



# Big Lake Elementary School



Thursday, September 5, 2024

## Welcome Back

We are rested and ready to start the 2024-25 school year.

Welcome back to all our students and staff:

**Ms. Sari Small** - Principal

**Ms Heard** – Primary

Teacher/Learning Support

**Mme Michelle Roberts** –

Intermediate Teacher

**Mrs. Cindy Swan** – Secretary

**Mrs. Katie Chaffee** – EA &

Librarian, Noon Hour

**Ms. Jessika Woods** – EA,

Noon Hour

**Mrs. Peggy Gleason** -

Custodian

**Mrs. Shay Dyer** – EA, Noon

Hour Supervisor, Playgroup

**Mrs. Andrea MacDonald** –

Bus Driver

## Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule:

School starts – 8:00 am

**Recess – 9:30-9:45 am**

Lunch – 11:45-12:30 pm

Dismissal – 2:00 pm



## School Bus

Riding the school bus is a privilege and students are reminded that proper bus etiquette must be followed. Please review this section of the Student Handbook with your child(ren).

As advised last year, you will notice some changes in bussing this year as the District undergoes it's transportation review. We invite you to visit the District Website [sd27.bc.ca](http://sd27.bc.ca) and review the FAQs under the Transportation Department and we will endeavour to keep you up to date as things change.

**There is a new electronic system for the bus. This is to help with student safety. Registered bus students have been issued a fob and bus pass – which needs to be scanned to get on and off the bus at their regular bus stops.**

**The fob and pass can be attached to their backpack so they have it with them every day. Lost bus passes and fobs are parent responsibility at the cost of approx. \$30.**

## Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2024/25 school year at Big Lake! I hope that everyone had an adventurous, fun filled summer, and is ready for another year of learning. At Big Lake we embrace learning opportunities outside utilizing our circle bench area, outdoor classroom structure, and the forest area around the school. Each morning, we greet the day outside at our morning circle, checking in with each other and then enjoying a healthy walk on our nature trail to start the day off right. We also end our day at the circle to reflect on the day, share a learning moment, or express words of gratitude.

As we walk together through this school year, we invite parents to reach out to their child's teacher whenever they have questions or concerns. We are all working towards the common goal of educating our students in an inclusive, welcoming environment.

This year, I will also be the Principal at Likely School. It is important to address daily concerns or emails directly to the classroom teachers. Please cc' me when necessary to keep me in the loop.

Though I will be splitting my time between the schools - do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns via phone call or email to set up a meeting or follow-up chat.

Looking forward to all of the opportunities to connect these two rural school sites. We are also planning some field trips to Horsefly School. These rural schools East of Williams Lake are quite special and unique. I recognize the importance of bringing students and families together for sports, social

activities, and learning opportunities.

## Communication

We will endeavor to keep parents informed on school events. Newsletters, emails, Facebook posts will all be used as a means of communication.

Your child will also have a Planner that should come to school with them every day. **Each night, you should check the planner for important information.** You can also write notes to the teacher in this planner as it will be check daily in the classroom. If you have any concerns or questions about the school, please contact us directly.

## Illness/Wellness

It is important to keep your child(ren) home if they are sick. Please call the school and leave a message if you are keeping your child home.

## School Handbook

A copy of the school handbook for each family is attached. Please take a moment to read it, as it is updated each year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the school. Teacher email addresses are in this handbook. The School's Code of Conduct can be found in student planners, please take a moment to review this with your child(ren) when the book comes home.

## 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** once we have all student verification forms back.

## Student Verification Form

Student verification form(s) is/are attached, please review **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 an emergency it is very important that our contact information is up to

date, keep this in mind as we progress through the school year. If any contact info. changes, please advise the school right away.

In addition, we require the Media Consent and Computer/ Privacy Consent Forms completed (back & front) and **returned to the school.** (New registers & kindergartens have already filled in this form and we have it on file.)

### **Parents Advisory Council**

The date of our first PAC meeting will be emailed to parents & posted on Facebook. All parents are welcome and encouraged to get involved with the PAC.

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

### **Snack Program**

We are hoping to get our morning healthy snack program up and running again this year. This is not a replacement for home snacks, it is just a small addition, please ensure your child has a good breakfast and brings the necessary snacks.

### **Personal Supplies**

If you have not already done so, please send a change of clothes, indoor shoes, and a water bottle to school with your child. **Items should be clearly labelled with their name.**

School supplies are purchased by the teachers, please send \$40.00 per child to cover the cost of school supplies. If you would prefer to e-transfer these funds, you may do so to [BIG.finance@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:BIG.finance@sd27.bc.ca). We have auto deposit set up on this account, so there is no password required. Thank you to our parents who have already taken care of this.

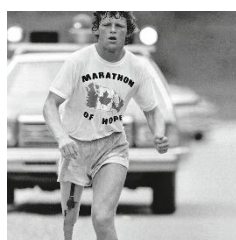
### **Citizenship Group**

The Grade 5/6 students make up our Citizenship Group lead by Ms Chaffee. They are the

leadership group for our school and organize special events throughout the year. Our first special day will be an Accessory Day on Sept 12th. Students are invited to wear their favourite accessories, hats, jewellery, scarves, etc. Be creative with this.

### **Cross Country**

There is a District Cross Country run in October in Williams Lake. We will be starting to train for this next week. All students will be training first thing in the morning and should come to school in appropriate footwear.



### **Terry Fox Run**

We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 19th after lunch. Parents may join us for the run. Students are encouraged to raise funds for cancer research, pledge forms are attached.

### **Salmon Field Trip**

We are planning a field trip to Horsefly later this month to check out the salmon run and participate in other activities. Stay tuned for more information and permission slips.

### **Playgroup**

We expect that the District will host a playgroup for preschoolers at our Hall again this year. It usually starts in late September, early October. Watch our Facebook page and next month's newsletter for dates.

### **Caution**

Please remember to slow down and use caution when driving on Lakeview Road to and from the school. We have a lot of traffic on this road before and after school and may have students on the road during school hours. The road is also frequented by wildlife and cattle which

present a unique hazard. Please also use **extreme caution** in our parking lot which is a "school zone."

### **Volunteering**

Through the school year, we often need volunteers for either supervision or transportation for field trips. It is a School Board policy that all volunteers interacting with children provide a Criminal Record Check. If you are willing to volunteer, we invite you to get this paperwork done now. It is free of charge and can be done on-line. To complete the application, please go to: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>

Our access code is:

**BNZ2PMAAUU**

For the identification verification process, this link may help:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/government-id/bc-services-card/log-in-with-card/set-up-mobile-card>

Criminal record checks are good for 3 years. We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to get this done. If you have problems with the process, please let us know.

Additionally, if you are willing to transport students to field trips and sporting events, there are District forms which will need to be completed, please contact Cindy in the office for these forms.

### **Transportation Assistance**

If you live farther than 3 km from the nearest school bus stop, you may be eligible for transportation assistance to help pay for fuel. Please contact Cindy at the school for more information on this.