



School District #67 (Okanagan Skaha)

Wiltse Elementary School

640 Wiltse Blvd., Penticton, B. C. V2A 8J2

Web Site: www.sd67.bc.ca/wiltse

Phone: (250) 770-7694 Fax: (250) 490-0842

September 2011 Newsletter

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

Welcome or Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of the returning families and a special welcome to those families who are new to Wiltse School. We are looking forward to a great year working with you and your children.

There have been a few changes to Wiltse staff over the summer. Joining or re-joining Wiltse Staff are: Mrs. J. Kelly, Kindergarten Teacher; Mrs. C. Harness, Grade 2 Teacher; Mr. C. Bailey, Grade 5 Teacher and Fine Arts Teacher; Ms. DeGeorgio, Certified Education Assistant, Mrs. Janette Grant, Speech and Language Pathologist and Ms. K. Cox, District Occupational Therapist. Ms. Leiding, our school secretary will be in the front office with her hands on the pulse of the school and its happenings. Ms. Rose (Heather), Vice Principal is starting her second year at WES. I, Mrs. Bowles (Cathy), Principal look forward to my third year at Wiltse Elementary School working with students, staff and parents.

CLASSES AND SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

We have looked at our class configuration a number of times and our numbers have increased at some levels and decreased at other levels. Last Wednesday we moved students into new classes but we are continuing to make some changes. Staff has worked hard to build and rebuild the classes as numbers have increased at some levels and decreased at other level. Staff commitments through their time, caring ways and extra efforts have been greatly appreciated. At this time, here is a look at Wiltse 2011-2012 assignments:

Class/Assignment	Staff Member
Grade 5 Teachers	Ms. Rose/Mr. Bailey and Ms Snowsell/Mr. Bailey
Grade 4 Teachers	Ms Setters and Ms McPherson
Grade 3 Teachers	Mrs. McKay and Mr. Carriere
Grade 2 Teachers	Mrs. Klamut and Mrs. Harkness
Grade 1 Teachers	Mrs. Nickel and Mr. Kopf/Mrs. Bowles
Kindergarten	Mrs. Lund and Mrs. J. Kelly
Learning Assistance/ESL/ELI Teacher	Mrs. Stewart
Special Education Teacher	Mrs. C. Kelly
Teacher Librarian	Ms Snowsell
Music/Prep. Teacher	Mr. Bailey
Library Assistant	Ms. Hellyer
School Counsellor	Ms Kemp
Speech and Language Pathologist	Mrs. Grant
Secretary/Noon Hour Supervisor	Ms. Leiding
Certified Education Assistants/Noon Hour Supervisors	Mrs. Cochrane, Mrs. Conway, Ms DeGeorgio, Mrs. Mahovlic, Mrs. Nowoselski
Custodial Staff	Mr. Fisher/Mr. Grewal
Vice Principal	Ms. Rose
Principal	Mrs. Bowles

BELL SCHEDULE

8:45	1 ST Bell
8:50	Classes Begin
10:25 – 10:40	Recess
12:10 – 12:55	Lunch
12:25 – 12:55	Students Outside
12:55	Classes Begin
2:35	Dismissal



BEAR AWARE ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 at 9:00 am

Wiltse parents, students and staff will be invited to the gym on Monday, September 19th for a Bear Aware presentation facilitated by Ms. Zoe Kirk, Bear Aware Community Coordinator, who is sponsored by the BC Conservation Foundation and Regional District Okanagan South (RDOS). Wiltse School and many of the neighbourhoods we live in are known bear corridors, having ongoing sightings and/or having past issues with bears, this presentation is relevant to all of us. For more information on the program visit the website:

www.bearaware.bc.ca

MORE ANIMAL SIGHTINGS: Deer, coyotes and raccoons!

Deer are often present in and around Wiltse school. This summer it was reported that deer with young were being more aggressive around people especially dog walkers. There were a number of deer in the nature park. Some children do use the park to come to school. Choosing an alternate safe route should be considered.

Also, a parent from the school was coming down Pineview Road and saw a pack of coyotes. He counted eleven!

A raccoon! Yes I saw it with my very own eyes at the top of Greenwood Drive. Where there is one there are likely to more than one.

We do share the land with wildlife so we need to be aware of our surroundings. If you encounter aggressive wildlife you should report the event by calling the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) Line at 1 877-952-7277 to talk to a Conservation Officer. This is one way for the Conservation Officers to track concerns and does not mean that wildlife will be harmed.

GRADE ONE to GRADE 5 PLANNERS

Students in grade one to grade five have received their planners last week or will be receiving their planners this week. Thank you to the parents/students who have paid for the planners by coming to the office with their \$9.00 fee and put the \$ in the grade envelope and check their name off the class list. If you have not been able to do this, we have this system set up in the office for you to pay or stop by the office and we can help you.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

At the beginning of the year we ask for *Safe Arrival* Volunteer parents to help ensure that children have made their way to school. The time commitment is from around 9:00 to 9:15 am once a week. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact Ms. Shelly Leiding at the office.

If you know your child is going to be away please write a note in the planner or call into the Safe Arrival phone 250 490-0842 to give your child's name, grade and teacher, and date of absence. Thank you for your help with this.

SAFETY: CROSSING GUARDS, SCHOOL ZONES, PARKING, AND BUS ZONES

A change we hope you have noticed right away is changes in the school zone signs (beginning and ending of the zone with the speed limit). This change is outlined in a notice from the City of Penticton Engineering Department that was sent home last week. If you did not get a notice there are notices in the front hallway of the school. The RCMP would also like us to remind parents that u-turns are not safe and should not be done in a school zone. Several drivers were given warnings today but the

RCMP will be issuing tickets for this unsafe practice. Another reminder for drivers, there is no parking on the street within six metres either side of a crosswalk.

Wiltse School has not signed up for BCAA Safety Patrol Program. Principals and Vice Principals reviewed the practice of having Grade 5 Student Patrollers with other district schools and practices throughout the province and we felt strongly that this we not a responsibility that we felt comfortable giving to children in Grade 5. We hope to discuss this at our first Wiltse Parent Advisory Council Meeting. If you have any ideas that would help, please come to the meeting and share them or talk with Mrs. Bowles, Ms. Rose or one of the Wiltse Parent Advisory Council Executive. Teaching children to be safe crossing the street using the street needs be taught at home and at school. Parents will need to support their children crossing Wiltse Blvd. as we have a new routine from previous years.

We do have a bus drop off and pick up at 8:28 and 2:35 on Wiltse Blvd. indicated by the cones on the sidewalk. Please do not park in this area during these times or on or near the crosswalk. The driveway in the front of the school is reserved for Day Care Bus pick up and drops off, for families that drive students with special needs to and from school, parents picking up sick children and for school supply deliveries. Please do not park in this area or use it as pick up/drop off zone for those capable of a short walk. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

PICTURE DAY

Student portraits will be taken on Thursday, September 29. Proofs will be arrive at school approximately one week after photo day. Parents will choose a package and insert money into their child's special package. Please have your child bring those paid for packages to the office. We will have a special bag ready for them. **DO NOT MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO WILTSE SCHOOL.** Please follow the photographer's instructions.



WILTSE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (WPAC)

This year's WPAC Executive includes:

Derek Hurst Chair Laura Kuypers Vice-Chair
 Morag McMillan Secretary Sandy Acheson and Lea Shortreed Co-Treasurers
 Mr. Derek Hurst is our Wiltse Parent Advisory chairperson and he has called the first meeting of the year for **Wednesday, September 21st** at 6:30 pm in Wiltse School Staff Room. Please keep this evening open so you can join us.

CALENDAR YEAR

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA) 2010-2011 STANDARD SCHOOL CALENDAR for all Schools	
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Thanksgiving Day – schools closed	Monday, October 10, 2011
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, October 21, 2011
Remembrance Day observance – schools closed	Friday, November 11, 2011
Schools close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16, 2011 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Tuesday, January 3, 2012
*Schools close for Spring Break and Teachers' Professional Development Days.	Friday, March 16, 2012 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Monday, April 2, 2012
Good Friday – schools closed	Friday, April 6, 2012
Easter Monday – schools closed	Monday, April 9, 2012
Victoria Day - schools closed	Monday, May 21, 2012
Administrative Day (students not in attendance)	Thursday, June 29, 2012

Letter from the Superintendent of Schools

Please read the letter from the Superintendent of Schools regarding Phase 1 of the BC Teachers' Federation Strike. If you did not get a letter, there are letters on the counter in the front hallway of the school.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Wiltse Elementary School is a closed campus which means that when students arrive at school they are to stay on school grounds until dismissed to go home by bus, car or walking. It is expected that students go directly home, into parent's care or into after school care immediately after being dismissed at 2:35 pm. Thank you for your help with this matter.

TERRY FOX RUN

Friday, September 23 will be the Terry Fox School Running events. In preparation for our event Wiltse School will review the legacy that Terry Fox has left. Parents and families are welcome to join us at this (and all assemblies) as well as for our Terry Fox Run Event starting in our gym at about 10:45 am. Donations to the Terry Fox Foundation will be gratefully accepted during the week of September 19th. We will have our collection container for coins in or just outside the office.

School District 67 requires all volunteers working with our children to have completed a Criminal Record Check.

STUDENT INSURANCE - IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

Did you know that School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities? You are responsible for these expenses as a parent or guardian.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the high costs of serious injury from unexpected accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For your convenience, we have made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance and Financial Services Inc. ("IAP").

Accidents can, and do, happen.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, whether at school or at home;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans - such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);
- Out-of-province or country emergency medical expenses.

If you change address during the school year, your IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada.

Insurance premiums range from \$13.50 to \$31.95 per year, depending on the plan selected, and your child is covered all the time, not just while at school. A discounted premium is available for families with 3 or more children.

For more information or to apply online, please visit www.iapkidsplus.com, or speak with an IAP Kids Plus™ Customer Service Representative at 1-800-556-7411.

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Province of British Columbia is committed to improving the health and well-being of the citizens of B.C. To this end, the Ministry of Education has announced the introduction of Daily Physical Activity to help students develop healthy daily physical activity habits.

At Wiltse School Daily Physical Activity (DPA) will include a variety of active experiences that will include strength, flexibility, and endurance components. School-wide walk/runs, classroom-based action songs and buddy class activities are some of the ways we can meet our goals. Each day will be different and activities will vary from class to class.

With this in mind, **ALL STUDENTS** will need proper athletic footwear **EVERYDAY**. Dress for the weather and fresh air. A water bottle in their backpack is recommended as extra exercise needs extra hydration!

The program will augment existing Physical Education, Health and extracurricular activities by mandating that B.C.'s K-12 students participate daily in healthy levels of activity.

IH School Health Website

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/choose-health.aspx?id=190>

At Interior Health, we want to help create Healthy Schools! After all, a healthy school contributes to the safety and health of our children, our youth...our future! The information on this site is for students, teachers, parents, health care providers and communities. By working together, we can create the healthiest schools possible. For information on the Comprehensive School Health approach, go to

<http://safehealthyschools.org/>

MEDICAL ALERTS

Medical alert forms are available at the office and must be updated each school year. If your child has a potential life threatening or medical condition, a form needs to be completed immediately. With your help, Ms. Leiding has updated most of these forms. Thank you for completing this school start up job.

BUS SCHEDULES: Please check with Berry & Smith Trucking for information (250-492-4042).

To: All parents of School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

In order for students to be eligible for transportation services, they must qualify under the following guidelines:

- *Grade K-3 must reside more than 4.0 km from school
- *Grade 4-12 must reside more than 4.8 km from school



*Over the past years, the School District has been able to provide some students with transportation even though they have not qualified under these guidelines. **These students are classified as Courtesy Riders.**

*Please be advised that from time to time the School District may be required to limit the number of courtesy riders on some bus routes.

*Where bus transportation is not available for students residing more than 4.0 km away from the school, **special needs students only** may obtain a Transportation Assistance Application form from your child's school office. Please fill the form out and forward it to School District No. 67, Attention: Accounts Payable, 425 Jermyn Ave., Penticton, BC, V2A 1Z4.

All applications for transportation assistance must be received by the School Board office by June 30th of the school year in which they pertain.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

School District No. 67 is pleased to offer a district wide Aboriginal Education Program for aboriginal students from K-12. Any students of aboriginal ancestry are eligible to participate in the program.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Education Program is to enhance academic achievement and to increase cultural learning opportunities for students.

One of our Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement goals is to increase the awareness of aboriginal history and culture by both the aboriginal and general population of students in schools across the district. We do this by offering school wide cultural events such as a District Pow Wow, Metis cultural performances, and aboriginal theatrical productions. In addition, we put on an annual aboriginal cultural event called Building Cultural Bridges to teach elementary students about various aspects of aboriginal culture in Canada.

Aboriginal students who were in the Aboriginal Education Program in the 2011-12 school year will continue to be in the program for this coming school year unless parents notify the school. New aboriginal students to the school will be given a consent form to fill out. Please complete and return the consent form to school as soon as possible.

If you are wondering if your child is eligible to participate in the Aboriginal Program, please contact the office for further information.

BC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM



We are pleased to continue to offer the *BC Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program*, a province-wide healthy living initiative. This program is sponsored by BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. Starting in September and continuing every other week Wiltse students and staff will receive picked, washed and ready to enjoy produce to enjoy at no charge. **Please advise the office if you do not wish your child to participate.**



WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER, 2011

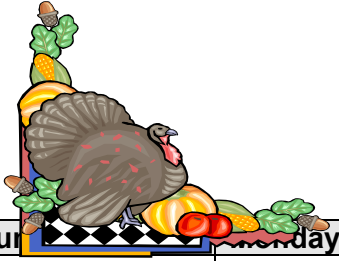


Welcome Back!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	August 29 Fine Art Workshop for Teachers	August 30 Fine Arts and/or Writings Workshops for Teachers	August 31 District Professional Development Workshops	1 District Professional Development Workshops	2 School Improvement Day	3
4	5 Labour Day 	6 First Day of School Student return to last year's classroom of the gym.	7 Kindergarten Interviews	8 Kindergarten Interviews	9 Kindergarten Small Classes Behaviour Expectations Review (Grade 1- 5)	10
11	12 Small K Classes	13 Small K Classes	14 Kindergarten Full Day Classes start	15	16	17
18	19 Bear Aware Assembly at 9:00 am. Parents are encouraged to attend.	20	21 PAC Meeting 6:45 p.m. in the STAFF ROOM	22	23 Terry Fox School Run 10:45 am Parents welcome to join us for the <i>fun run.</i>	24
25	26	27	28	29 Individual Photo Day	30	

Safe Arrival 250-490-0842

Please ask your child to check in at the office once they arrive to school



WILTSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OCTOBER, 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 "I Walk" to School Week ➔	3 Raise A Reader Assembly at 1 pm. One Primary and one Intermediate Assembly	4	5	6	7	8
9 Fire Prevention Week➔	10 Thanksgiving All School Closed	11	12	13 Trout Creek Run Morning	14	15
16	17	18	19 PALS Program	20	21 Professional Development Day (no school for students)	22
23/30	24	25	26 Naramata Run Morning 	27	28 Monster Mash 	29

Safe Arrival 250-490-0842

Please ask your child to check in at the office once they arrive to school

