 **ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE ALFRED B. DIXON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

 9331 Diamond Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 1P5

 “**Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together”**

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Ms. K. Wallace, Principal/Directrice Ms. C. Orzen, Vice Principal/Directrice adjointe

August 31, 2023

Dear Dixon Dragon Families,

We hope you’ve had a wonderful summer and enjoyed time with family and friends in the beautiful sunshine. We are looking forward to reconnecting with you all next week and throughout this new school year.

**Welcome Back!**

Our staff are super excited to welcome our students and families back to school. We welcome 6 new staff to our already amazing group of dedicated professionals. Ms. Estrada, Ms. Ali, Ms. Orzen, many staff, and I have been in school all week getting ready to welcome our community back to school.

Students in grades 1 to 7 attend for one hour, 8:45 – 9:45 – all students line up in their old class line up spots and go to their old classrooms for one hour. Students will line up and be dismissed from these old spots until Friday. Once we have the approval of the district, we plan to move into classes on Friday morning. Kindergarten students attend 1 pm to 2 pm on September 5th and then follow their gradual entry schedules.

**Class Placements**

As a parent of three, I understand the first-week worries of parents and students. We request that families refrain from asking teachers or staff about their child’s new class placement – it puts staff in an awkward position as we keep this information confidential until it is ready to be shared. As a reminder, our classroom teachers and learning resource staff have put countless hours into developing learning communities for all our learners.

**Our Doors are Open**

Our main entrance to the school will be open for our community to enter the school. We ask that parents continue to make appointments when possible, to meet with teachers. We will continue to line up outside of the classrooms in the morning, after recess and after playtime. We ask that parents/guardians to please wait outside their student’s line-up door for their student. We will attach a *Classroom Pick Up/Drop off Guide Map*.

* Our new kindergarten students will be dismissed at their back doors. Parents and caregivers are asked to ensure that students are at their lineup spot by 8:40 a.m. School starts at 8:45 am and important instructions and community-building moments begin right at 8:45, please try your best to start the school year with an 8:40 in-line routine.

**Lunch Time**

We will continue with the *Play First, Eat Second* lunchtime format. At lunchtime, students are not supervised by teachers but rather by our 3 Noon Hour Supervisors who provide roaming supervision during eating time. We expect our students to demonstrate Dixon Pride and honour themselves and others by sitting at their desks and eating their lunch. We ask that all students open their own containers. We will not be able to heat up any lunches in microwaves. Our expectations during eating time are that all our students sit in their seat to eat their lunch. Students will come in to class at 12:22pm and have 20 minutes to eat before afternoon classes begin.

**Outside Playtime**

We have two outside playtimes, recess and *Play First* lunch – at lunch, students go outside at 11:50am and then come in to eat at 12: 22pm. All students go outside every recess and every lunch no matter the weather – please be sure to send your child to school with clothing appropriate for the weather (ex. Raincoats and boots). We saw a lot of Vessi’s last year and can attest that yes, they are waterproof. Kids love to play in puddles and test how deep they can venture into the puddles with their boots.

**Health Check**

We continue to ask sick children to stay home. If your child is feeling sick in the morning before school, please keep them home. Following the guidance of Vancouver Coastal Health, we ask that students return to school after being symptom-free for 24 hours. We will continue to notify parents when their children need to be picked up when they feel sick at school. <https://www.vch.ca/en/when-should-i-keep-my-sick-child-home-school>

**Seismic Update**

We are awaiting news from the Provincial Government regarding our seismic upgrade project.

**Ventilation**

Dixon’s ventilation was upgraded over the summer break. Each classroom and teaching space now has mechanical ventilation. The finishing touches are just being put in place this week.

**Staff Updates**

We welcome the following staff to Dixon. Please be sure to say hi and give a big Dixon welcome to our new staff!

Division 1 🡪 Mr. Naylor

Division 2 🡪 Mr. Lawler

Division 3 🡪 Mr. Holman

Division 5 🡪 Ms. Hansen

Division 6 🡪 Welcome back Ms. Mills from maternity Leave

Division 7 🡪 Mme Jien

Learning Resource Teacher 🡪 Ms. Chan

In the last week of school, M. Martyniuk accepted a position at another Richmond school. We wish him lots of luck in his new learning space!

**Meet My School**

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, September 20th at 6 pm, we welcome families to come to meet our staff in an open house of sorts. Classrooms will be open for families to visit and see their child’s learning space and meet our amazing Dixon staff. At 6:30pm we will meet outside for introductions. This year there will not be a BBQ, however families are welcome socialize and while children play on the playground.

**First Day**

All students in grades 1 – 7 will attend school from *8:45 – 9:45 on Tuesday, September 5th*. Students return to their teacher and/classroom from last year. Our newest Dragons, our Kindergarteners will attend from 1 – 2 pm. Please see important 1st Day of School Info below.

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|  | **Outside Meeting Spot** | **French Program** |  |
| **Last year’s Teacher** |  | **Go to room number** | **Supervising Teacher** |
| M. Martyniuk | Hockey box (West side of school); **Gym Hallway entrance** | Room 12 | Mme Jien |
| Mme Kaerne | Outside computer lab; **Courtyard entrance** | Room 8 | Mme Kaerne |
| Mme Mennie | North side Basketball Court; **Library Hallway entrance** | Room 2 | Mme Mennie |
| Mme Law | Outside Stroh’s classroom windows; **Gym Hallway entrance** | Room 13 | Mme Law |
| Mme Tejero | Outside Tejero’s classroom windows; **EA Hallway school entrance** | Room 14 | Mme Tejero |
| Mme Mirhosseini | On ramp between school and MLU 20; **Gym Hallway entrance** | Room 11 | Mme Mirhosseini |
| Mme Yick | Outside Yick’s classroom windows; **Outside classroom door entrance, Rm 18** | Room 18 | Mme Yick |
| Mme Story | Outside area between main building/primary annex; **Primary Annex Main entrance** | Room 15 | Mme Story |
| Mme Tardif | Outside Story’s classroom windows; **Outside classroom door entrance, Rm 16** | Room 16 | Mme Tardif |
| New students | **Outside front door Office entrance** | Library | Ms. Pederson, Ms. Fairchild, Ms. Chan |

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|  | **Outside****Meeting****Spot** |  **Neighbourhood Program** |  |
| **Last year’s Teacher** |  |  **Go to room number** | **Supervising****Teacher(s)** |
| Mr. Ray | North side Baseball court; **Library Hallway school entrance** | Room 3 | Mr. Naylor |
| Mrs. Maika | North Baseball Diamond-bleachers/stands**; Library Hallway school entrance** | Room 5 | Mr. Lawler |
| Mr. McLeod | Along wall outside **Gym entrance door** | Room 10 | Mr. Holman |
| Ms. Berman | Outside along the windows of their classroom; **Library Hallway entrance** | Room 4 | Ms. Hansen |
| Mrs. Evans/Mrs. Selby | In courtyard at Annex **entrance, Rm 17** | Room 17 | Mrs. Selby |
| Ms. Cormack | Outside Mr. Lawler’s classroom windows; **Library Hallway school entrance** | Room 6 | Ms. Mills |
| **New students** | **Outside front door Office entrance** | Library | Ms. Pederson, Ms. Fairchild, Ms. Chan |