



BIG LAKE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 9, 2026

Welcome Back!

We are excited to begin another wonderful year at Big Lake School and extend a warm welcome to all students, families, and staff. We are excited to have Ms. Dhaliwal join our Team as our new intermediate teacher. We met her last year when she worked at Gavin Lake and our school as part of her Community Field Experience course at UBC. She was impressed by her visit to us and has relocated to our area to begin her teaching career. We extend a 'BIG' Big Lake WELCOME!

Our Staff

- **Ms. Sari Small** – Principal
- **Ms. Heard** – Primary Teacher
- **Ms. Dhaliwal** – Intermediate Teacher
- **Mrs. Cindy Swan** – Secretary
- **Mrs. Katie Chaffee** – EA, Librarian & Noon Hour
- **Ms. Kiera Dyer** – Custodian
- **Mrs. Andrea MacDonald** – Bus Driver
- **Noon Hour Supervisors & Playgroup** – TBD (apply to Ms. Small if you are interested)

Daily Schedule

School Begins: 8:00 a.m.

Recess: 9:30-9:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

Dismissal: 2:00 p.m.

Principal's Message

Welcome to the **2026-27 school year!**

I hope everyone enjoyed a fun, restful summer. At Big Lake School, we continue to embrace outdoor learning through our morning circle, nature trail walks, outdoor classroom, and forest learning opportunities. These daily experiences help foster wellness, connection, and a love of learning. We value strong partnerships between home and school and encourage families to contact classroom teachers whenever questions or concerns arise. As Principal of both Big Lake and Likely School, I will continue splitting my time between the two sites while remaining available to support students and families.

I look forward to another year of learning, growth, friendship, and collaboration with our rural school communities.

Ms. Sari Small, Principal

Important Reminders

Communication

Stay connected through:

- ✓ School newsletters (we will be moving to electronic delivery this year)
- ✓ Email updates
- ✓ Big Lake School webpage at <https://ble.sd27.bc.ca>
- ✓ Big Lake Elementary Facebook Page
- ✓ Student planners, these should come to school every day and be checked by parents nightly for important information. Likewise, the teachers will check planners daily for messages from home.

Student Verification Forms

Please review, update, sign, and return all verification forms and emergency student release documents as soon as possible. Keeping emergency contact information current is essential. Also sign and return the media & computer consent forms.

Illness & Wellness

If your child is unwell, please keep them home and notify the school of their absence. All messages left on the phone, will be transposed and emailed to the teachers, please speak slowly and clearly.

School Supplies

Teachers purchase school supplies for students.

Supply Fee: \$40 per student E-transfer: BIG.finance@sd27.bc.ca (Auto-deposit enabled)

Personal Supplies Needed

Please send:

- Indoor shoes (non-marking soles that they can put on themselves)
- Water bottle
- Change of clothes (labeled, in a bag that can hang from their coat hook)

Handbook & Code of Conduct

Our Handbook and Code of Conduct is updated annually on our webpage, you will have received an email advising that these are ready to review. We strongly encourage you to read these documents, discuss them with your child(ren) and certainly ask questions if necessary.

Phone Tree

In the event of school bus cancellation, or other emergent situation, the phone tree will be used. An updated **copy will be sent home** once we have all student verification forms back.

Student Opportunities This Fall

- **Citizenship Group** leadership activities
- **Cross Country Training**
- **Bus Safety**
- **Outdoor Learning & Field Trips**
- **Potential Gavin Lake Outdoor Education Experience (grade 5/6)**
- **Terry Fox Run & Welcome Back BBQ** (details coming soon)

Watch for permission forms and event information throughout September.

Parents Advisory Council (PAC)

All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend monthly PAC meetings and get involved. PAC support makes many extracurricular activities, field trips, and special events for our students possible. Meeting information will be emailed and posted on Facebook.

Volunteers Welcome!

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. A Criminal Record Check is required for all volunteers working with students. There is no cost for this 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 to get back to us.

Online Application:

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

Access Code: BNZ2PMAAUU

Criminal Record Checks remain valid for three years.

School Bus & Safety

School bus transportation is a privilege. Students are expected to practise, safe and respectful bus behaviour at all times. Please drive carefully on **Lakeview Road** and exercise extra caution in our school parking lot and school zone.

Transportation Assistance

Families living more than 3 km from the nearest school bus stop may qualify for transportation assistance. Please contact Mrs. Swan in the office for details.

We look forward to a fantastic 2026-27 school year at Big Lake School!

Together we learn, grow, connect, and succeed. 🌲 📚 🍏