



Sorrento Elementary School



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School District No. 83

Principal’s Message

Greetings to all Sorrento families,

I’m very happy to have joined such a robust and welcoming community at Sorrento Elementary. For those families who are also new, I trust your child’s first few days have been positive. Sorrento is known for our depth of community as well as it’s excellent team here at the Elementary school. Indeed, your children are in excellent hands 😊

As you know, we are happy to have our Grade Six students with us this year. We have settled in at 12 divisions with 266 students. It’s a full house!

Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, September 22nd** for our Teacher Open house and the PAC Potluck & BBQ. We are thankful both to our PAC for organizing the potluck and for our local Sorrento Lions club for barbequing hotdogs on that day for us. The schedule is as follows:

- 2:15pm – 3:15 pm: classrooms are open for parents to visit with their children (children should not be left at school until the BBQ. This time is meant for families to come and meet their child’s teacher
- 3:15 pm (ish)- 5:00pm Eating time! (No food in classrooms)
- 5:30pm First PAC meeting with our AGM – Library

This newsletter is a bit longer in content, so thank you for taking the time to read through it. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or come to see me. It’s always best if you can call ahead so I can be sure to be available to meet with you. My school email address is hgobbett@sd83.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
Heather Gobbett, Principal

202-27 Sorrento Staff Stars

Gr. 6	Rhonda Witzke	IEW	Barb LeBeau	Secretary	Stefania Banman
Gr. 5/6	Nicole Bridghouse-Warren	CEA	Terra Thiele	Custodian	Kiley Elliott
Gr. 5	Natasha Boyce				
Gr. 4/5	Angela Nitschke	CEA	Heather Dyck	Principal	Heather Gobbett
Gr. 4	Cristine Lawrence	CEA	Sarah Sun		
Gr. 3	Melissa Boak (Green)	CEA	Carol Berg		
Gr. 3	Sara Haugland	CEA	Hunter Peters		
Gr. 2	Leah Quintal/Madison Dickie	CEA	Kelli Boon		
Gr. 2	Chelsey Hudson	CEA	Madelaine Matteau		
Gr. 1	Camille Kellie	CEA	Kelly Hunt		
K/Gr. 1	Emily Zinck	CEA	Terra Thiele		
K	Andrea Ruckle	ECE	Pauline Hartley		
Library/LST	Ravonne Foulger	Counsellor	Jim Blake		
Phys. Ed	Madison Dickie	SLP	Megan Brooke		
LRT	Shera Nieuwenhuizen				
LRT/IRT	Jenn Silversen				



General Startup Information



Regular School Hours

8:06	First Bell
8:08	Classes in Session
9:40	Recess Outside Play
9:55	Classes in Session
11:25	Lunch Playtime
11:50	Lunch Eating Time
12:10	Classes in Session
2:11	Dismissal

School Fees

At Sorrento Elementary teachers order school supplies for our students. This ensures that all students have what they need, saves parents the trouble of going out to find them during the summer and keeps direct costs to families lower.

- School fees cover everyday school supplies students use throughout the year and an agenda book for students in Grades 1-5
- Fees for the school year are **\$45 for Kindergarten** (no agenda books) and **\$55 for students in Grades 1-5**.
- We are very thankful to our PAC who have agreed to cover the cultural fees for each student so that we can have a variety of performances for students throughout the year.
- School Fees can be paid by e-transfer to sor@sd83.bc.ca. When paying by e-transfer **please include in the description area your child's name, grade and teacher**.
- Fees can also be paid by cheques made out to Sorrento Elementary School, or with cash. If you are paying by cash, we ask that you bring in the exact amount as we don't have petty cash on site to make change.
- Please contact Mrs. Gobbett (principal) directly if you require support with payment or would like to make alternative arrangements such as a payment plan.
- **We ask that all school fees are paid by the end of September.**



MyEd/Parent Portal (IMPORTANT)

Each year we ask families to ensure they have access to both student records (including Written Learning Updates, attendance, etc) via the MyEd portal, as well as access to the Parent Portal which allows you to permit access to the correct forms we need signed. Please take a few moments to access these sites and then go into it and sign all the required forms. All instructions can be found by clicking the following link:

https://www.sd83.bc.ca/MyEd-BC_Student_Parent-portal

After-school alternate arrangements.

If a student has alternate arrangements made and will not be travelling home on the bus (if that's their usual plan), please write a quick note in the agenda or email the teacher/office so that everyone is clear on the plans. Please note that students will not be allowed to call home the day of to ask to go to a friend's house. Those arrangements should be made before school starts.



Communication

Agenda Books

- Students at Sorrento Elementary will make use of an agenda book daily for school and home communication. While teachers will provide specific classroom-based instructions with regards to usage, please check this daily to ensure you are always aware of classroom happenings, homework, etc.



Email

- Most general school-based communication, as well as future Newsletters, will come home via email. Please make sure you are checking your email regularly and that you are in fact receiving school and class emails. Please let Ms. Banman (secretary) know if you have changed your email information as this is our most utilized communication method.

Websites

- School and district information will be uploaded to our respective websites: sor.sd83.bc.ca and sd83.bc.ca. Links to these sites will also be embedded in email notices when appropriate.

Drop Offs and Bus Lanes

- Our bus and drop-off lanes are very busy in the mornings. We realize space is limited for parent parking at the beginning and end of the day, but we must keep our traffic lanes moving and free of stopped/parked vehicles.
- *Please do not park or stop in these lanes for more than a quick 30 second “kiss and go” drop-off.*
- One of our challenges, particularly around 8:00am, is that when cars are parked on both sides of Pacchendaale it is very difficult for the bus to get through the narrow passage and make the right turn onto Vimy Rd. Typically the busses are through by 8am- please be thoughtful of how and where you park so that we can get our many bus students through safely.
- **Please remember that there is no passing in the drop-off lane**

Bus Drivers

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|---------------|-------------------|
| • Sheep Bus | Susan Forward |
| • Swan Bus | Doug Hutton |
| • Lizard Bus | Krystal Gibbons |
| • Mouse Bus | Ernest Moniz |
| • Lobster Bus | Michelle Bouffard |
| • Raccoon Bus | Julie Fithern |



Student Supervision Before and After School

- Morning supervision begins at 7:50 am. **Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:50 am.** After school, supervision runs until the last bus leaves at approximately 2:25 pm. Once the buses have left, there will be no supervision on the school grounds. If you are unable to pick your child up by 2:25 pm, please call the office to let us know.

Arriving Late or Absent from School

- Regular attendance and arriving on time are important pieces of your child’s academic success and social-emotional well being. Missing too many days means your child misses key instructional/learning opportunities and puts them in a position of always trying to play catch-up, which can lead to frustration and worry.
- While the occasional late arrival might be unavoidable, regular lateness not only impacts your child’s learning, but also the morning routines that are implemented to start the day successfully for all students.
- Staff at Sorrento Elementary ask that you do your best to arrive on time and to reach out if we can assist making your child’s morning transitions to school easier.
- All students are to sign-in at the office before heading to class. *Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 should be accompanied by an adult when signing in.*



What to do if your child is feeling sick or will be away from school

- If your child will be away from school or arriving late, we ask that you:
call the office at 250-675-2311
or
email the office at sor@sd83.bc.ca
- Safe Arrival calls will be made for any unexcused absences, so we appreciate you contacting when your child will be late or absent.
- We check our messages often, so please leave a message if your call is not picked up by a staff member. Messages can be left at any time, not just during the school day.
- Known future absences can also be communicated directly with your child's teacher in advance, so the absentee authorization is inputted correctly. A note in the agenda or email works well.



Cell Phones, Smart Watches and other Personal digital Devices

- **Personal digital devices are no longer allowed during school hours including both instructional and non-instructional times.** This includes phones and smart watches.
- Students should leave all devices at home. If a device is brought to school, it must remain stored out of sight and not carried with them (pockets) or kept in desks. If a device is brought to school, the school and district are not responsible for loss or damage.
- If students are seen with a phone or playing with a smartwatch, they will be asked to put it away the first time. Subsequent concerns will be brought to your attention.
- **How can I get in contact with my child?** If a message or change of plans needs to be communicated to your child, please contact the office and we will ensure the message is passed along.
- If your child is unwell or needs to get in contact with you, teachers or office staff will assist them in calling or call on their behalf.
- For more information about this new Ministerial Order or questions, please contact Mrs. Gobbett directly.

Toys at School

- We ask that students leave special toys at home and not bring them to school unless they are bringing these items for a pre-arranged Show and Share turn in the classroom.
- Pokemon cards are included in this request. Sometimes these cards can hold high value and as such, should not be brought to school.

Scent Considerate School

- The school district has adopted a regulation regarding chemical fragrances. We are asking all staff, students and parents to be **scent considerate**. Scents can cause serious health problems for people with allergies, multiple chemical sensitivities, and asthma.



Inside Shoes

- To assist with keeping our school clean and children safe from injury, all students are asked to remove outside shoes and always wear non-marking inside shoes when they are in the school.
- The summer custodians did a wonderful job of giving our school floors a nice shine. Let's all do our part to keep the floors looking this way!
- A pair of runners would be the best choice for outdoor and inside shoes, as they provide the best support during outdoor and PE activities. Slippers, sandals, and Crocs do not provide the same safety and support as runners during physical activity.
- *New for the 2026-27 school year... we are encouraging all students to have runners with white (light-coloured) soles. This is to prevent black marks being left on the hallway and gym floors*



Dress for the Weather

- At Sorrento Elementary, we would like the students to be outside as much as possible during Recess and Lunch. We rarely have "inside days" due to the weather.
- Please ensure your children are prepared for the weather by having suitable rain gear for the rainy days and warm snow gear for snowy/cold days.
- Of course, when there is a torrential downpour of rain or the winter weather is much too cold (below -15 degrees C), we will have the students stay indoors during Recess and/or Lunch.
- It's always a good idea to have an extra change of clothes in your child's backpack, especially for the younger students.

Lost and Found

- To help reduce the number of items in the Lost and Found, please try to label your children's personal items (eg. backpack/lunch kit) and clothing items.
- There are always many items in the Lost and Found by Christmas, then again at Spring Break and the end of the school year. We would like to be able to find the items' owners and return those items. Thank you!

Breakfast Programs

- Our breakfast program at Sorrento Elementary run by a Meals Worker and parent volunteers for students who need an extra bite before the day begins. The grab and go breakfast for students as needed and is available at the outside door of the staffroom between 7:55 and 8:06am. We are grateful to our PAC for the running of this program
- When students run out of food at lunchtime, they can request from the lunch supervisor if they can come to the office for a bit more food (usually will be fruit, granola bar or cheese stick). If students are frequently needing supplemental food, we'll let parents know via their agenda that they need a bit more lunch.

Weekly Soup Days - school-wide soup, bun and fruit provided every Thursday through Shuswap Food Action Society/SD83.

- PAC coordinates the process of getting the soup to the school and delivering it directly to classrooms with our parent volunteers.
- Parents must sign their children up at this link: <https://shuswapfood.app.neoncrm.com/forms/sd-83-schools-meals-registration>
- Parents can include any specific food needs for their kids when they sign up (nut-free, vegetarian, dairy-free, gluten-free) to cater to most food needs
- This year parents are encouraged to "pay what they can":
<https://shuswapfood.app.neoncrm.com/forms/fuel-their-day>
- The average cost of one meal is \$5. They can make one-time or monthly "donations" for which they will receive a tax receipt.
- Regardless of donation amount, no child will be excluded. Donations are intended to ensure the program can continue to run.



Volunteer Record Check

- As you may know from the last few years, the school district now requires all parents who volunteer to work with children in the school or community setting to have a Criminal Record Check completed by the RCMP. This is of particular importance for parents, driving students to sporting events and on field trips. The criminal records check is free, valid for 5 years.
- Simply put, if a parent is not on our file at our school for having had a record check completed, they can ONLY drive their own children. As a result, this may affect sports teams' participation in road games, as well as field trips in our community.
- ***If you would like to get a Criminal Record Check done, please visit the following website:***
<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>
You will be required to enter an Access Code that is unique to School District No. 83. Please contact the school's main office for the Access Code.
- We also need a volunteer form completed at the office should you wish to volunteer.

Individual Student Photo Day

- Picture Day for individual photos is on ***Tuesday, October 13th*** this year.
- Retakes for students who were absent or would simply like a redo will happen Tuesday, November 3th
- Class photos will be taken in the Spring

School Spirit Wear

- We have a few t-shirts and hats available at the school from our Spring order for those who would like to purchase at sale prices 😊. Please contact the office staff to discuss prices and available sizes and colours.
- We will likely reopen our online store in mid-October with items for families to order.

Events on the Horizon

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|---------------------------|--|
| • Friday Sept. 18 | Last Day of Gradual Entry Kindergarten |
| • Monday Sept. 21 | Pro D – No school for students |
| • Tuesday Sept. 22 | <i>Open House/Meet the Teacher 2:15-3:15 followed by Family Potluck/PAC BBQ and meeting</i> |
| • Friday Sept 25 | Terry Fox Run @ 1:30 – parents are welcome to join us! |
| • Tuesday Sept. 29 | Orange Shirt Day @ Sorrento Elementary |
| • Wednesday Sept. 30 | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Holiday – no school for students |
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| • Monday Oct. 12 | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| • Tuesday Oct. 13 | Individual Student Photo Day |
| • Thursday Oct. 1 | Souper Lunch begins on Thursdays: Mac n' Cheese |
| • Thursday Oct. 8 | Souper Lunch #2 – Lasagna Soup |
| • Thursday Oct. 15 | Souper Lunch #3- Baked Potato Soup |
| • Friday Oct. 16 | PAC Coffee connections 7:45-8:45 |
| • Thursday Oct. 22 | Souper Lunch #4- Chicken Noodle Soup |
| • Monday Oct. 26 | <i>Parent/Teacher/Student Conference Day-</i> students only attend during meetings |
| • Thursday Oct. 29 | Souper Lunch #5 |
| • Thursday Oct. 23 | Souper Lunch: Bacon and Corn Chowder |
| • Friday Oct. 23 | Pro D -No School for Students |
| • Friday Oct. 30 | Halloween- Costume Day- no scary/masks (more info sent later) |



For our long-range school calendar, visit the district website at sd83.bc.ca