



Don Titus Montessori School Newsletter September 2018

Welcome Back!! This promises to be a year filled with golden opportunities for all of our students as we strive to find ways that we can be even better than we have before! We embark on this journey with a pledge to you, our students and parents, that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful and rigorous work in our classrooms, combined with special events, clubs and activities. We look forward to a very positive and productive year together!

Our staff of highly qualified professional educators and support personnel is committed to providing our students many opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. We invite and encourage students and parents to work in partnership with us to fully seize these opportunities. We extend a special, yearlong invitation to our families to join us at school activities and events whenever possible.

Please know that we highly value home/school communication here at Don Titus. It is vital and plays an integral role in each student's success. We encourage you to contact us if/when the need arises, and to *stay in the know* about your child's studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings. Your active involvement is key to the success of your child education!

Again, we welcome you to Don Titus and to our wonderful learning community. Our school is alive with *energy* and *enthusiasm*! It is, indeed, a place where opportunities abound! Here's to an AWESOME new school year as we work together to make our school a great place to work and learn each day!

Mrs. D. Newman, Principal



Arranging for Success – Important Information for a Successful Year

Call the Office: If your child will be away or if you wish to leave a message, please call the office directly at 250-788-2531. Sending this type of personal and time sensitive information over our public Facebook page creates privacy issues and is not safe. Similarly, texting classroom teachers during instructional time interrupts teaching and learning. Please call the office.

Cell Phone Free Zone: Don Titus asks that students not use their cell phones during school hours to minimize cyber safety concerns and to optimize learning. Cell phones will not be permitted in the classrooms and if one is seen, it will be brought to the office where parents can pick it up.

Changes to the Snack Program: The Don Titus School Snack Program will have a new format this year and will no longer be offered on a daily basis. This year, each class will have regularly scheduled cooking lessons where they will be learning how to plan and prepare a light snack for the entire school. The classes will rotate through a schedule where each class will be responsible for preparing and delivering a nutritious fruit or vegetable snack to the rest of the school. Snack will be provided once a week: no snack fee is required. Students will need to ensure that they pack snacks from home for their daily morning snack time.

District Permission Forms: Enclosed you will find a permission form package that is required for all students in SD 59. Please sign where indicated and return only the signed pages as soon as possible. Thank you.



Don Titus Facebook Page: Important messages/reminders to parents will also be posted on our Facebook page in an extra effort to keep parents well informed. We hope you find this helpful especially when students sometimes forget to bring home important notices in a timely manner.

Friday Hot Lunch Program: We will be starting our hot lunch program later on this month with much thanks to our hard-working PAC. Watch for the hot lunch forms to come home soon.

School Supply Fees: Don Titus is unique in that we provide all your child’s school supply needs regardless of grade. We buy in bulk and pass the savings on to you, which parents find very convenient. We ask that you submit your child’s supply fees to the office by **September 30st** so that your child has everything needed for class. **The annual one-time fees are: K-Gr. 3 = \$40.00 and Gr. 4 - Gr. 7 = \$60.00.** Thank you for your timely help and attention to this matter.

Toys and Valuables: Kids love their toys, but they are a distraction in the classroom. Students are strongly encouraged to leave these items at home. If students choose to bring toys to school, the toys are to be stowed out of sight in backpacks during the school day and can be taken outside at lunch. We encourage students not to bring items of value to school because there is always the chance of loss or damage. The school will not be responsible for lost property.

What is Positive School Discipline?
Positive School Discipline is a comprehensive approach that uses discipline to teach rather than punish and, as a result, helps students succeed and thrive in school. The Positive Discipline approach is designed to create a respectful school climate through social emotional learning, character education and effective discipline. The program provides the tools to create a climate of mutual respect through teaching communication, cooperation, problem-solving, and self-regulatory skills. Schools that take this approach promote positive student behavior while preventing negative and risky behaviors.

Don Titus is very fortunate to be one of just two schools in the District to be training in and implementing this approach. Our Teachers and Educational Assistants will be participating in the year-long training and mentorship program sponsored by the District. Positive School Discipline is integrated into the programs and practices of a school and is applied systemwide—in the classroom, school, and community—to create a safe, supportive learning environment for all students.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

Wed. 12	Aqua Van Hands (Science workshop)
Fri. 14	Welcome Party hosted by the Don Titus PAC (5:30-7:30)
Thur. 20	Grade 5-7 Gwillim Lake Field Trip
Fri. 21	Grade 5-7 Gwillim Lake Field Trip
Tues. 25	New Playground Grand Opening (watch for more info)
Wed. 26	Terry Fox Run (pm)
Thur. 27	Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for Students & Families
Fri. 28	Orange Shirt Day
Fri. 28	Parent Advisory Council Meeting 3 pm – everyone welcome

School Photos - Friday, October 12. Retakes Tuesday, November 6

