

Welcome to Nakusp Elementary School

“Learning is in our Nature”

Students and Parents! Welcome to another school year. Please take some time to read through this planner as it has some very important information about the school and its general operations.

We look forward to working with you this school year!

School Context

Nakusp Elementary School (NES) is a K-7 school located in the beautiful West Kootenay village of Nakusp, British Columbia. With its scenic views and endless outdoor opportunities, NES is surrounded by a pristine natural setting that provided excellent learning opportunities for its students. As such, the school motto “Learning is in our Nature” is very much a reality at NES. Students are given ample amounts of opportunities to extend their learning outside of their classrooms. We have an outdoor classroom, a large forest area, and gardens on our property.

Our dedicated and caring staff is what makes our school a great place to be! We focus on connecting with each child and ensuring learning is student centred so each child can see learning growth and experience success. Our team of teachers and support staff actively participates in professional development to deliver the best possible learning experience for our students.

NES is committed to academic success. Our school growth plan is reviewed by staff annually based on assessments and feedback. Currently NES has three growth plan goals covering Numeracy, Literacy, and Social Emotional growth. More details on these goals can be found on our webpage. We are proud of the culture and sense of community shared by our students, staff and parents.

NES is a very busy place! Members of the community are in and out of the school constantly which really reflects the openness of the learning environment. This is largely due to the staffs’ strong and positive connections with the community. We offer “Thrive after Three” activities to ensure that our students have extracurricular opportunities in many areas including Art, Choir, Drama, Archery, Outdoor Games, Robotics, Fabric Arts, and Pottery.

Our school embodies the best of our small community, and we are proud to offer opportunities that schools in larger centres are not able to. Our students benefit from excellent academic instruction, a strong sense of community, and place-based learning.

School Communications

Having a strong communication network from home to school is an important part of keeping everyone involved and informed. Communication starts with your child’s teacher. If there are any concerns that arise throughout the year, **please speak to your son/daughter’s teacher first as it is the teacher that is your first line of communication.**

NES has a very active Facebook page “*Nakusp Elementary School*” where updates are constantly attached to the school social media thread. Teachers individually have many ways of reaching out to parents as well. The best thing to do is get involved and reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Check in Policy

For the safety of our students and staff, all volunteers and visitors to the school are to sign in at the office once they arrive. Signage is posted on each entrance door to redirect visitors to the main office as all school doors, aside from the main entrance door, are typically locked at 9:30 am each day.

Emergency Drills (Fire, Earthquake and Lockdown)

NES staff take the safety of our students very seriously. As such, students will be participating in mandatory safety drills throughout the year. This is to provide recurrent training and practice for our students and staff in the case of an actual emergency. Fire drills are in place in case there is a fire at the school and students and staff need to be evacuated. Because

British Columbia is located on a seismically active region, Earthquake drills are in place in case of an earthquake hitting Nakusp. Best practice during this time is “DROP, COVER and HOLD ON!”. Finally, students participate in one Lockdown Drill a year, which is in place to keep students and staff safe within the classroom.

NES School Routines and Expectations

A successful school is one that runs within various forms of structure. Clarity of how the school should operate on a day-to-day basis enables the school to run safely and more smoothly for the benefit of the students and staff. **As such, students are expected to adhere to the following practices:**

Punctuality:

Students are expected to arrive on time for school; classroom morning routines help your child have a successful day of learning. If your child is late, they must come to the office to check in before proceeding to their class. Please make efforts to ensure that your child arrives to school on time.

Recess Expectations:

Unless otherwise directed by a staff member, students are expected to go outside during recess time. As such, students need to make efforts to dress appropriately for the weather. In spite of some outdoor games being of a more physical nature, students need to refrain from being too physical with one another during play. ***Students are advised to keep their hands to themselves!***

Lunch Expectations:

NES advocates for healthy lunches to be sent with students to school each day. Several microwaves are present in the school to warm food up at lunchtime but there can be a wait so students will need to be patient if they are bringing food that needs to be reheated.

Snowballs:

Under no conditions are students allowed to make and throw snowballs during the school day. This is an area of high concern pertaining to student safety.

Forested Area:

NES is fortunate to have a forested area as part of school property. This area is to be used under supervision of a teacher only. During recess and lunch breaks, students are not permitted to play in the forest area.

Playground Equipment:

Playground equipment should be used as it was designed and intended to be used. For example, if students are using swings they should be using them in a vertical swinging action. They should not be swinging from side to side. This is a safety concern to ensure that no students are hurt while using playground equipment.

Use of Classroom Telephones:

All classrooms are equipped with a telephone that can be used at the teacher’s discretion. Students may use these phones only if they are given permission by a teacher to do so.

Use of Personal Devices:

School District 10 has a policy around cell phone use in Elementary schools that states: *The use of personal digital devices is prohibited during school hours and must be turned off or kept silent and stored securely in students' backpacks or lockers.* It is strongly recommended that cell phones do not come to school. The school provides ample technology to students to use for their education. There is also a phone available in every classroom and at the office for external contact.

Devices being used without permission will be stored in the office until the end of the day.

Biking, skateboarding, etc. to school:

Students who travel to school with a bike, scooter, skateboard, etc. must lock up their mode of transportation at school and not engage with it until the end of the school day. This includes all recess times. Bikes and scooters may not be ridden on school property unless supervised by a teacher.

Dress Code

It is expected that rules of common hygiene, courtesy and safety are observed on the question of dress.

Students, please keep the following in mind:

- Any clothing with suggestive or hateful slogans or graphics (including but not limited to reference to swearing, drugs, alcohol or anything of a sexual nature) is not acceptable in the school setting.
- Children should come to school in clothes that fully cover their torso and are suitable to allow the child to participate in a range of both indoor and outdoor activities safely.

Students will be asked to change clothing and parents will be contacted to bring alternate clothing should a student arrive at school wearing clothing that is considered inappropriate.

Student who is Ill

To maintain the general health of the population of our students and staff, if your child is sick please make arrangements that they stay home from school. Keep your child home if they: have a fever, are coughing and sneezing enough to concern you, have a potentially contagious infection, have diarrhea or are vomiting, and if they don't have enough energy to participate at school. Please phone or email the school secretary if you plan to keep your child at home for the day.

Parents Joining the Classroom and Volunteering at School

At NES, we enthusiastically welcome parents into our school to be a part of their child's school experience when appropriate. However, parents are encouraged to first contact their child's teacher before their arrival to the classroom.

While it is not practical to request this of all of our volunteers, it is expected that parent volunteers who help at school on a consistent basis, especially if they are working consistently in a classroom, where they are in a position to develop a relationship of trust with other students, have a criminal record check done. Typically, a criminal record check is good for one year.

Strong Start Program

NES has a very active Strong Start program for early learners and for those hopefully transitioning into the regular school program. The Strong Start program works in conjunction with the school schedule to include trips to the gymnasium and the library. Parents need to be present with their child while attending Strong Start. For more information, please stop in at the Strong Start classroom located adjacent on the east side of the school.

Leaving School Grounds

Students are to remain on school grounds and are not permitted to leave school grounds unless they have been given consent by their parents on that day.

Peanut Policy

As it stands at the beginning of this school year, there is no peanut policy at NES. However, this can change in an instant when it is recognized that a student in a particular classroom has a peanut allergy. If this is the case, the classroom could

become a peanut free classroom. In the event where there is a greater number of students who have peanut allergy, the school itself will become peanut free.

Outside Sports of a Physical Nature

NES students are encouraged to actively play during their recess times. However, there are some games that can get physical during its play, as in soccer or hockey. Students are expected to play these games appropriately. If there is a trend of where these games become too physical, students will be restricted from playing these games until further notice. As mentioned above, **students are advised to keep their hands to themselves.**

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

NES has active breakfast and hot lunch programs. The breakfast program is supported by local Community Services which provides an abundance of food for all the students. These food supplies are present in the school's kitchen and are available to all students, every morning.

NES has a wonderful and very active Parent Advisory Council (PAC) which helps to coordinate the hot lunch program at the school. Be on the lookout for order forms throughout the year.

Nakusp Elementary School Code of Conduct

Everyone at Nakusp Elementary School helps to make our school safe, caring and orderly so that purposeful and mindful learning takes place. Conduct is based upon respect.

We make everyone feel welcome and we take responsibility for our actions. We respect each other's rights to learn, to feel safe and to have fun. We listen. We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. As students progress through the grades, they are expected to make more responsible choices about their behaviour and to accept the consequences for those choices.

Be Respectful to Yourself – caring about your learning and yourself, including safety.

Some examples include:

- Always do your best
- Make good choices
- Be on time and ready to work
- Do your homework and use your planner
- Make healthy food choices

Be Respectful to Others – considerate of others' personal feelings and properties.

Some examples include:

- Be polite and wait your turn
- Treat others with respect
- Use good listening skills
- Use a respectful speaking tone
- Be honest and tell the truth
- Include others
- Show leadership
- Demonstrate sportsmanship
- Dress appropriately

Be Respectful to Property – caring about your school and your environment.

Some examples include:

- Clean up after yourself

- Take good care of materials
- Take care of the facility (non-marking shoes)
- Ask before borrowing, share

Be Safe – learn and follow school rules.

Some examples include:

- Behave calmly, sit to eat
- Stay in designated, supervised areas
- Report dangerous situations to staff
- Obtain necessary permission to leave school grounds

Our Code of Conduct is designed to provide guidelines for appropriate student behaviour while under the jurisdiction of the school or at any school-sponsored function.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Inappropriate behaviour can consist of, but is not limited to:

- Rudeness, swearing
 - Lack of respect for others, teasing
 - Running in the halls
 - Unauthorized leaving of school grounds
 - Littering
 - Play fighting
 - Inappropriate clothing (must cover the torso)
 - ❖ **Fighting**
 - ❖ **Throwing projectiles**
 - ❖ **Defiance, insolence**
 - ❖ **Swearing**
 - ❖ **Retaliation**
- ❖ (major behaviours)

Consequences

Consequences will be consistent, fair, logical and restorative. The staff at NES will utilize a combination of classroom level conferencing, problem-solving, education, logical consequences, loss of privileges and restitution to deal with unacceptable and disrespectful behaviour. Behaviour management plans may need to be created by a staff team. Parents/guardians will be informed when necessary. Serious infractions such as violence, defiance and verbal abuse will include suspensions.

All consequences will adhere to School Board Policy and must be restorative so that students take responsibility for their behaviour and learning conditions are impacted as little as possible.

Inappropriate behaviour typically has the following consequences:

- Review of expectations and a timeout
- Review of expectations, written assignment and/or loss of privileges
- Parents are informed
- Meeting with parents
- Short-term (in school or at home) suspension up to 5 days
- Long-term suspension (over 5 days)
- Consultation with police and/or fire department

Safe & Caring School Environments:

Are Free from Acts of:

- Body contact
- Bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment and marginalization
- Threat and intimidation
- Violence in any form
- Abuse in any form
- Discrimination in any form including race, colour, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, ancestry or national origin
- Retribution against a person who has reported incidents

Or Misuse of:

- Cyberspace/Cell Phones/Electronic Device/Computers – students are to be aware that they may be subject to discipline (or, if applicable, confiscation of personal property) for misuse of technology if it negatively impacts on the school environment.

Do Not Tolerate the Presence of:

- Theft and vandalism
- Intoxicating or banned substances
- Weapons or replica (toy) weapons and explosives
- Intruders or trespassers – All new visitors to the school must first report to the office.

Notification:

- As circumstances warrant, administrators have a responsibility to advise other parties following a behaviour incident:
- Parent of student exhibiting major behaviours (in every instance)
- Parent of student on the receiving end (in every instance)
- Superintendent, Safe Schools team member and/or other District Staff
- Ministerial agencies and/or School Liaison Officer (Police)

The Nakusp Elementary School Code of conduct has been structured to align with and adhere to the standards outlined in: The School Act 85(1.1) 168(2) (s.1) Provincial Standards ministerial Order 276/07, effective October 17, 2007

B.C. Human Rights code, (SD 36 Policy No. 10900 and Regulation No. 10900.1)

B.C. Ministry of Education: Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools A Guide (Nov.2008) and Developing and Reviewing Codes of Conduct: A Companion (Aug. 2007), both found at <http://www.bced.gov.bc/sco/>

Definition of Bullying:

“Bullying...is a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent, directed from one child to another where there is a power imbalance.” – Dr. Dan Olweus

Bullying

- Is done on purpose, intentionally causing intimidation or harm;
- Often seems to happen for no reason;
- Keeps happening – or feels like it could happen again at any time;
- Makes the person who is bullied feel overpowered or scared;
- May leave victims feeling like they can't talk about it to anyone;
- Can't be solved without adult assistance.

Not all fighting, name-calling, or threatening behaviour is bullying.

It is important to take everything into consideration – the type of behaviour, the intent of the child doing the bullying, and the relationships of the children involved in the incident – and teach children to do the same, before defining an incident as bullying.

We are making a difference when everyone speaks up against hurtful behaviour and reports bullying, harassment and intimidation to school staff and other adults.