



THE COAL TIPPLE

Coal Tye Elementary School Newsletter
2280 Sun Valley Drive, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6P1
Ph. 729-0450 Fax 729-0460

September 2011

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jill Williamson & TBD

<http://www.coaltyee.mysd68.ca/>

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year to all students, staff and parents! I hope that you all had a refreshing summer and are charged up for what promises to be a most exciting and rewarding year at Coal Tye Elementary School.

Today was an opportunity for students and teachers to meet. Returning students have been organized in their last year's classes and new students have been placed in grade appropriate classes. When our enrolments are confirmed students will be placed in their 2011 –2012 class groupings. During the next few days the children will enjoy getting to meet each other, get to know the staff, familiarize themselves with the routines and expectations of the school and engage in interesting learning activities.

Students will be receiving their student handbooks this week and in these you will find important information about Coal Tye. You will find the handbook a very useful instrument to learn about various aspects of the school and expectations.

While this opening newsletter is being provided to you in paper copy, please also make yourself familiar with our school website link: <http://www.coaltyee.mysd68.ca/> where we plan to link our school newsletter and other important information this year.

The staff of Coal Tye is committed to focusing on the intellectual and physical development of each and every child. With your support, the potential is phenomenal! We look forward to working with you this year.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon,
(Acting) Principal

TENTATIVE SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011 – 2012

Please note with planned BCTF job action the dates/events below may change. Your child will receive information in the form of newsletters. Please read the school sign or visit our website for more information as it becomes known.

Photo Day Tue. Sep 27
PAC Meeting in the Library 7 PM Wed Sep 28
Thanksgiving..... Mon. Oct 10
Pro-D [district wide] Tue. Oct 11
Pro-D [province wide]..... Fri. Oct 21
Parent-Teacher conferences..... Mon Oct 24-Thurs Oct 27
Early Dismissal (1:25) all week Mon Oct 24-Thurs Oct 27

Remembrance Day Fri. Nov 11
Report Card 1 issued Wed Nov 30
Last Day before Holiday Fri. Dec 16
First Day back Tue. Jan 3
Pro-D [district wide] Mon. Feb 20
Pro-D [school based]..... Tue. Feb 21
Report Card 2 issued Wed Mar 14
Last Day before Spring Break Fri. Mar 16
First Day back Mon. Mar 26
Good Friday Fri. Apr 6
Easter Monday Mon. Apr 9
Pro-D (school based) Mon. Apr 23
Victoria Day..... Mon. May 21
Report Card 3 issued Wed Jun 27
Last Day of School Wed. Jun 27
Pro-D Day (school-based) Thu. Jun 28
Administration Day Fri. Jun 29

BELL SCHEDULE 2011-2012

Warning Buzzer	8:47
Morning Session	8:50
Lunch Recess	11:25 – 12:00
Warning Buzzer	12:00
Afternoon Session	12:03
Read/Lunch	12:03 – 12:18
Afternoon Recess	1:25 – 1:40
Dismissal Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu	2:40
Early Dismissal FRIDAY	1:25

PLANNERS:

Student planners are available for all students at a cost of \$6 each (Grades 1-4) and \$2 for Grades 5-7. Staff have decided to use the standard comprehensive planner at the younger grades and we are trying a less costly option for our older grades this school year. School Supplies

Grades Kindergarten – Grade 2 please provide \$30 to your classroom teacher.

Grades 3–7 lists were given to students in June, and are also available at Staples & Wal-Mart.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Over the summer months we received news of new staff members to Coal Tye. We are pleased to have Mrs. M. Smoker (Grade 1), Mrs. S. Solomon (Grade 3 /4), Ms. M. Kraft (Grade 2/3), Ms. L. Gummer (Grade 6/7 Monday and Friday), Ms. R. Bagshaw (counselor) and Ms J. Cornthwaite joining us for this school year. Please take a moment to make our new staff members feel at home.

TENTATIVE TEACHER STAFFING FOR 2011-2012

The tentative organization for this year appears below. As we get an indication of any student movement over the summer this may shift some of the grade level assignments below. A shift of a few students from one age level to another can have an impact on the structure of several classes. **Teachers in bold** are changes from the tentative teacher staffing schedule which was sent out in June.

Administrator

(Acting) Principal Mr. R. Dhillon

Teaching Staff

Grade 7	Mrs. Adamson (one day per week)/Mrs. Clemson (4 days per week). As of October 1 st Mrs Adamson will take over full time
Grade 6/7	Ms. Boudreau (Tues-Thurs) and Ms. Gummer (Mon and Fri)
Grade 6	Mrs. Pakulak
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Brayden
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Galloway
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Solomon
Grade 3	Mrs. Den Ouden
Grade 2/3	Ms. Kraft
Grade 2	Mrs. Patterson
Grade 1	Mrs. Smoker
Kindergarten/Grade 1	Mrs. Radford
Kindergarten	Ms. Symbaluk
Kindergarten	Mr. Cusson

- Mrs. Taylor and **Ms. Cornthwaite** are our Student Support Teachers
- Mrs. Raducu, Music and French, and Mrs. Reynolds, Library, will continue in their roles.
- **Ms. Bagshaw** is our school counsellor

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Grades Kindergarten – Grade 2 please provide \$30 to your classroom teacher.

Grades 3–7 there are lists available at the school and on the school website <http://coaltvee.mysd68.ca/> and at Staples & Wal-Mart.

PHOTO DAY

On Tuesday, September 27 2011, Lifetouch Photography will be taking Individual Student Photos starting at 9:00 for our 2011-2012 school year. All Students will be photographed. **No payment is required on picture day.** A proof order form will arrive approximately 10 days after picture day. Please return orders to the school by the due date indicated on the order form. Once orders are received, packages will be delivered to your school in approximately 10-15 days. Upon receipt of your proof, if a retake is required, you must check the retake request box on the proof order form and return it to the photographer on photo retake day. Please direct any questions to Lifetouch Canada Toll Free 877-738-0983.be contacted.

LUNCHES AT SCHOOL

Those who eat lunch at school cannot leave the school grounds during the lunch break without prior written permission from their parents. Pupils may not stay in the school building at the lunch break without permission. This is also true for recess and before and after school. During periods of very poor weather, arrangements are made for pupils to remain indoors. Aides hired by the School Board will provide supervision during the lunch break. Parents and students must be aware that eating lunch at school is a privilege. Students who persistently misbehave during the lunch break will lose the privilege of staying at school during the lunch break and will be required to make other arrangements for their lunch break off the grounds.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

It is expected that students will dress in a manner that is appropriate and conducive to a positive and safe learning environment. Appropriate dress is safe; is free of any reference to alcohol, drugs, gangs, hate, obscenity, profanity, discrimination, sex and/or violence; is not disturbing or distracting to others within the school setting. Clothing should appropriately cover the body from the shoulder to the mid-thigh. Students who wear inappropriate clothing will be asked to change into acceptable attire, which may require being sent home. In this case, parents will be contacted.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Some students must, of necessity, take medication while attending school. Parents need to fill out a Request for Administration of Physician Prescribed Medication. All medication must be locked up in the office area and administered by the staff member that has signed the request form. If you have to send medication to school with your child, please note the District Policy regarding medication.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Our meet the teacher night for this year is currently postponed. As more information becomes known it will be communicated to you.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

These are scheduled for the week of October 24-27 however teacher job action may make it necessary to postpone or cancel these conferences. More information will come out as it becomes known

PAC

We have an active PAC at Coal Tye, which is always in need of new or more members. I would encourage parents to get involved in the goings on at PAC. Many programs in and around the school are run and facilitated by members of PAC. PAC meetings are not generally very long and occur once per month. **The first meeting of the year is on Wednesday September 28th starting at 7 PM** in the library. From there, PAC meetings will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month for the rest of the school year. The only 2 exceptions to this will be in December (14th) and March (28th) due to Christmas and Spring Breaks.

START UP INFORMATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

HEALTHY LIVING

Parents of Primary Students:

* Include a variety of fruits and vegetables in your children's snacks and lunches every day.

* Have your children help you pack their lunches, so they can learn to make healthy choices early on. For some tips, check out this video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGkOADVkcpg>

* Help your children learn about and understand Canada's Food Guide at:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index-eng.php>

* To encourage fitness take family walks with your children and, if possible, walk them to school.

* Join or co-ordinate a Walking School Bus or Bicycle Train to help your children get to school safely with adult supervision. For tips on how to do this, check out the DASH BC website at:

http://www.dashbc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=80

* Introduce your children to active games they can play on their own, like hopscotch or jumping rope. When more children are around, introduce tag, soccer or baseball.

Parents of Intermediate/Middle School Students:

* Whenever possible, encourage your children to walk, ride, rollerblade or skateboard to school instead of you driving them.

- * Suggest that your children take the dog for a walk before and after school.
- * Limit your children's screen time. Explain to your children that it's important to sit less and move more in order to stay at a healthy weight.
- * As children grow, their nutritional needs change. Continue to encourage healthy eating habits using Canada's Food Guide to plan healthy meals and snacks.
- * Teach your children to limit foods high in sugar, fat and sodium, and help them learn to replace these foods with more nutritious snacks instead.

All Parents:

- * Encourage your children to eat breakfast every day, as it provides fuel for the brain to learn and helps them maintain a healthy weight.
- * Keep nutritious foods, like cut-up vegetables and fruit, cheese sticks, yogurt and butter-free popcorn on hand to make healthy snacking
- * Schedule regular dental and any necessary medical checkups.
- * Encourage your children to choose milk or water at meals instead of sugary drinks or energy drinks.
- * Get children active through sports, or go for nightly family walks or bike rides.
- * Develop good hand-washing habits, as frequent hand-washing reduces the spread of cold and flu viruses.

ENVIRONMENT

At School:

- * When shopping for school supplies, buy products that are reusable or have recyclable packaging, and reuse leftover school supplies from the previous school year.
- * Encourage children to use the water fountains at school, instead of relying on bottled water.
- * Help your children to become active in an existing recycling club at school, or to start one themselves.
- * Recycle as much waste as possible and aim to produce waste-free lunches for your children by sending food in reusable containers and bags, and by avoiding pre-packaged and processed foods.

At Home:

- * Clean waxed paper, plastic bags and tinfoil can be reused several times, and instead of including pre-packaged drinks in school lunches, a small thermos of cold milk or juice will cut down on unnecessary packaging.
- * Buy good-quality, long-lasting products that can be handed down to younger children.
- * Use cold water when washing clothing.
- * Encourage children to take shorter showers using a restricted-flow shower head.
- * Make sure children turn off taps when brushing their teeth instead of wasting water.
- * Encourage children to turn off lights, electronic devices and computers when not in use.

HEALTH AND SAFETY (HOME AND SCHOOL)

All Parents:

- * Ensure your children always wear a helmet and other protective gear when playing sports, riding their bikes, using scooters or skateboarding. Ensure helmets fit properly and that your children secure the chin strap every time they go for a ride.

Parents of Primary Students:

- * Find a safe route to and from school and practise it with your children.
- * Discuss how to safely interact with strangers: www.safekidsbc.ca/parent_street_proofing.htm
- * Ensure your children understand traffic safety, such as how to cross the street, board the school bus and what to do and whom to contact in the event of a natural disaster.
- * If your child has food allergies, co-ordinate with the school principal on an updated emergency plan that best meets your child's needs.

Parents of Intermediate/Middle School Students:

- * Help your children pack their backpacks, and ensure their backpacks weigh no more than 10 to 20 per cent of their body weight. Pack It Light, Wear It Right <http://www.bcchiro.com/bcca/your-spine-your-health/health-tips/school-backpack-program.html>
- * Make sure your children use both shoulder straps when carrying their backpacks. Slung a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles and may even increase the curvature of their spines.
- * Discuss your children's safe route to school and ensure it is still effective. Note any changes in safe stops, such as friends moving to or from the neighbourhood.
- * Talk to your children about appropriate school behaviour, and remind them what to do and whom to talk to if they encounter bullying, including online bullying.
- * Help your children understand how to safely use the Internet and how to protect their privacy - for some tips, check out this video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdZtApRKfaQ&feature=player_profilepage

SUCCESSFUL YEARLONG TIPS

Parents of Primary Students:

- * Let your children see you read, and set aside time each day for family reading.
- * Ask your children to read to you while you prepare a meal.
- * Get your children excited about reading by taking turns reading pages or acting out characters.
- * Talk to your children about what they read. Ask them questions that require them to read between the lines and think about what they have just read. This will help improve their reading comprehension. For some tips, check out this video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WqFPWSBG18&feature=player_profilepage
- * Introduce your children to a variety of literary genres and see which one they most enjoy.
- * Introduce your children to Aboriginal culture and history through stories and other learning opportunities.
- * Help your children get a library card and take weekly trips with them to the library.

Parents of Intermediate/Middle School Students:

- * Set up a daily homework routine. Designate a homework area away from distractions like the television and Internet, and with adequate lighting and supplies.
- * When it is time for your children to do their homework, reinforce strong study habits by also doing yours: balance your chequebook, pay your bills or immerse yourself in a book.
- * Let your children read comic books in their spare time because comics can encourage positive reading habits and can play a role in improving literacy.
- * Help your children identify difficult and easy homework tasks and get them to tackle the most difficult subjects first.
- * Make yourself available to answer questions and offer help, but do not do your children's homework for them.
- * Ask your children questions and have them explain what they have just read or studied.
- * Encourage your children to write stories, poetry and songs.
- * Keep an assignment calendar on the fridge for quick reference of due dates, exams and how they fit with other activities.