

DR. D.A. PERLEY ELEMENTARY

Box 908 (1200 Central Ave.) Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0. 250-442-2135



September 2026

Principal's Message

Another summer has come and gone, but the excitement for our school year is just beginning here at Perley. I am personally excited to, once again, be a member of the Perley team. Thank you to everyone in the community who has reached out to support me as I grow in my role as principal of this wonderful school.



We have many exciting events, opportunities, and celebrations planned for the upcoming year – please stay tuned to the monthly newsletters, the school website, and our Facebook page for ongoing information. Please feel free to reach out in-person, over the phone, or via email if you have questions.

Thank You,

-Jon Dowswell

Updated Bell Schedule

You may notice that the bell schedule looks a little different this year. This is to ensure that we meet the requirement of instructional minutes that all schools must adhere to. In short, we're adding four minutes per day this year. The welcome bell, recess, and lunch will be slightly adjusted to accommodate this move. Here's the new bell schedule:

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|---------------|--------------|
| • 8:25 | Morning Bell |
| • 10:25-10:40 | Recess |
| • 12:10-1:00 | Lunch |
| • 3:16 | Dismissal |

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Class Placement Information

Families will receive information through email by Friday, September 4 on student placements in classes. It is expected that there will be new registrations and some movement of students and families to other schools, so it will be important to use this week to understand where students will be assigned. Thank you for your patience.

September Events

This month we will kick off our year with early dismissal at 11:30 on Tuesday, September 8. Although we have our first Friday in the opening week, we will begin 'Feel Good Fridays' on October 2 (when we have some more time to get everything organized and kids signed up). We also have our Terry Fox Run planned for the morning of Monday, September 21.

As part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation, we will hold an assembly on September 29. September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. Across Canada, schools pause to recognize the history and ongoing impacts of the residential school system, while honouring the resilience of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.



In British Columbia, this work is part of our educational responsibility. The BC curriculum encourages students to develop an understanding of Indigenous histories, perspectives, and cultures as part of becoming informed, compassionate, and engaged citizens. There will be no school on Wednesday, September 30, and school will

be in session on Friday, October 2.

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New and Returning Staff

Perley has a terrific roster of new and returning staff and I want to acknowledge staff who are new to our learning community:

- Ms. Wolf returns to us and will be sharing Willow classroom with Mrs. Hugh
- Ms. Backmeyer joins us from Greenwood and will be teaching the Saskatoon classroom.
- Mr. Lewis returns to oversee the library and ADST programs at Perley.

Important Dates

- | | |
|------------|---|
| • Sept. 8 | First Day! Dismissal at 11:30 |
| • Sept. 11 | School in Session |
| • Sept. 21 | Terry Fox Run and Pancake Breakfast |
| • Sept. 24 | Fire and Evacuation Drill #1 |
| • Sept. 30 | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed) |

Website & Facebook Pages

Perley's website (<https://ddapes.sd51.bc.ca/>) is where you will find important information and documents. Please be sure to read over the updated Caregiver Handbook as well as the Perley Code of Conduct for important information on how we will work together to continue creating a great learning community.

Perley also has a Facebook page which will be updated from time to time with events and happenings at the school.

Bussing & Student Drop-off/Pick-up

As in previous years, please be aware of a couple of items regarding bussing. The bus lane at the back of Perley is strictly for buses only. Please drop off or pick up your child at other spots around the school. Students who have registered for bussing will be required to use their district-issued bus card when getting on and off the bus. This helps us maintain an accurate manifest of riders, and it is a requirement of the Ministry of Transportation. Students who misplace their bus card or are 'guest' riders, should pick up a temporary pass in the office. Guest riders need to have written parent permission before we can give them a temporary pass. Finally, please remember that after-school

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supervision is for bussing students only. Students who walk home are kindly asked to head home after dismissal.

If you have any questions about bussing, please contact the office for more information.

Health and Students' Absence



Unfortunately, we all know that our children will become sick from time to time. If a child becomes ill during the day, we will have them stay in the medical room so we can monitor the situation. If things become more serious we will call home for caregivers to come pick up their child.

We also know that good health is a necessary ingredient for learning; Students who are ill should receive proper care and attention and not return to school until they are healthy and no longer infectious. Please call the front office or the 24-hour attendance line at 250-442-2135 so we can keep accurate attendance and plan for your child's absence.

Have you moved or updated your phone number?

Communication to families is very important for student success. Please contact the office to let us know of any changes to your address, phone number, or email address.

PAC

Perley's PAC will be holding its AGM on Monday, September 14 at 5:00 PM in the Perley Library. The PAC has been a great way to get involved at the school as an active member of the board or simply attending to share your voice. The PAC has also been a terrific financial support to the school, helping with non-curricular purchases and activities that help make Perley a great school.

Thank You

I am looking forward to getting to know the students and families of Perley Elementary, and I invite you to reach out if you have any questions or would like to have a conversation.

Yours in Learning,

Jon Dowswell