



Grindrod News-October 2025

Principal's Message for October

We had a successful start-up with 122 students joining our school community. We are thrilled to have new families join us over the summer. I know you will love the Grindrod community.

Teachers are busy with pre-assessments of reading, writing and numeracy to find out student learning needs. We look forward to seeing you all at the **October 20 student-parent-teacher conferences**. These face-to-face meetings are a great way to develop a positive working relationship as we support your child. Teamwork is paramount in the education of our children.

This month we have school photos, family conferences, our first cultural performance, earthquake and fire drills and more field trips!

If you ever have any questions, concerns or just want to chat, feel free to give me a call, stop by the school or e-mail me at kmazur@sd83.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Kirsten Mazur
Principal

Communicating Student Learning and Family Conferences

Teachers are assessing learning after the long summer break. Reading, writing and math assessments are all part of back to school in September.

Teachers will meet with parents on October 20 to discuss learning goals with parents and students. That day will be a non-instructional day to allow time for each child to schedule a 15-minute meeting to discuss student growth in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning. Students are encouraged to attend along with their parent/guardian to have a voice and to take ownership of their learning. If you find you need more time with your child's teacher, you are encouraged to set up a meeting time. Stay tuned for the online sign up for these conferences. We will be using MS Booking to make appointments.

School Learning Plan

This year our school goal is to improve basic math facts at grade level. This skill is important as math problems become more advanced and being able to add and subtract, multiply and divide is necessary for success. We are also delving into writing clear sentences that build paragraphs. Grade level spelling and punctuation will be a big focus in our writing goal this year.

Safe Arrival and Attendance

Please phone or email the school before 8:00 if your child is home sick or has an appointment. Mrs. Yawney will phone to check on their whereabouts if we don't receive a message of absence.

School Clothing

You still have time to submit your order for a t-shirt or hoody. They are black or forest green with Grindrod printed across the back. Samples are at the office to try on for size. Orders are due October 10. Grade 7 hoodies are generously paid for by our PAC.

School Fees

Thank you to those who have paid their school and activity fees for this year. If you haven't done so, please pay at the office or send an e-transfer to the school. (gri@sd83.bc.ca) School Fees are due October 1.

Signing of Forms on Parent Connect

Thanks to everyone for granting consent via the online forms in Parent Connect. The online portal can be tricky to navigate. Please refer to the how to document I sent home. If you haven't already done so, please go to the Grindrod Website and follow the instructions for Parent Connect. <https://gri.sd83.bc.ca/>

Parent Volunteers and Drivers

Parent volunteers in schools and drivers follow a strict protocol to ensure our students are safe.. All volunteers will need to complete the first two items. Drivers will need to complete all four requirements.

1. School Volunteer Registration Form.
2. Criminal record check (call the school to receive a password for the online check), Every 3 years or every 5 years for school district employees.
3. Photocopy of the volunteer's driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance each year.
4. Driver's Abstract-quickly completed at <https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/getting-licensed/Pages/Your-driving-record.aspx>

Volleyball

Our volleyball season has just begun for students in grade 6 and 7. Thanks to Ms. Fox for coaching this keen group of athletes. Students must attend all practices and work hard to develop their skills. Games will begin at the end of October. We will be looking for volunteer drivers for away games so please get your criminal record check and drivers forms into the office.

Student Recognition

We recognize students each month at our student recognition assembly at the end of the month. This month proud students come up to receive an award of recognition for things such as improvement in reading, writing and math, demonstrating leadership, kindness, and perseverance and work habits. Congratulations to Abbi, Everett, Thea, Quinn, Hunter, Scarlett, Callum, Alice, Connor, Noah, Deegan, Axel and Bella.

Back to School Barbeque

We had about 100 people join us for our annual Back to School barbeque and corn roast. Teachers prepared all the food for our feast. We want to thank everyone for coming and meeting the teachers and supporting our school. A special thanks to the Stobbe Family for donating the delicious corn on the cob and to Farmer Johns for the ice cream. What a generous and supportive community we live in.

Foundational Skills Assessment

Beginning in October, students in grades 4 and 7 will take the **FSA** which is an assessment to measure reading, writing and numeracy skills. Every student in BC in these two grades writes this test as a way to measure learning across the years. Our students will write this assessment in their classrooms throughout the month of October. Parents will receive their scores in the new year.

Food Programs at Grindrod

Breakfast: We are grateful for Sheila Young who provides a variety of breakfast items for students before school each day. She creates healthy smoothies, egg muffins, bagels and cream cheese and sometimes pancakes. There are always fruit and vegetables offered each morning. This is available to all our students who need an extra boost to start their day at school.

Lunch: We always have fresh fruit and vegetables along with boiled eggs and sandwiches for students who find they are still hungry after eating all their lunch. We require students to eat their own lunches first and then if they are still hungry, they are welcome to come to the kitchen for a few extra items. Our CEA's and student leaders look after the preparation and handing out of the food.

Milk Program: We are grateful to the Verbeek family (Kenna and Joey's grandparents) who donate milk to our school twice a month to each student. Students choose white or chocolate milk at the beginning of the school year. Milk products are an important part of a healthy diet. Thanks to Brandy for delivering the milk to our school.

Soup Day Program: Each Tuesday, a free bowl of soup, bun and fruit will be provided to all students from the Feeding Futures Program. Parent volunteers will be needed to serve and clean up the bowls. Leadership students will assist with serving. Please sign up for one or two days to help serve soup this term. The sign up is on the bulletin board outside the office. The first Soup Day is Tuesday October 7 with Mac and Cheese. Souper meals will follow every Tuesday, pending parent volunteer availability.

Askews Gift Card Fundraiser

Grindrod School will continue this great fundraiser involving Askews Foods. We have gift cards available in many denominations for sale. The gift card can be used the same as cash at any Askews in Armstrong, Salmon Arm, Enderby or Sicamous. The school receives 8% back from each gift card we sell. This money goes directly to field trips to help us pay for the many bus trips we take each year.

Halloween

Halloween is one month away, and students are invited to dress up in costumes for the day. We will have a costume parade in the morning along with a month end assembly and the grade 5-7's will have a dance in the afternoon. Please ensure your child can get dressed in their costumes as young children can get quite frustrated when their costume needs adjusting. We also ask that costumes are appropriate for school as young children can get very frightened by gory and scary costumes. Please, no toy weapons at school. Save that for Halloween evening. Student Leadership will be planning a Halloween Contest as well as a dance for grades 5-7. Details will be coming home soon.

WE SCARE HUNGER

Starting on October 1, Grindrod Elementary is bringing back **We Scare Hunger**. This is our opportunity to give back to those in need in our very own community. For the duration of the month, we are asking families to donate non-perishable food items. At the end of the month, we will donate all the food students collect to the Enderby Food Bank. As we do every year to add a little fun to this event, there will be a competition to see which class can donate the most amount of food items. Prizes will be awarded to the top primary class and top intermediate class. Last year Mrs. Merriman's class won for the primary class and Ms. Smith's class won for the intermediate class. Who will collect the most food this year?

Leadership Club

I am thrilled to be working with a large and keen group of student leaders this year. Students in grade 5-7 are invited to join us to plan events for our school and discuss ways to make our school a better place for everyone. Leadership students supervise primary classes at lunch, serve pizza once a month, say the morning announcements, organize dress-up days and concessions, and promote school goals and themes with posters, plays and speeches.

Items Needed

We are in need of pots and pans, soup ladles, long spoons, muffin tins for our "Mud Kitchen". We also need sand toys and trucks and cars for our new sand hill. We would also like a large collection of metal lids from opening cans of food, as long as the edges are not sharp. Please consider sending these items our way to use with our students.

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation-no school

October 1: Student Fees are Due

October 3: Fire Drill #2

October 7: Division 5-6 to Dodds' Farm

October 10: Division 1-2-3-4 to Salmon Foreshore and Wharf

October 13: Thanksgiving

October 14: Soup Day

October 15: Student Photos, Fire drill #3

October 16: Shake out BC Earthquake drill

October 20: Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences, no school for students

October 21: Soup Day

October 23: Pizza Day

October 24: Provincial Pro-D, no school for students

October 28:: Soup day

October 28: Musical Performance at Ranchero school

October 31: Halloween dress up and Parade, Dance for grades 5-7, whole school assembly

November 6: photo retakes

November 7: Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:15

November 10: Pro-D

November 11: Remembrance Day

GEPAC News October 2025

September has flown by and we can now welcome October with open arms, and maybe even a few more layers of clothes as the winds have been a little chillier already! We had our first Grindrod Elementary Parent Advisory Council (GEPAC) meeting on September 18th at 12:30 pm. You can view the Meeting Minutes on the Grindrod Elementary website: <https://gri.sd83.bc.ca/page/> or on the Grindrod PAC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrindrodPAC/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBT>

What is GEPAC? The Grindrod Elementary Parent Advisory Council works with the school to create more opportunities for our students. Every parent and guardian is a member of the PAC just by virtue of the fact that your child(ren) attend(s) Grindrod School. Therefore, everyone is welcome to take part however they can. We work throughout the year to raise money to provide financial support for things like field trips, technology and equipment for the school, as well as assistance for bussing and school programs. On top of fundraising, we also make ourselves available to help out around the school - you might find us in the garden, reading with students, or finding ways to show our appreciation of the staff. We look forward to seeing what support we can provide this year and would love to have more input from you! If you have any questions or ideas, we would love to hear them! Email us at grindrodpac@gmail.com

President-Sarah Estabrooks

Vice-President-Brittany Doorn

Treasurer-Chelsea Hadland

Secretary-Meta Attlesey

How Can You Help This Month?

Soup Day Volunteers - We need two parents volunteers every Tuesday between 11:00 and 1:00 to help deliver soup to students in classrooms. Check out the sign up sheet outside the office!

Volunteering in general? – Please see Linda in the office for extra information o Criminal Record Checks are good for three years (paid for by school) Update insurance and your motor vehicle information if you plan to drive students on field trips o Fill out Volunteer Forms Fundraising-

Our Christmas Poinsettia and Gift Card Fundraisers are just around the corner. Watch for information coming out later this month!

Donating- The school could use a donation of any gently used “Cooking Supplies” to be used for the mud kitchen or sand toys for the sand pit.

Come to a meeting! Our next meeting is Thursday, October 23rd at 12:30 in the library. It is a great opportunity to hear more about what is going on in the school as well as to connect with other parents. Our GEPAC is very relaxed and meetings usually run about an hour