



Falkland Elementary School

North Okanagan Shuswap - School District No. 83

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Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

Dear Parents:

RE: START UP INFORMATION

Welcome back and we look forward to seeing our students for full days on both Thursday, September 10th and Friday September 11th. Safety of staff and students is our number one priority. Thank you for completing our school enrollment survey so we can solidify our start up plan. We have had a few families move away, a couple families move in, and a few families pursuing other options for distance learning or home learning out of district. We currently have 117 students registered, a handful in Education Outreach and approximately a dozen choosing the soft start option.

Please ensure you have read over our complete site specific [Health and Safety Plan for Falkland School](#). If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Cull at the school. While it may look like a lot on paper, I think in practice, it will be quite manageable. One of the most important changes is that all movement inside and outside of the building is well planned, orderly and monitored to minimize interactions between students belonging to different learning groups/cohort.

Please access our [Fee Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year](#). As per usual, the school purchases classroom supplies for students. We ask parents to pay a fee of \$35 for school supplies so that students receive the items specifically requested by the teacher. These items are important for the organization of the classroom. We have found that purchasing supplies in this way allows for greater uniformity and quality, for less of a cost. We are happy to report that we are working on setting up email transfers as a contactless payment option. We are hoping to have this option in place by Monday, September 14th, 2020.

A virtual assembly for students, to review much of this information is planned for the morning of Thursday, September 10th. Practice with classroom teachers will also take place.

1. Health Check

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you to assess your child's health each morning prior to sending them to school. Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of illness not related to a pre-existing condition, as outlined on the Health Check Form (see attached). If your child has symptoms of illness, please follow the protocols in place for accessing 811 or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. To determine if your child should be tested for COVID-19, use the self-

assessment tool accessed [here](#). Please also ensure that the school has your most recent emergency contact information on file, as this is the contact that will be used if there is no answer when calling parents if children become symptomatic while at school. Teachers will be supporting students in learning to assess their own health throughout the day. If children become symptomatic or communicate symptoms of illness during the day, parents will be contacted first, followed by emergency contacts. Please develop a back up plan to ensure your child can be picked up as soon as possible if needed.

Child Self-Check Health Check Form		
1. Symptoms of Illness	Do you have the following symptoms?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Fever
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Chills
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Cough or worsening of chronic cough
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of breath
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Runny nose / stuffy nose
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of sense of smell or taste
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of appetite
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea and vomiting
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle aches
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Dizziness, confusion
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abdominal pain
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>If you answered "Yes" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (i.e. Allergies/Asthma) your child should not come to school.</p> <p>If there is a pre-existing condition answer "No" on form.</p> <p>If your child is experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact your health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8- 1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.</p> <p>If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.</p>		

2. Class Configuration

I am happy to report that our school has been provided an additional 6th division to accommodate class size and composition requirements. If enrollment decreases considerably in the month of September, we may be in a position where we will have to reconfigure into 5 divisions.

The following table outlines our configuration with 6 divisions:

6 Division Configuration		
Division 1	Mr. Clarke	Grade 6/7/8
Division 2	Ms. Barker	Grade 5/6
Division 3	Miss Minchenko	Grade 3/4
Division 4	TBA	Grade 2/3
Division 5	Ms. Richoux	Grade 1/2
Division 6	Mrs. McAfee	Grade K

3. Student Placement

If you have a child in grade 2, 3 and 6, Mrs. Cull will be contacting you on Wednesday, September 9th to advise you of your child's placement. Please know that many factors are taken into consideration when staff is making decisions about student placement in classrooms. While we value parent input, please know that the final decision rests with staff in order to meet class composition and class size requirements.

For the families who have indicated a soft start, your child's classroom teacher will reach out to you by email with information pertaining to any work to be done at home by Monday, September 14th. Thursday, September 10th and Friday, September 11th are full orientation days for students. Continue to check our website for school related information. Please remember to call Mrs. Cull well in advance of your child returning so a safety orientation can be scheduled.

4. Arrival to School

Please click [here](#) to access the 2020-2021 bell schedule. When you arrive to school on Thursday, September 10th please proceed to your classroom line up (student placement information is below) and place your backpack in the line. Teachers will greet you at the line up. Please arrive any time between 8:00 AM and 8:16 AM. Students in division one have a different start time of 8:11 AM. Please ensure you remind your children to keep their distance from all students and adults upon arrival until they arrive at their classroom line up. For students in the same class and assigned to the same learning group/cohort, students are expected to minimize physical contact. Physical distancing is only required when interacting with students outside of their assigned learning group/cohort.

Starting Friday, September 11th students will be able to proceed to their morning play zone after dropping their backpack off at their lineup. The morning play zone is the same location everyday and is a designated area close to their classroom line up. This will be reviewed with students on Thursday, September 10th at their orientation. Teachers will meet students at their designated outside classroom entrance with sanitizer.

The following is important to remember at arrival time:

- Supervision starts at 8:00 AM – do not send your students to school prior to 8:00 AM
- Students in Division 1 start at 8:11 AM
- For all other students instruction starts at 8:16 AM
- Students can access the school grounds from one of the three openings in our fence. **DO NOT enter our school grounds through the parking lot entrance.** Our parking lot is for staff parking only, not for pick up and drop off please.

5. Classroom Line Ups

While physical distancing is not expected between individuals from the same learning group/cohort, students will be reminded to minimize physical contact while in line ups.

Division 1	Grade 6/7/8	line up at the flagpole near the blue tables outside of Ms. Barker’s Division 2 classroom. This line up location is new. This will leave the pathways free for students in Division 4
Division 2	Grade 5/6	line up at your outside classroom entrance in two lines on the grass (6 feet from the path). This line up location is the same as previous years. This will leave the pathways free for students in Division 4.
Division 3	Grade 3/4	line up along the school outside of the front office. This line up is the same as in previous years.
Division 4	Grade 2/3	line up along the pathway at Mr. Clarke’s old classroom outside entrance. This entrance is located on the left of the school. The line up will be along the pathway toward the gym. This line up location is new for this grade level and can be accessed by following the pathway to the right of the main entrance. This line can also be accessed by going all the way around the back of the school.
Division 5	Grade 1/2	line up along the wall to the right of the school where the hay bales are usually placed. This line up location is new but very close to where they lined up in previous years.
Division 6	Grade K	line up in front of the windows that used to be the music room. This line up location is the same as previous years.

6. Learning Groups/Cohorts

Learning Groups/Cohorts are determined by class, not grade and is a strategy to reduce the number of interactions while at school. While students will remain as a class for most of their instructional day, it is in their learning group/cohort that they can interact more freely, while minimizing physical contact. Designated play areas outside are accessed while students are in their learning group/cohort. Outside is also considered a less risky environment. Adults from our school are assigned a learning group/cohort as well. Other adults interacting with your child, not from the same learning group/cohort, will be required to physical distance and possibly mask if distancing is challenging.

Learning Group/Cohort A	Division 1 and 2	Mr. Clarke and Ms. Barker
Learning Group/Cohort B	Division 3 and 4	Miss Minchenko and TBA
Learning Group/Cohort C	Division 5 and 6	Ms. Richoux and Mrs. McAfee

7. Designated Morning Play ZONES – This is the same each morning.

We need to provide three areas for morning use, one for each of our learning groups/cohorts. While the far field is utilized in our play zones at recess and lunch it presents too many challenges with supervision and drop off traffic and bussing for morning use. For the morning zones, we have condensed the designated play areas described below for recess and lunch. The areas may change in order to be responsive to the needs of our students. These areas are relatively close to their designated line up areas.

MORNING ZONE 1 Right of the school including basketball court, grassy area behind the school	B Division 3 and 4
MORNING ZONE 2 Right of the school including old play structure, swings and green slide, climbing apparatus	C Division 5 and 6
MORNING ZONE 3 New play structure, swings, grassy areas at the side of the school	A Division 1 and 2

8. Designated Playground ZONES – Recess and Lunch

Our playground has been divided into 3 ZONES for outside time. The following table outlines the rotation of the learning groups/cohorts so all students can experience all parts of the playground during the week. They will stay the same for recess and lunch. Division 1 has a shortened recess (5 minutes) that allows enough time for a snack only, no outside time. Students will be accompanied across the road to access the far field.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ZONE 1 Far field – large grassy area	A Div 1 and 2	B Div. 3 and 4	C Div. 5 and 6	A Div. 1 and 2	B Div. 3 and 4
ZONE 2 Right of the school – upper grassy area, basketball court, old play structure, swings and green slide, climbing apparatus	C Div. 5 and 6	A Div 1 and 2	B Div. 3 and 4	C Div. 5 and 6	A Div 1 and 2
ZONE 3 Left of the school – new play structure, swings, grassy areas at the side and back of school	B Div. 3 and 4	C Div. 5 and 6	A Div. 1 and 2	B Div. 3 and 4	C Div. 5 and 6

9. Supervision

Supervisors will be scheduled as much as possible to supervise students in their assigned learning group/cohort. Each class will be monitored by a supervisor during eating time and while outside in their learning group/cohort assigned playground zone.

Please remember students will wash their hands prior to leaving their classroom to go outside AND sanitize when coming in from outside. Students will travel as a class with their teacher/assigned supervisor to their designated playground zone.

Please help provide reminders of the following to your child:

- Keep your hands to yourself
- Stay in your designated play area while at school, even if you have friends in other learning groups/cohorts. This is going to be particularly hard for some of our students whose friends are in a different learning group/cohort.
- Follow directions from school staff at all times - the safety of our students, staff and families trumps social preferences

10. LUNCH Recycling and Compost

We will be temporarily moving to a pack in/pack out lunch program. Students will be instructed to take food wrappers home to recycle and food waste home to compost. Unfortunately, we are unable to continue with our student recycling and compost programming.

11. Dismissal

Students will be accompanied to their outside line up area by their teacher by 2:18 PM for students in Division 2 - 6 and 2:23 PM for Division 1. Students will be reminded to keep physically distanced from those not in their learning group/cohort when exiting our school grounds.

BUS STUDENTS – Bus students will be asked to proceed to their designated line up by learning group/cohort and wait for the bus to arrive. Due to our later dismissal, there will not be much opportunity for play while waiting for the bus. Bus students will be offered sanitizer prior to boarding the bus.

WALKERS – Students walking home, will be instructed to leave the school grounds at the end of day bell for home. Students will be instructed to use one of the two openings in our fence not used for our bus line. Students are welcome to come back to the school after 3:00 PM and are the responsibility of their parent.

PICK UPS – Teachers will allow students to leave the classroom line up area once parents are in sight.

12. Parent Access On Our School Grounds

It is requested that adults do not enter childcare spaces when school is in session. This includes the playground to avoid congestion. If you need to access our playground, please practice physical distancing from all children, other than your own, and all adults. If you need to enter our school building, please call 250-379-2320 to prearrange your visit with the Principal.

During kindergarten gradual entry, kindergarten is starting at 8:30 AM. During this time, as all students and staff should be in the school, and recognizing support may be required for our newest students, kindergarten parents can enter the playground area to accompany their child to the kindergarten line up but will not be able to enter the school. We are hoping by Friday, September 18th, when students are expected to start at the usual time of 8:16 AM, students will feel confident to enter our school grounds without parent support.

13. Use of Masks for Students

The use of masks is a personal choice for students in elementary school. It is not required at anytime for students in grades K-5, except prior to leaving the classroom if they communicate symptoms of illness or become symptomatic during the day. Masks are required for students in grades 6/7/8 on the bus and in high traffic places (eg. hallways) where physical distancing with individuals outside of their learning group/cohort may be challenging.

14. Additional information

Please ensure you **dress for the weather**. Come prepared for rain or shine and soon, SNOW. Students can bring their own umbrella in their backpacks, however, sharing umbrellas will be discouraged so that we can minimize physical contact. We also encourage parents, especially those in younger grades, to pack extra clothing.

All personal toys and items from home, unless approved in advance by the classroom teacher, will need to stay home please.

Remember a water bottle for your child each day. This will need to be brought home each day to be refilled.

The usual September start up information outlining various school wide procedures and SD83 policy will be coming home with students on Thursday, September 10th or Friday, September 11th.

Please continue to contact Mrs. Cull if you have any questions. Please keep checking our website as plans may change as we adjust to new information from the Public Health Officer.

We're in this together and we thank you for your patience, understanding, and kindness as we move forward with students and staff safety in mind.