

ALWIN HOLLAND NEWSLETTER

September 8, 2015

Dear parents and guardians:

On behalf of the staff at Alwin Holland, we would like to **welcome** you and your children back for a new school year. We feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with, and get to know, all our students and their families. We hope that 2015-2016 will prove to be a successful, productive, and enjoyable school year for all the students.

At this time, our enrollment is 386 students and, we will have minimal room for new students. We are looking at a variety of grade configurations but, until we have confirmed all of our registrants, we are unable to finalize class assignments. We do not want to stress students by assigning them to **classes** and then reshuffling in a few days. The teachers have planned a variety of social and community-building activities for Wednesday and Thursday. Students will use last year's class as a homeroom. Classes will be set for Friday morning.

At this point, we must say **farewell** to Mrs. Gwen Wik and Mrs. Karlene Duncan. Mrs. Wik has retired and has moved to Vancouver Island. We thank them for all their dedication and invaluable contributions to the students at Alwin Holland. We would like to welcome Mrs. Lauren Gadicke, Ms. Alison Newth, Ms. Laura Duncan, and Miss Jenna Filewich to our teaching staff and, Mrs. Marlene Sagel, Mrs. Jessica McLeod, and Mrs. Lynn Farrell to our support staff.

Our **bell schedule** for this school year is as follows:

8:46 am	First bell
8:50 am	Classes begin
10:30 am	Recess
10:45 am	Recess ends – students return to classes
12:00 pm	Students go outside to play
12:20 pm	Students return to classes to eat lunch
12:45 pm	Classes begin
2:46 pm	Classes end – students are dismissed

Classroom instruction begins at 8:50 am. Students who arrive after 8:50 need to report to the office to check in. A reminder to parents and visitors that it is important to check in at the office, for safety reasons, because we need to know who is in the school at all times. Also, we would like to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, and avoid interruptions to student learning time. If your child will be absent or late, please phone the school.

The school has purchased **school supplies** for the students. The charge is \$28 per student. We hope this convenience will eliminate some back to school shopping trips. If parents prefer, you have the option to purchase your own supplies (teachers will provide a list). Anything your child brings from home should be labeled with your child's name on it. This will help us identify items that end up in the lost and found. Our **school charges** are as follows:

Kindergarten -	\$43	(\$28 for supplies, \$10 for cultural performances, \$5 for field trips)
Grades 1–5 -	\$53	(\$28 for supplies, \$10 for agenda, \$10 for cultural performances, \$5 for field trips)
Grades 6 -	\$73	(\$28 for supplies, \$10 for cultural performances, \$5 for field trips, \$30 for i-pad insurance)

A **student information sheet** and envelope with a variety of consent forms will be sent home next week. Please verify the information on the sheet and return it to school as soon as possible. If there are no errors or changes, please initial the paper and return it to the school. It is important that we have current contact information and current student health information (ie. allergies, use of inhalers). If your phone number changes during the school year, please inform the office.

The first **PAC** meeting of the year will be held on Friday, September 18 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be in the library. Everyone is welcome!

Our **Open House** will be held on Wednesday, September 23. Please come and meet the teachers in their classrooms from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Just a reminder that Friday, September 25 is a **non-instructional day**. There will be no school for students.

We are always happy to welcome parent volunteers. The School District requires, for safety reasons, that everyone who works with children must have a current **criminal record check**. Criminal record checks are valid for two years. You can pick up the forms from the school or from the School Board office. It takes about three weeks to complete the process.

Occasionally, there are some outbreaks of **lice**. This is a good time to remind parents to please check your children's hair, on a weekly basis. Live lice are small, black, and move quickly. Nits (eggs) are whitish-gray and attach themselves to the hair, usually at the base of the scalp. They look like dandruff but do not brush off. Head lice do not carry disease and do not have anything to do with cleanliness; however, they are a difficult problem to get rid of if they spread throughout the school community. Thank you for helping us stop the spread of head lice.

Dates for your information:

Wed. Sept 16	Kindergarten students begin
Fri. Sept. 18	PAC meeting – 1:00 pm
Wed. Sept. 23	Open House – 6:00-7:30 pm
Fri. Sept. 25	Non-instructional day (no school)
Wed. Sept. 30	Terry Fox run
Tues. Oct. 6	Mountain West Photos
Mon. Oct. 12	Thanksgiving (no school)
Wed. Oct. 14	Interim report cards home
Fri. Oct. 23	Non-instructional day (no school)
Wed. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
Tues. Nov. 24	Report cards go home
Wed. Nov. 25	Early dismissal at 1:46 pm
Thurs. Nov. 26	Early dismissal at 1:46 pm
Fri. Nov. 27	Non-instructional day - parent conferences (no school)
Fri. Dec. 18	Last day of school before Christmas break

Again, let us welcome everyone back to school. If you have any questions or concerns, at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the school (250-785-6125).

Sincerely:

Mrs. D. Holland
Principal

Mrs. S. Hartman
Vice-principal