



Sandowne Newsletter

September 2026

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Welcome to the start of another exciting school year! On behalf of our entire staff, I am thrilled to welcome both returning and new families to Sandowne. We hope you had a wonderful summer filled with opportunities to rest, recharge, and make special memories with family and friends.

As we begin this new year, we look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every student has an excellent learning experience. Together, we can create a supportive, caring, and engaging environment where all children feel valued, challenged, and inspired to achieve their very best.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding team of dedicated teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodians, and support personnel who are committed to helping every student grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our staff has been eagerly preparing for students' arrival, and we are excited to welcome our learners back into classrooms filled with opportunities for discovery, creativity, and success.

This summer brought several exciting improvements to our school. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our amazing Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for purchasing our brand-new swing set. We also thank the school district for coordinating its installation over the summer so that students can enjoy this wonderful new addition right from the start of the year.

We are equally grateful for the significant outdoor improvements completed over the summer, including enhancements to our playground areas and fresh paint that has helped brighten and refresh our school grounds. Inside the building, our incredible custodial team worked tirelessly to make our school shine from top to bottom. Thanks to their dedication, our classrooms and common spaces are welcoming, clean, and ready for learning.

As we begin the year, we encourage families to stay connected with the school through newsletters, email communications, and our website. Open communication between home and school is one of the most important ingredients for student success, and we value the partnership we share with our families.

Throughout the year, students will have many opportunities to learn, grow, participate in extracurricular activities, develop new friendships, and contribute positively to our school community. We encourage every student to embrace new challenges, demonstrate kindness and respect, and take pride in their learning.

A new school year always brings a sense of excitement and possibility. We are ready for an outstanding year filled with learning, achievement, connection, and celebration. Thank you for entrusting us with your children each day. We look forward to working alongside you to support their success and well-being.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community. Together, let's make this our best year yet!

Warm regards,

Kelly Gage

Principal

Important Dates:

September 9th-18th

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

September 17th

Open House 5-6pm

September 22nd

Terry Fox Run & Tour de Rock Visit-1pm on the school field-families welcome to attend

September 30th

Truth & Reconciliation Day-School Closed

October 12th

Thanksgiving Day-School Closed

October 21st

Picture Day

October 23rd

Pro-D 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 GO HOME

The following forms will be sent home and must be reviewed, signed and returned A.S.A.P.

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

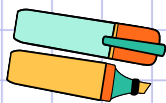
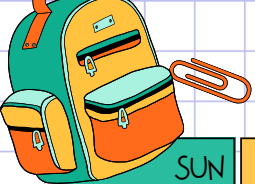
Our phone system does not show missed calls unless a voicemail is left. If you have a message that needs to be passed along, or if you would like a call back, please leave a message, or send an email to sandowne@sd72.bc.ca.

TOONIES FOR TERRY & TOUR DE ROCK

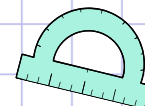
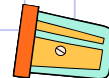
Sandowne will be collecting toonies for Terry Fox and the Tour de Rock for the month of September. This see-saw scale is set up inside the main entrance of the school.



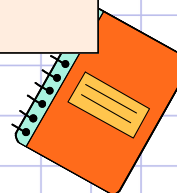
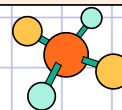
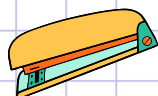
A huge thank-you to Mr. Burry for building this scale for us!



SEPTEMBER 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 PAC Meeting- 6:30pm in the school library	17 Open House- 5-6pm	18	19
20	21	22 Terry Fox Run & Tour de Rock Visit	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Truth & Reconciliation Day- School Closed			



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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FEBRUARY						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Instructional Non-Instructional Vacation Period Statutory Holiday



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care