

# Big Lake Elementary School

Thursday, September 7, 2017

## WELCOME to School Year 2017/18!



We are pleased to introduce and welcome our new staff members:

**Mrs. Holly Zurak** – Principal and 5-7 Teacher

**Mme Michelle Roberts** – K-3 Teacher

**Mr. Travis Flaherty** – K-7 Teacher (Tues-Thurs)

Welcome back to our returning staff members:

**Mrs. Kim Benisch** – Librarian and Teacher's Aide

**Mrs. Shari Mailhot** – Teacher's Aide

**Mrs. Cindy Swan** – Secretary Tues a.m. and Thurs

**Mrs. Karen Gelinas** – Noon Hour Supervisor (W-Th)

**Mrs. Shay Dyer** – Noon Hour Supervisor Fridays

**Mr. Richard Shepherd** - Custodian

**Mrs. Andrea MacDonald** – Bus Driver

We will also have a third Noon Hour Supervisor for Monday & Tuesday.

### Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule will remain the same as last year:

School starts – 8:08 am

Recess – 9:35-9:50 am

Lunch – 12-12:50 pm

School ends – 2:12 pm

### Principal's Message

I would like to welcome all students back for a new school year! I hope that everyone had an adventurous and relaxing summer, despite the wildfire situation. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you think there is any way that we

can help cope with the aftermath of the wildfires. We would like to welcome the new students to Big Lake Elementary School! Already students are working, playing and learning together. Our school is like a family and it is so heartwarming to see.

I am excited to join the school this year, and welcome my teaching colleagues Mme Michelle Roberts and Mr. Travis Flaherty to the school. We are so lucky to have the support of colleagues who have remained consistent at the school. A special thank you goes out to Richard, with all of the fire activity that took place this summer, he really had to work hard to get the building suitable for learning. It is sparkling and looks fantastic.

As a community based school, we look forward to partnering with you in the development of learning traits and your child's education as a whole! In fact, if you have a special talent or passion you could share with our students this year, we would love to hear from you! I'm looking forward to connecting with many of you as I explore the community. We have a new website for the school where you can find lots of information about what's happening at Big Lake School, check it out at [www.biglakeelementary.com](http://www.biglakeelementary.com) and like us on our Facebook page "Big Lake Elementary School".



### 2017 Wildfires

Due to the presence of wildfires in the Cariboo this summer, the School District has developed a safety plan for students.

Attached is a Safety Plan form for your child(ren), please complete and return to the school immediately.

### School Handbook

A copy of the school handbook for each family is attached. Please take a moment to read through it, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the school.

### Phone Tree

In the event of school bus cancellation, for any reason, the phone tree will be used. An updated copy will be sent home soon. The instructions are on the bottom of the page. It is very important that you call the person after you on the list, if you are unable or unwilling to do this, please call the school to advise.

### Student Verification Form

Please review the student verification form(s) carefully and make any changes necessary right on the form, sign and date the last page and **return the whole form to the school.** In addition, we require the Media Consent and Computer/Privacy Consent Forms completed (back & front) and **returned to the school.**

### Parents Advisory Council

Our first PAC meeting of the year will be Tuesday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm at the school. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend (Students do not attend but may play in the playground if you are comfortable with this, they will not be supervised by the school.)

We rely heavily on our very active, dedicated PAC group. Their support allows us to participate in many extra-curricular activities including sports, field trips and hot lunch programs.

Our PAC runs a hot lunch program once or twice a month depending on volunteer availability. A yearly schedule

of these dates will be sent home **by the PAC** in the near future. The cost of lunch is reasonable and children can either pay each time or run an account where PAC keeps track of how much they have on credit, debiting the account for whatever the child buys each hot lunch. They will alert parents when funds run low. We will also send home a reminder if children have outstanding IOUs.



### **Snack Program**

We will again be running our recess healthy snack program. We receive funding for this program through Community Links and BC Agriculture. If you do NOT want your child to participate in the snack program please contact the school and we will send a “Reverse Consent Form” for you to complete. This year, we have also signed up for the milk program with BC Agriculture and will have milk available to students at lunch periodically.

### **School Photo Day**

On Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, About Face Photography from Williams Lake will be here to take student photos. Preschool children are welcome to come to the school to have their pictures taken as well, we expect to start about 8:30 am.

About a week later, the proofs and order forms will be sent home with a date that they are to be returned to the school. If you miss picture day or need retakes, please contact About Face 392-3814 to make arrangements to have this done at their studio in town.

### **Strong Start**

Big Lake is pleased to be able to provide a pre-school program again. Tina Branch is our Strong Start educator. Strong Start is a **free** school-based, early learning parent

participation program lead by an Early Childhood Educator and funded by the Ministry of Education along with our School District. It offers a high quality early learning opportunity to families with young children, encouraging problem-solving skills, self-esteem building practices, and the social skills that will help them successfully manage in school and lay a foundation for life-long learning.

This program recognizes that the parent is the first and most important teacher in a child’s life. Increased involvement in their child’s education contributes to success and teaches family literacy and the importance of a family-involved education. The program will be on Mondays from 9 am – 12 pm and will start on Sept 18th. Please spread the word.

### **Terry Fox Run/ Meet the Teachers**

We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run on Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 pm. As this is photo day, parents may wish to send a change of clothes more appropriate to running outdoors. Parents and interested community members are welcome to participate in this great event. As usual, we will need parent volunteers at several locations along the road to watch for wildlife and runners having trouble. We are encouraging the children to help raise money for cancer research and have included a pledge form with this newsletter which should be returned to the school the day of the run.

At the completion of our run, we are encouraging parents to join our students for an ice cream cone and an informal meet & greet with our new teachers.

### **Orange Shirt Day**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> we are planning to participate in Orange Shirt Day at Boitanio Park in Williams Lake. All students are encouraged to wear something orange on this day as we recognize that “Every Child

Matters.” Further details will come out later in the month with the permission slip.

### **Cross Country Race**

The District Cross Country Race will be held at Boitanio Park, October 6th. Please encourage your Grade 3-7 child(ren) to participate in practices. We will send out a permission slip for those children interested in participating closer to the event. Volunteer drivers will be needed, if you are able to help there will be a space on the permission form to volunteer. Remember to update your school district volunteer driving forms at the school office prior to the event.

### **Student Council**

It’s time to start talking to your kids about running for Student Council. We need a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 4 class reps (2 primary and 2 intermediate.)

### **Amazing Students**

We will be continuing this program which fosters school spirit. Please stop by the board to read about your children’s wonderful accomplishments.

### **Student Recognition**

The final Wednesday afternoon of each month, a student celebration assembly called GREAT THINGS will be held at the Community Hall at 1:30 pm. All staff, parents and community members are welcome to attend. Our first assembly will be on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>.



### **Dates to Remember:**

Sept 12 – PAC meeting 2:30 pm  
Sept 18 – Strong Start begins  
Sept 20 – Photo Day, Terry Fox Run, Meet the Teachers  
Sept 21 – CI Day  
Sept 22 – Pro-D Day  
Sept 27 – Assembly 1:30 pm  
Sept 29 - Orange Shirt Day