



K'w'saltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw School District No. 83

## Grindrod News-September 2025

Welcome back to another September at Grindrod Elementary School! We are excited to see all of our students back for another great year of learning. We have a few new faces on staff as well as some new students.

The first day back to school is a non-instructional day where all staff attend a planning session on Tuesday, September 2. School begins for students in grades 1-7 on Wednesday, September 3 with a start at 8:00 and an early dismissal time at 11:00. We are all back to our regular hours 8:00-1:56 on Thursday. Kindergarten gradual entry has been shared with families and can also be found on our website.

Sometimes we need to hold off on building permanent classes because our population numbers are on the cusp of adding or losing a division. We cannot place students in classes until we hear about cross boundary decisions and follow up on students who are absent from the start up of school. Thanks for your patience with this delayed start, we hope to be in classes by September 4, but it could be delayed by a day or two for the reasons mentioned above.

My door is always open so please drop by. 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](mailto:kmazur@sd83.bc.ca).

My schedule is flexible so contact the office to set up an appointment to meet.

Sincerely,

*Kirsten Mazur*

Principal

### First Week of School

Tuesday, September 2 is a non-instructional day where all staff attend a planning session.

On Wednesday, students in grade 1-7 go to last year's classroom. They will spend time reconnecting, join the school for a school wide assembly at 9:45 and then be dismissed at 11:00. Kindergartens do not attend this day.

We hope to have our students assigned to classrooms by Thursday morning. If so, classes will be posted on a bulletin board outside on the basketball court (west side of school). Teachers will then collect their new classes from there.

Kindergarten students begin school on Thursday September 4. Group 1 will attend from 8-9:00 and Group 2 will attend from 12-1:00. The gradual entry schedule has been emailed and is also posted on our website.

Buses will be running as usual. Please ensure your child knows what bus they are to take and that they are registered to ride that bus. Only registered riders will be allowed to ride that bus. If your child will be going home a different way, please inform the teacher of these plans.

### Parent Connect: Digital Signing of Consent Forms

Annual consent forms are on Parent Connect. The link can be found on the Grindrod School website, <https://gri.sd83.bc.ca/>. Please sign these electronic permission forms by September 30. If you need paper copies, contact the school office. Student verification forms will be sent home for your review and corrections.

**Annual forms** include:

Personal Information Consent Form (including your child's name or photo on our yearbook, Facebook page, newsletters and website)

Outside Media Form (photos and names on local newspapers and outside agencies)

Bus Code of Conduct (new)

Other forms are only required once per school.

### Cell Phone Policy

Last year the school board passed Policy 310 dealing with cell phones at school. This has always been our policy at Grindrod School and students are not permitted to use their phones during breaks. If students do bring a cell phone to school, it needs to be secured in their backpack and not on their person. Notifications should be turned off during school hours. If students need to contact a parent during school hours, they are permitted to call home from the office. For more information on this policy, see the Student Code of Conduct section at [Board Policies – School District No. 83 \(North Okanagan-Shuswap\) \(sd83.bc.ca\)](http://sd83.bc.ca)

### Student Supplies and Fees

Student supplies such as paper, notebooks, felts and binders have increased to \$45 this year. The increase was necessary to keep up with the costs we pay for these supplies. The agenda/cooking fee stays the same at \$7 and activity fees at \$20, for a total of \$72. Please e-transfer or send a cheque to the office by October 1. If you are unable to pay these fees at this time, please contact the office to discuss and set up a plan. Please send a water bottle with your child’s name written on it as well as clean, non-marking soled running shoes for the gym. Sometimes a basic change of clothes, kept at school, may be requested.

### Grindrod School Handbook

The current year handbook contains tons of information about our school as well as programs and policies. It is printed on the inside cover of your child’s agenda. Division 5 and 6 do not use an agenda so please see the paper copy sent home the first week of school. Please read over the information such as bell schedule, Code of Conduct, rules and regulations and dates for the year.

### Indigenous Education

If a student identifies with having First Nations Ancestry (status or non-status), Inuit or Metis, they can be part of our Indigenous Education support services. Students can self-identify, and this will be verified by their parents or guardian. We have an Indigenous Support Worker named Amanda who provides classroom supports to these students as well as offers cultural enrichment activities such as cooking and crafts. Amanda is at Grindrod on Mondays and Wednesdays.

### Orange Shirt Day

We will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 26 with a special assembly and encouraging everyone to wear an orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day is a day where we learn and remember the impact of residential schooling in Indigenous communities. ASA and the school district are offering quality shirts and hoodies with the logo created by a student at AL Fortune. To get your new shirt or hoody you can order online before September 15 from Abundant Specialty Apparel in Salmon Arm.

**Orange Shirt Orders:** [SD 83 Orange T-Shirt and Hoodie Sale 2025 | Abundant Specialty Advertising | powered by OrderMyGear](#)

### Bell Schedule

- 7:58 Warning Bell
- 8:00 Classes begin
- 9:30 Recess begins
- 9:45 Recess ends
- 11:15 Lunch play
- 11:40 Lunch eating
- 12:00 Afternoon classes begin
- 1:56 Dismissal

### Kindergarten

We have 15 kindergarten students enrolled to start Kindergarten next week. Kindergarten children have a gradual entry to help the transition to full days of instruction The schedule can be found on our website and will be posted on the kindergarten door. Ms. Merriman is thrilled to meet all her new students.

### New Faces on Staff

We said goodbye to Mrs. Fleetham, our librarian who retired in June. **Ms. Teresa Wright** will be our new Teacher Librarian who will work on Wednesdays. Mrs. Wright has 3 different schools where she works. Mr. Kipp has been hired to teach in Mrs. Hanley’s class during her maternity leave. **Mr. Kipp** will teach 4 days a week in the grade 4-5 class. Mrs. Mazur will teach one day per week. We have a student teacher this year in Ms. Smith’s class. **Ms.Bettcher** will begin her final year teaching practicum under the supervision of Ms. Smith at the beginning of September then again in February.

We are still looking for a lunch hour supervisor and this is posted with the school district job postings. If you are interested in supporting kids for 45 minutes per day outside during play and inside during eating time, let me know and I will direct you how to apply for this position.

### Class Configurations

At this time, we cannot determine the final class configurations at our school. New student registrations and students leaving our school determine our population. We hope that we do not have to reduce one classroom based on declining numbers so will need to wait until we count our students on the first day or two of school in September before we can be definite in our class configurations. This will be communicated to families the first few days of school.

### Class Placement

Once we know what grade configurations we will have, we place students into those classrooms. Often, students in the same grade are placed into two different classrooms. The teaching team tries to place students in the best learning environment based on needs, interests and friendships. If there is an educational reason why your child should be placed with a certain grade configuration or with a particular student, that needs to be communicated to the principal before school begins. You can always call the school with your concerns before school starts. We do not move students into different classes once the year begins.

### Grindrod Staff

Ms. Smith  
Ms. Fox  
Mr. Kipp  
Mrs. Kemitzis  
Mrs. Dodds  
Mrs. Merriman Kindergarten  
Mrs. Lees Literacy Support Teacher  
Mr. Koenig Music (Monday and Thursday)  
Mrs. Wright Library (Wednesday)  
Mrs. Dayringer Counsellor (Thursday)  
Mrs. Yawney School Secretary  
Mrs. Barrow Learning Resource Teacher (not on Wednesday)  
Mrs. Mazur Principal and teacher  
Justine Berndt CEA  
Suzie Basque CEA  
Sheila Young CEA  
Barb Lawson Custodian  
Amanda Hewitt Indigenous Education Worker (Monday and Wednesdays)

### Reporting Absences

Please contact the office to report if your child will not be at school or will be late. Linda will do a safe arrival call out before 8:30 to ensure your child is accounted for. Students arriving late are asked to sign in at the office.

### Food Programs

Thanks to CEA Sheila, who looks after our program and provides delicious breakfasts for kids who need a meal when they arrive at school. Lunches will also be prepared for students who have forgotten their lunches. The Verbeek family provides all students with free milk twice a month and our PAC and Leadership club put on a lunch once a month. We look forward to opportunities to provide more meal programs to our students this year.

### Leadership Pizza Lunch

Once again, intermediate Leadership students will be leading the monthly pizza fundraiser. We have decided to try Mel’s Mainstreet Pizza in Enderby. Pizza orders can be pre-ordered for the full year or students can order by the month. Order forms will be coming home next week for our first pizza day on Thursday, September 25.

### Medical Alerts

Please inform us if your child has any medical alerts. If you require school staff to administer medications to your child, there is a form which needs to be filled out, available at the office.

### Inside Shoes

All students will need a pair of indoor shoes or running shoes to wear inside the school. Please make sure they are non-marking soles. It’s a good idea to write your child’s name on the shoes since many children have identical shoes and boots.

### Code of Conduct and Fair Notice

Respect is the cornerstone of our Code of Conduct. We will be reviewing expectations in all school settings to practice and understand expectations on how we conduct ourselves at school. Please see the Code of Conduct in our handbook (agenda) or on our website: [School Code of Conduct – Grindrod Elementary School \(sd83.bc.ca\)](https://sd83.bc.ca)

School District No. 83 requires principals to activate a threat assessment protocol in all cases where students are making significant high-level threats to harm themselves or others. The procedure is called a Threat Risk Assessment. This is what is referred to as “Fair Notice.” [Student Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice – K̓wsalktnéws ne Secwepemcúl’ecw School District No. 83](#)

Fair Notice refers to the procedures the school will take if a child is violent or threatens another person while at school. A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/social media threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

### River Day at Enderby Waterwheel Park

We will be heading to the Shuswap River on Friday September 19 for the annual River Day! Teachers will play and run activities to do with river conservation, fisheries and recreation PAC will be offering a hot dog lunch that day for pre-order. Details will be coming home shortly but please plan to join us there. We will be participating in multiage activities to learn about and celebrate the river and our local ecosystem. This is a school paid bus trip so please ensure you sign the consent form to come home next week.

### Back to School Barbeque

Grindrod staff will once again host our Back-to-School Barbeque on the school playground on Thursday September 25 from 4:30-6:30. We will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers and corn. This is a no-cost event. We hope you can join us!

### Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox School Run will be Monday, September 22 at 12:45. Please come out and support our run at the Grindrod Park as we remember a Canadian hero and bring awareness about Cancer research. Please consider sending in a donation that we can forward onto the Terry Fox Research Foundation.

### School District Calendar

Please see the School District website for an up-to-date list of pro-development days and statutory holidays. <https://sd83.bc.ca/>

### On the Horizon

- September 3 First day of school for Grades 1-7, Dismiss at 11:00
- September 4 Full day for students in Grade 1-7.First day of kindergarten gradual entry schedule
- September 15 Full days begin for all kindergartens
- September 19 Beach day at Tuey Park
- September 22 Terry Fox Run at Grindrod Park
- September 25 Back to School Barbeque 4:30, First Pizza Day
- September 26 Orange Shirt day and Month End Assembly
- September 29 Pro-D Day, no school for students
- September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, no school
- October 15 Student Individual Photos
- October 20 Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences, school not in session
- October 24 Provincial Pro-D day

### Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Grindrod Elementary Parent Advisory Council (GEPAC) is always looking for parent volunteers! Our PAC is a friendly, relaxed group of parent volunteers who are dedicated to providing as many opportunities and school improvements as we can for our children.

Your level of commitment and contribution can be whatever you feel comfortable with.

Maybe you are busy, but you have just enough time to come to meetings as a way of staying connected with the school and meeting other parents or perhaps you are looking for opportunities to join a committee. Whatever the case, come to our first GEPAC meeting of the year to see what we are all about!

President-Sarah Estabrooks

Vice President-Britney deDood

Secretary-

Treasurer-Chelsea Hadland

If you have any questions, please email or give us a call. We will be happy to help!

Email: [grindrodpac@gmail.com](mailto:grindrodpac@gmail.com)