



Sandowne Newsletter

October 2026

Principal's Message

When students feel connected, supported, and successful, happiness and learning flourish together. As we reflect on the first month of school, it is clear that our students have embraced the year with enthusiasm, kindness, and a strong commitment to learning.

September has been a wonderful start to the school year. Our students settled into their new classrooms quickly, allowing teachers and students to begin establishing expectations, building positive relationships, and creating strong learning communities. The beginning of the year is all about connection, developing routines, and understanding how we learn and work together. It has been inspiring to see students already demonstrating responsibility, respect, and a willingness to support one another.

This month also highlighted the incredible generosity of our school community. Through our fundraising efforts for both the Terry Fox Foundation and Tour de Rock, students and families demonstrated a remarkable spirit of giving. Learning about Terry Fox, his perseverance, and the legacy he left behind continues to inspire our students each year.

We were also honoured to welcome Tour de Rock rider Lacey Emery to our school. Lacey shared her story and spoke about her upcoming journey with Cops for Cancer, helping students understand the importance of community service, resilience, and supporting children and families affected by cancer.

September 22 was an especially memorable day as we hosted our Terry Fox Run and welcomed the Tour de Rock team. The energy, excitement, and sense of community were truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed and supported these important causes.

Our students have also been engaged in meaningful learning about Truth and Reconciliation. Through classroom discussions and activities, they have been exploring the importance of understanding Indigenous histories, perspectives, and experiences. On September 29, we walked together to Robron to recognize this important day and reflect on our shared commitment to learning, understanding, and reconciliation.

In classrooms, literacy and numeracy assessments are well underway. These assessments provide valuable information that helps teachers understand each student's strengths and learning needs, ensuring that instruction is responsive and supportive throughout the year.

The school year is off to a fantastic start, and we are excited about the many opportunities ahead. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to sharing more celebrations, achievements, and learning highlights with you throughout the year.

Warm regards,

Kelly Gage

Principal

Important Dates:

October 1st

Hot Lunch Ordering Closes

October 12th

Thanksgiving Day-School Closed

October 13th

Kindergarten Hearing Screening-9:00am

October 15th

Great Shake Out-Earthquake Drill @ 10:19

October 21st

Picture Day

October 23rd

Pro-D Day-School Closed

November 2nd

Student-led Conferences-Regular Classes Not In Session

November 10th

Remembrance Day Assembly

November 11th

Remembrance Day-School Closed

School Supplies

School supply payments are now due. If you have not yet done so, please send \$50 per student to sandowne@sd72.bc.ca. Or send exact cash to the office.

This covers all supplies for the entire year.

Make sure to include student name with payment



Bell Schedule

8:25am- Welcome Bell

8:30am- Classes Begin

10:15-10:30am- Recess

12:00-12:45pm- Lunch

2:15pm- Dismissal



Medication

If your child has any medical concerns, or is on daily medication, please ensure that all information is up to date.

If you wish to keep medication at the school for your child, a "Request for Administration of Medication" form must be completed and updated on a yearly basis.

Anaphylaxis

We have students in the building who are severely allergic to nuts. Please check with your child's teacher to find out if their classroom is nut-free.

Our school in general is nut aware.

Thank you for your help to keep our community safe.

FORMS TO BE RETURNED

The following forms have been sent home. Please review, sign, and return A.S.A.P. if you have not yet done so. Please reach out to the school office if you need another copy of these forms.

Student Verification Forms—Please check information carefully and sign the bottom of the form. Corrections can be written on the form. Send form back even if there are no changes.

Emergency Release Form—This form is a list of who can be contacted in the case of a serious incident at the school or where your child might need medical attention, if you cannot be reached.

FOIPPA 2026/2027—This consent form will allow us to include your child's name or image on our school website or newsletter.

District Information Systems Acceptable Use Agreement—This is needed for students to use computers at school.

Walking Field Trip—This is a permission form to allow your child to go on neighborhood walks with their class.

District Cell-Phone Use Policy

Cell phones and other personal digital devices are not allowed at school. If brought to school, they must be kept in the students' bag and can only be used with permission from their teacher or principal.

Supervision Before & After School

For safety reasons, it is important to not have students dropped off before, or picked up later than our supervision times.

Before School Supervision- 8:10am until first bell

After School Supervision- 2:15-2:30pm

School Telephones

Our office phone is not to be used during or after school to make play arrangements. Please ensure your child is certain about after-school arrangements before leaving each day so that needless, worrisome situations do not arise. Thank you.

Student Attendance

Please make every effort to ensure that your child(ren) come to school on time. If your child arrives late, they must come in through the main entrance to the office “drive thru” window to sign-in. If your student will be absent, late, or picked up early, please advise the main office and the classroom teacher as early as possible. When notifications are received with minimal notice it may be disruptive to classes in session and/or difficult to track down students.

If advising of an absence, please give a brief reason (i.e. illness, vacation) – we track the number of students absent due to illness and may receive additional custodial time for extra sanitization of certain areas of the school.

You may leave an attendance notification two ways:

1.) **Phone call to our attendance line** – please ensure you speak slowly and clearly, leaving your child’s first and last name, your name, and the reason for the absence.

2.) **Email to sandowne@sd72.bc.ca** – please include your child’s first and last name, your name, and reason for the absence.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring we have correct attendance information each day.

Parking Lot Reminders

- Do not use the upper parking lot during school hours. This is staff parking only.
- Do not idle in the lower parking lot drop-off loop.
- Do not block or park in the fire lane & do not block the parking lot entrance.
- Do not park on the road between the upper and lower parking lots-this is bus parking only.
- Please drive SLOWLY & ATTENTIVELY through the parking lot- it’s a busy place!

Students Need To Have:

- A full change of clothing in their backpacks. We go outside to play everyday, rain or shine.
- A water bottle to keep hydrated.

Scooters & Bikes

For safety reasons, students need to dismount their scooters and bikes and walk them once they are on school property.

Office Phone System

Our phone system does not show missed calls unless a voicemail is left. If you have a message that needs to be passed along, or if you would like a call back, please leave a message, or send an email to sandowne@sd72.bc.ca.

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Hot Lunch- Little Caesars	10
11	12 Thanksgiving Day- School Closed	13 Kindergarten Hearing Screening	14 Hot Lunch- Pretzel Guys PAC AGM- 6:30pm in the Library	15 District Cross- Country Meet 10am @ the Sportsplex	16 Hot Lunch- Little Caesars	17
18	19	20	21 Picture Day Hot Lunch- Pita Pit	22	23 Pro-D Day- School Closed	24
25	26	27	28 Hot Lunch- Katie's Rice Box	29	30 Hot Lunch- Little Caesars	31 Halloween



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

PHOTO DAY

**WEDNESDAY
OCT 21**



*After photo day,
each student will
receive a take-home
flyer with instructions &
important information.*



www.islandlifephotographics.ca

WHAT IS THE SKATING SCHOOL BUS?



Kids ages 7+ can catch a ride on our SRD bus after school to our arena and join our Everyone Welcome & Pond Hockey session.



Cost is \$10/day and you can register up until noon of your desired pick-up day.



We pick-up from the following schools:

Mon/Wed: Sandowne, Penfield, Georgia Park, Southgate

Tues/Thurs: Ocean Grove, Willow Point, Phoenix

Friday: Ripple Rock, Cedar, Ecole Des Deux Mondes, Ecole Mer et Montagne



Strathcona
REGIONAL DISTRICT

REGISTER TODAY!

Call or visit our front desk to get your child registered.

STRATHCONA GARDENS RECREATION COMPLEX

We're still open during construction!

Phone

250-830-6777

Email

info@strathconagardens.com

Website

www.strathconagardens.com

Strathcona Gardens SKATING SCHOOL BUS

Welcome on board!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDE?

- \$10 fee includes a ride to our arenas on an SRD bus driven by one of our professional drivers, drop-in admission, skate rentals, and a helmet.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT?

- Participants are welcome to bring their own skating and hockey gear on the bus.
- Alternatively, parents can drop off their child's equipment at our skate shop on the day of pickup.

WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS GET PICKED UP?

- Pickup from each school will be the same location as the SD72 buses.
- We communicate with the schools and provide them a list of students participating in our program.
- Our bus will be very visible with the SRD logo and blue/green colors on it for kids to identify easily.



WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS HELP WHILE AT THE ARENA?

- Our bus driver and skate shop staff will be on hand to provide general supervision and assistance with anyone who needs help with their skates or equipment.
- Our reception desk also has a public phone for kids to use if needed.

WHEN DO KIDS NEED TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE ARENA?

- Parents must sign-out kids with our staff member in Dressing Room E (beside the skate shop on the Leisure Ice) before the arena closes at 5pm.



How to Register

Ages 7+ Registration now open for fall!



Online registration is currently unavailable, so give our front desk a call at 250-830-6777 and press 0.

You can also register in-person by visiting our reception desk in the front lobby of Strathcona Gardens at 225 S Dogwood Street.

Need to make plans last minute? You can register until noon of the pick-up day!



PAC

Who?

A Parent Advisory Council (PAC) consists of parents, guardians, and school staff who collaborate to ensure open communication between parents and the school.

Where?

Meetings are held in our school library

What?

The PAC meets regularly to offer input on issues like curriculum, policies, and school events.

Why?

The PAC advises the school principal and staff on parents' feedback, organizes activities and events, promotes parent involvement, and fosters communication between parents and the school. It also advocates for parents and students, and provides financial support for PAC goals.

When?

Meetings are once a month, on the second Wednesday evening of the month, with additional planning meetings if necessary.



Did you know...

Everyone in the family is welcome to join PAC. We have moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings participating.



Did you know...

The majority of parents engaged in PAC activities work full-time. Our goal is to accommodate everyone's schedules with flexibility.



Did you know...

Children are welcome at our meetings! If childcare is a concern for you, feel free to bring your kids along!

Contact Information



sandowneparentadvisorycouncil@gmail.com

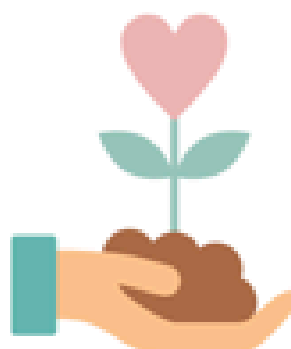


Sandowne PAC

Got questions?
Please reach out!

Did you know...

You don't need to show up for meetings to be part of PAC! We appreciate any help you can offer, whether it's volunteering at events, gathering donations, delivering hot lunches, or whatever else you can do. Your support makes a difference!



Sandowne's Illness Reference Guide

I need to stay home if...

I have a fever	I am vomiting	I have diarrhea	I have a rash	I have an eye infection	I have been in the hospital
					
Temperature of 100°F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Redness, itching and/or 'crusty' drainage from eye	Hospital stay, and/or ER visit



I am ready to come back to school when I am.....

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. ie. Tylenol, Motrin	Free from vomiting for at least 48 hours	Free from diarrhea for at least 48 hours	Free from rash, itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Evaluated by my doctor.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.
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School District 72

2026/2027 CALENDAR

LEGEND:

	Instructional
	Non-Instructional
	Vacation Period
	Statutory Holiday
	Student learning conference day
	Administrative day

Sept 7 Schools closed - Labour day
Sept 8 Pro-D day
Sept 9 Schools open
Sept 30 Schools closed - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 12 Schools closed - Thanksgiving day
Oct 23 Pro-D day
Nov 2 Student learning conference day
Nov 11 Schools closed - Remembrance day
Dec 21-Jan 1 Winter break
Jan 4 Schools open
Feb 15 Schools closed - Family day
Feb 16 Pro-D day
March 15-29 Spring break
Spring student learning conference In place of a spring student learning conference, parents & caregivers will receive learning updates in alignment with Ministry reporting guidelines.
Apr 16 Pro-D day
May 17 Pro-D day
May 24 Schools closed - Victoria day
June 30 Schools closed - Administrative day

JULY						
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JUNE						
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 Instructional  Non-Instructional  Vacation Period  Statutory Holiday



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care