



BIG LAKE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 7, 2026

October Reflections

Wow, the month started with the BANG! Our Grades 5 & 6 students had a fabulous overnight camp at Gavin Lake Forestry Camp. This was a wonderful outdoor learning opportunity for these students. Then yesterday, we visited the Kersley Corn Maze for the first time ever. Again, we spent the day outdoors and the whole school enjoyed the experience.

Citizenship Group

Thursday, October 8th we have having PJ & Stuffies Day. Students are encouraged to wear their PJs to school and bring their favourite stuffy along. This is one of the many “special” days the Citizenship Group will plan throughout the year to enhance school spirit and sense of belonging.

After School Sports

Today is our first Wednesday of after school sports. A BIG thank you to Coach Branden for running this fun program for our students. Please remember that Oct 28th sports will NOT be held (parent/teacher interview day) and the final Wednesday is November 4th.

School Photos

We are happy to welcome back, Desirai Groff, as our school photographer. Picture day is Thursday, October 15th. Order forms are attached.

Preschool Playgroup

The School District is again offering preschool playgroup in our Hall: Thursdays from 12:30-2 pm, following the school calendar, beginning Oct 8th. It is facilitated by Shay Dyer and is open to all preschool students from 0 to 5 years old with their parent. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and kids in our community.

Feeding Futures

Again, this year, through the Ministry of Education’s Feeding Futures Program, we will provide a morning snack at school some days. This is NOT to replace a healthy breakfast, its just a little something extra after the morning commute to school. Thank you to Mrs. Chaffee for taking on the shopping & preparation of the snack this year!

Hot Lunch

Thank you to Shannon for volunteering again to keep our hot lunch program organized. Shannon takes care of emailing parents and producing the google doc for signup. We intend to offer hot lunch on Thursdays, unless we have a field trip on that day. Please read Shannon’s email and use the link provided to sign up to shop for and make one or more of the hot lunches. We encourage all parents to volunteer, it’s always lots of fun. The students love having a hot lunch and we are pretty sure parents like it as well!

The budget for groceries for hot lunch is a maximum of \$150. Normal procedure is to request a PO from the school at least 2 weeks prior to your shopping trip, you will need to specify whether you are planning to go to Save-On or Freshco. The PO allows you to shop and not have to pay upfront for the groceries, they go on our account. You still need to bring a copy of the receipt to Cindy for processing.

Bus Safety & Etiquette

The year is off to a great start, but it’s always important to think about transportation safety. Bus policy can be found in the Student Handbook. Please specifically review the following with your child(ren):

- do not stand while bus in motion
- butt must be in the assigned seat
- no turning around, face forward
- legs and feet must stay out of aisle
- do not change seats
- toys need to stay home
- no gum, please!
- quiet, whisper voices
- follow directions from bus driver.



PLEASE NOTE: BUS CANCELLED FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH – please drive your children to school. We do not have a relief driver, interested parties should contact the District Transportation Department.

Toys at School

With the exception of special “Days” planned by the Citizenship Group. Please do not let your child bring their personal toys, such as stuffies, pokemon cards, lego, electronics, scooters, bikes, hot wheels, etc. to school. These items are hard to keep track of and often provide an unwelcome distraction.

School District Trustee Election

It's time once again to elect our representative to sit on the School Board. We are electoral area 4 and information on candidates can be found on the School District website. Voting will take place October 17th at the school. Please mark your calendar and exercise your right to vote.

PAC News

Our next PAC meeting is on **Monday, Oct 19th at 2:15 pm** at the School. ALL parents are encouraged to attend. Our annual PAC Auction is fast approaching and we will be starting to collection donation for the auction much earlier this year. If you can help with getting donations or any other aspect of the auction, please contact Branden Moskwa 250-243-2011 or Jessica Winofsky 250-255-6950.

Early Dismissal

October 27 & 28 are early dismissal days. We will finish at 1 pm. The bus will run one hour early on these afternoons.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/teacher interviews will happen on October 27th & 28th which are early dismissal days, starting at 1:15 pm. Mrs. Swan will be calling to schedule your interview. If you have a preference on times, please feel free to email her in advance at cindy.swan@sd27.bc.ca.



Halloween

Our Halloween party is on Oct 30th – planned by Mrs. Chaffee's Citizenship Group. Students are welcome to come to school in costume. School district policy states that costumes **may not include** any weapons (real or fake.) At 10 am, we will go to the Hall for games & activities, followed by a spooktacular dance. Parents and preschool children are welcome to join us for the Halloween fun.



Trick or Treating around Big Lake will run from 4:30-7 pm on Halloween Day. Maps of homes that are participating can be found on-line or at the Big Lake Store.

Our Ladies Aux for the Big Lake Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department hosts a fireworks display at the Fire Hall on Halloween Night, Hotdogs 7 pm Fireworks 7:30. This is always a fun family event.

Volunteers Welcome!

As mentioned last month, volunteers are an important part of our school community. **New** this year is the **Volunteers in Schools** form which every volunteer will need to fill out, we have attached a copy to this newsletter, if you are willing to volunteer this year, please complete and return it. In addition, a Criminal Record Check is required for all volunteers working with students. There is no cost and we recommend all parents keep their CRS up to date with the school, you never know when you might like to volunteer and the process does take a few weeks. Criminal Record Checks remain valid for three years.

Online Application:

<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>

Access Code: BNZ2PMAUU