tomorrow, Wednesday, September 5th. If this is a possibility, class lists will be posted on the morning of September 5th to indicate your child's placement for the 2018-2019 school year. New student registration for the 2019-2020 school year start on October 9th.

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

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

Staff Update and Student Placement

At this time our current configuration consists of five divisions with 97 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. When one grade is split into two classrooms, we work 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 2018 – 2019 school year.

Division 5 (Grade K and 1)	Mrs. Robbie McAfee
Division 4 (Grade 1 and 2)	Ms. Monique Richoux
Division 3 (Grade 3 and 4)	Miss Minchenko
Division 2 (Grade 5 and 6)	Mr. Clint Endacott (Ms. Adelle Barker returning Oct. 29 M-TH)
Division 1 (Grade 7 and 8)	Mr. Hugh Clarke
Music	Mrs. Shelly Cull
LRT	Mrs. Marcy Corke (.8)
Library	Mrs. Marcy Corke (.2)
Secretary	Mrs. Dani Hickman
CEA	Mrs. Shawnee Scott
CEA	Mrs. Christine Leclerc
CEA	Ms. Marley Ulmer
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. Melissa Weissenborn
StrongStart Facilitator	Mrs. Cathy Steigleder
Speech and Language	Mrs. Jocelyn Duncan
Counsellor	TBA
Explorations (Div. 1)	TBA
Bus Driver	Lisa Altizer

A special welcome to all new staff and returning staff. There will 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. Dani Hickman 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

This is a new bell schedule for students in Division One due to the increased minutes of instruction required for students in grade 8.

	Div. 2, 3, 4	Div. 1
Warning Bell	8:15	
Block 1	8:18 – 9:00 (42 min)	8:08 – 9:00 (52 min)
Block 2	9:00 – 9:50 (50 min)	9:00 – 10:00 (60 min)
Recess	9:50 – 10:05	10:00 – 10:05
Block 3	10:05 – 10:55 (50 min)	10:05 – 10:55 (50 min)
Block 4	10:55 – 11:45 (50 min)	10:55 – 11:50 (55 min)
Eating Time Lunch	11:45 – 12:00	11:50 – 12:00
Outside Time	12:00 – 12:27	12:00 – 12:27
Warning Bell	12:27	12:27
Block 5	12:30 – 1:20 (50 min)	12:30 – 1:20 (50 min)
Block 6	1:20 – 2:11 (51 min)	1:20 – 2:11 (51 min)
Total minutes of instruction	293	318

Students in Division One are expected to congregate near their outside classroom entrance when they arrive at school and wait for Mr. Clarke to open the door.

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. 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.

Medical Information

If your child has a medical condition, please contact Mrs. Cull at the office to ensure we have all current medical information, appropriate forms completed and medicine for administration.

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. All students registered for transportation should have received confirmation in the mail with pick up and drop off information. 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 a meet and greet for new families on Wednesday, September 5th at 9:00 am in Rm 29, the StrongStart space. Their **first meeting of the school year is on Wednesday, September 12th** 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.

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 (Dani) phones the homes of all children whose absence is unexplained. Please call 250-379-2320 or email fal@sd83.bc.ca anytime to report your child's absence, but preferably before 8:10 am on the day of their absence. Please note the days your child will be absent and the reason for their absence. Thank you for your cooperation with the safety program to help ensure that all children all accounted for.

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 Drop off

WALKING: Students are expected to enter and leave the school grounds by using one of the three openings in our chain linked fence. **Please DO NOT have your child enter using the parking lot entrance 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 one of the three 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.

BY VEHICLE: Due to limited parking, it is encouraged that parents drop their children off on the school side of Tuktakamin Road near one of the three openings in our chain linked fence. Students are expected to enter the school grounds immediately using the openings in our chain linked fence, not the parking lot entrance please.

Student forms needing your attention

On Friday, September 7th, Dani will be sending home paper copies of the following permission forms that must be completed and returned to school. Please sign and return them to school before Monday, September 24th:

- Personal Information Consent Form
- Outside Media In Schools
- School Network Consent (WIFI access)
- Office 365/Cloud Internet Consent (Internet-based tools for digital portfolio use)
- myBluePrint Internet Consent (on-line planning tools and e-portfolio use)
- Walking Field Trips Permission
- Verification forms –
- Canadian Anti-Spam Form so we can send you electronic copies of newsletters, announcements and other electronic messages which may contain advertising and promotions related to our school

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, cultural performances, materials for art supplies and other hand on activities connected to the ADST curriculum).

A fee notice for the 2018/19 school year is included below. We ask that student fees be paid to the school office as soon as possible.

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 Friday, September 28th**. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

FALKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2018 – 2019 STUDENT FEES

Listed below are the permissible school fees in compliance with provincial legislation. A **financial hardship policy** is in place at Falkland School for families unable to afford school fees. Please contact Mrs. Cull, principal for further information.

PERMISSIBLE FEES ~ due by September 30, 2018 please

➤ School Supplies	Div. 1	35.00
	(must provide own zipper binder)	
	Div. 2	41.00
	Div. 3, 4, 5	38.00
➤ Student Agenda	Div. 1, 2	8.00
➤ Combination Lock Rental	Gr. 8 only	3.00
➤ Band Instruments may be purchased or rented privately or through the School District) for students in Div. 1		TBA

Provincial legislation does not allow schools to charge a mandatory Activity Fee. Our PAC and staff believe these programs and activities are important for our students and are requesting parents continue to pay those fees so that these programs and activities can continue. Our ability to provide these programs will be dependent on the funds we receive from parents. **No student will be denied access to a school sponsored program/activity for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point, please contact Mrs. Cull, principal.**

REQUESTED FEES (due by September 30, 2018):

➤ Explorations enrichment for Gr. 6, 7, 8 (See newsletter for information on Explorations offerings)	15.00
➤ Cultural Performances (the number of performances booked is contingent upon the amount collected)	6.00
➤ Art Supplies - to be used in each class	10.00
➤ Swimming for Gr. K - 5 (approx. \$40, requested in April)	TBA
➤ Winter Recreation Program (if your child chooses to participate, these are requested to cover bussing, ski or snowboard rental and lift passes)	TBA
➤ Field Trips (as determined by teachers; fees are often requested to cover bussing, entry fees, food, activities, etc.)	TBA

COMBINED TOTAL OF PERMISSIBLE and REQUESTED FEES

DIV. 1	74.00 (Grade 8's add \$3 for locker rental = \$77)
DIV. 2	80.00 (includes exploration fee for Gr 6)
	65.00 (Gr 5)
DIV. 3, 4, 5	54.00

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding School Fees please contact the school.

The staff would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their continued support in order to provide these valuable opportunities for our students.

Please make cheques payable to FALKLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL and bring payment to Christine Nickles at the office. Thank You.

Shelly Cull,
Principal

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. Div 1 is \$35.00, Div. 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 6, 7 and 8. With the \$15.00 per student fee, we provide a variety of activities connecting to the learning content in the Applied Design Skills Technology curriculum and Arts Education curriculum. These will likely include cooking, pottery, robotics, dance, drama, etc. Explorations will most likely continue to take place Monday afternoon and incorporate 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 or are interested in helping out, 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 Police Information Check, when working alone with students. This includes driving children other than your own on field trips and sports events. If you have questions about the process please contact Dani or Mrs. Cull at the school.

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 volunteer during this time or even make a donation 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 2018-2019 school year. ☺

Location: Room 29 at Falkland Elementary School

Hours: Every **Tuesday and Thursday**, 8:15 – 11:15

Cost: Free!

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

Healthy snacks are provided each session.

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 18th, 2018.

*“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

School District No. 83 Strategic Plan

The development and implementation of a District Strategic Plan is a key component in the District's commitment to improving the learning and working environment of students and staff. The strategic planning process started in February 2017 with the support of the Public Consulting Group (PCG) consulting firm.

School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) Strategic Plan focuses on three major goals:

- **Students First** – Students success is our top priority every day
- **Organizational Efficiency** – Students and staff are healthy and connected to the learning environment
- **Culture of Health and Wellness** – Decisions and Actions are clear, purposeful and responsible

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. Refer to FAIR NOTICE PROTOCOL.

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

Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice

What behaviours initiate a student threat assessment?

A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include Principal, Vice-Principal, District Resource Counsellor, School Counsellor and Police.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behavior.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student shall be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment for all.

What do I do if I have witnessed firsthand a threatening act of violence on school property?

1. **Make sure you are safe.**
2. **Contact the School Principal and/or the RCMP and file a report regarding what you witnessed**
3. **The Principal will then investigate the report, depending upon the outcome, the Principal will contact the RCMP and the District Education Support Centre will determine next steps.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In Support of Safe Schools,

Ms. Dianne Ballance

Director of Instruction – Student Learning

School District No. 83, Salmon Arm, British Columbia

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 in all learning environments (playground, classroom and gymnasium). Students wearing clothing which is too revealing including bare backs, bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines or muscle shirts or not suitable for the task at hand 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. ☺

School District No. 83 Problem Solving Process

Steps to follow when you have a concern . . .

When you advocate on behalf of your child the way you express your concerns has an effect on the outcome.

• Do your best to control your emotions, be reasonable and respectful. The less defensive people are, the easier it is for them to listen to your concerns. You can provide information that will help professionals make a decision that meets the needs of your child.

• Consider the views of others. You may not agree, but by listening you will understand where they are "coming from" and where a solution might be found. When both sides are heard, it is easier to work together to find solutions.

• Document your information. It is easy to get confused or forget. Let down notes, record the dates of meetings, phone calls, etc. Keep copies of everything you send and receive.

• Commit to resolution. Ensure you are working to solve the problem. Be honest with yourself and others. Plan how the problem will be solved. Think of the effect your suggested plan will have. Act in good faith; assume the best of others. Be both flexible and open-minded. Another plan might work or be even better.

• Stay involved. Confirm action plans and arrange for follow up. Help to define reasonable deadlines for each goal and ensure you and your child are part of the resolution's evaluation. If one solution is not working, try another. Plans must be workable.

Q. I have a concern. What should I do?

A. Act as soon as possible, do not let the problem get out of hand or remain unresolved. Listen carefully to what your child is saying. If you are uncomfortable seek advocacy. Try to understand all viewpoints on the issue. Do your best to look at the issue logically, leaving your emotions out of the picture for the time being. Determine clearly in your mind what the issue is. Establish what the facts are and what information may be missing. Begin to form questions. Request a meeting with the person directly involved at a mutually convenient time.

Q. Where do I start if I have a concern or problem?

A. Always start with the person directly involved. For example, if the problem is in the classroom a face-to-face meeting between teacher, support staff, parent and student may be the best approach. Most problems will be successfully solved at this level. (For further information refer to School District Regulation 9052: Process for Resolution of Concerns available at the school, the district board office, or on-line at www.sd83.bc.ca.)

Q. Where do I go next?

A. If your concerns are not addressed at this level, contact the individual's immediate supervisor. The vice-principal or principal will make every attempt to solve the problem at the school level and can help you contact appropriate people as necessary.

Q. What if my problem cannot be solved at the school level?

A. You may wish to speak to a Director of Instruction of the school district. If you are not satisfied, referral to the superintendent may be necessary.

Q. Where would I go from here?

A. You have the option of writing a letter to the school board or asking to make a formal presentation at a board meeting. The result of this appeal will be given to you in writing. (For further information refer to School District Regulation 9053: Process For Resolution Of Concerns available at the school, the district board office or on-line at www.sd83.bc.ca.)

Q. Would it be appropriate to ask the PAC for help?

A. Perhaps. If concerns are of a general nature (not confidential issues) it may be brought up at a PAC meeting for discussion. However, if the issue is of a personal or personnel nature then it must be dealt with in private.

Q. Could I contact the Ombudsman?

A. Yes, however, the Ombudsman can only look at whether a fair process was followed by all parties, and if not, their action is restricted to recommendations only.

Revised September 2013

Important Dates

Please take note of the upcoming events and record them in your calendars. A list of important dates is always included in the monthly newsletter on a separate paper for easy reference. Although an email is sent home weekly as a reminder of upcoming events, this list will always be much more comprehensive.

Tues., Sept. 4	First Day of School for grades 1 – 8 Whole School Assembly 9:00 AM
Wed., Sept. 5	First Day of School for Kindergarten Students (8:18 – 9:15) CHEQ survey for kindergarten parents 8:18 AM in computer lab with Ms. Corke
Thurs., Sept. 6	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 9:50
Fri., Sept. 7	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 9:50
Mon., Sept. 10	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 11:45
Tues., Sept. 11	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 11:45
Wed., Sept. 12	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 12:30 PAC meeting at 2:30 in RM 29
Thurs. Sept. 13	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 12:30
Fri., Sept. 14	Kindergarten Students attend 8:18 – 12:30
Mon., Sept. 17	Curriculum Implementation Day – students do not attend school
Tues., Sept. 18	StrongStart begins – Tues. & Thurs. 8:15 – 11:15
Tues. Sept. 25	Photo Day – Individual Photos, Class Photos, Whole School Photo
Thurs., Sept. 27	Terry Fox Run
Fri., Sept. 28	Orange Shirt Day
Mon., Oct. 2	Field trip: Salute to the Sockeye – more info to come
Fri., Oct. 5	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend
Mon., Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Tues., Oct. 9	Registration opens for 2019-2020 School Year: Kindergarten and New Students
Thurs., Oct. 18	Earthquake Drill
Fri., Oct. 19	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
Fri., Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Assembly – time to be announced
Mon., Nov. 12	In lieu of Remembrance Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Tues. Nov. 13	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
Wed. Nov. 21	Parent/STUDENT/Teacher Conference (First Formal Report) – early dismissal
Thurs. Nov. 22	Parent/STUDENT/Teacher Conference cont'd
Fri., Dec. 21	Last day of school before Winter Break
Dec. 24 to Jan. 4	Winter Break – students do not attend school
Mon., Jan. 7 (2019)	School Reopens after Winter Break
Fri., Feb 15	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
Mon., Feb. 18	Family Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Wed. Feb. 27	Second Formal Report sent home
Fri., Mar. 15	Last day of school before Spring Break
Mar. 18 to Mar. 29	Spring Break – students do not attend school
Mon., Apr. 1	School Reopens after Spring Break
Fri., Apr. 19	Good Friday Holiday – students do not attend school
Mon., Apr. 22	Easter Monday – students do not attend school
Tues., Apr. 23	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
Fri., May 17	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
Mon., May 20	Victoria Day Holiday – students do not attend school
Wed., June 19	Atlantis Waterslides – entire school to attend
Thurs., June 27	Last Day of school for students – Early Dismissal Third and Final Formal Report Card sent home