



September 2017 | Shawna Petersen, Principal | Paul Hurley, Vice-Principal | Tel 604.795.5312 Fax 604.795.3553 | <http://robertson.sd33.bc.ca>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to school! We are all excited to begin the school year and welcome all of our new families to the Robertson School community! We are very proud of our school and invite you to join us in helping to make it a great place for children to learn! As Mr. Hurley is still on leave, I am very happy to welcome Mr. Kotanko as our Temporary Vice-Principal. I hope he feels the same warm welcome and kindness that I experienced from the staff, students and families of Robertson. We are a pretty incredible school community.

As we gear up for another school year, we will continue to focus on the priorities our school growth plan:

- Improving student achievement and well-being through high quality instruction
- Strengthening meaningful relationships within and across schools, district and community to support success for students
- Enhancing the culture, climate and learning environment to promote a sense of belonging, diversity, well-being and safety

For specific goals and strategies, please review our [growth plan](#) on the Robertson website.

This week, students have enjoyed reconnecting with their classmates and their teacher from last year. This time has given our staff the opportunity to review school expectations, the school code of conduct and settle into classroom routines.

During this busy week, we have confirmed our school enrollment as 290. Mrs. Wodtke has worked diligently to identify the students who have moved away and register our new students. Robertson enrollment has increased enough to add an additional Grade 4/5 class. Our teachers have very carefully reviewed class lists to ensure that the classes are balanced and student placements are in the best interest of all students. A great deal of consideration was given to student learning needs, new registrations and creating learning environments for all our students to thrive.

On Thursday, students were placed in their assigned classrooms for 2017/2018 school year. We are now ready to focus on putting the structures and routines in place that support student success and a positive learning environment.

We expect that your child will receive an excellent education this year from our highly-dedicated staff. Your help, encouragement and participation are most welcome and the team approach between the home and school is such a valuable component to every child's success.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to contact our teachers, Mr. Kotanko or myself. I am looking forward to a fantastic year of learning at Robertson Elementary

Shawna Petersen

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Thus. Sep 21	Open House BBQ 5:30-7:00pm
Fri. Sept 22	Pro-D Day (School Closed)
Fri. Sept 29	Individual School Picture Day
Fri. Sept 29	SOAR Assembly 11:15am
Fri. Oct 6	Terry Fox Run 1:00pm
Mon. Oct 9	Thanksgiving (School Closed)
Mon. Oct 16	Robertson / ADR Pro-D Day
Sat. Oct 14	Fall Market
Fri. Oct 20	Pro-D Day (School Closed)
Fri. Oct 27	SOAR Assembly 11:15am
Sat. Oct 28	Drive A Ford Event
Tues. Oct 31	Orange & Black or Costume Day

ROBERTSON HAS GONE PAPERLESS!

PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY EMAILING [MRS. WODTKE](#) YOUR STUDENTS NAME TO RECEIVE EMAILED COPIES OF OUR NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH.

If you require a paper-copy of our newsletter each month, please let your student's teacher know.

WELCOME BACK BBQ

We are looking forward to meeting and greeting all of our families at our annual welcome back BBQ on **Thursday, September 21st**. Our staff will be cooking and serving up hotdogs and hamburgers and we hope that you are able to join us. The BBQ will be held from 5:30 – 7:00pm. We ask that you complete the order form (sent home today) and return it by **Wednesday, September 13th** so that we have set numbers to order the food. Families are asked to bring blankets or chairs and in the event of poor weather, we will move the dinner into the gym.

PARKING LOT AND SAFE DRIVING LOOP

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our parking lot safe for our students, staff and parents! We have appreciated the respect of the parking lot signs and that many parents are choosing to park on the street – this has reduced the pressure in the parking lot. We are asking that if you are **dropping off** your child, **please come into the school parking lot and use the drop-off lane**, so that students can exit the vehicle close to the sidewalk and not into oncoming traffic. **Please DO NOT park and leave your vehicle in the Drop and Go Lane.** The Drop Off Lane is meant to be a flowing lane. When one vehicle parks and stays, it causes a back up in the parking lot and a congested unsafe situation for our Robertson Community. There is also a thru traffic lane and if everyone uses the appropriate designated lane, the traffic should flow smoothly and safely.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORMS

Student Verification Forms will be sent home on **Monday, September 11th**. Please return the completed forms by **Friday, September 15th**. These forms are very important as the school depends on the information that you provide us. Please take the time to complete the forms and to update your personal contact information. If we are unable to contact you at any point during the day, please ensure that you provide us with a local emergency contact and a number in which we will be able to reach someone if you are unavailable. Newsletters and other correspondence will happen through email so please provide us with your current email address. We appreciate these forms being returned to the school as quickly as possible.

BIKES/ROLLERBLADES/SKATEBOARDS

Please remember it is mandatory for all bicycle riders to wear a helmet. It is essential that your child has both a helmet and an adequate bike lock.

In order to ensure the safety of all those on the school grounds, our school rule is that there is no riding of “wheels” on the school property during regular school hours. Bikes are walked to and from the bike rack, roller blades are taken off once students enter the school grounds and skateboards/scooters are picked up and carried. Thank you for your cooperation.

DRESS CODE

Our dress code will begin on Monday, September 11th. T-shirts can be purchased at the office at a cost of \$8.00. Order forms for sweatshirts and long sleeves will be available in the upcoming weeks.

MEET THE STAFF

Mrs. Petersen – Principal	Mr. Kotanko – VP (Temporary)
Mrs. Fast – Kindergarten	Mrs. Semke – Grade 2/3 (temp)
Mrs. Arnold – Kindergarten	Mrs. Webb – Grade 3
Miss Winter – Kindergarten	Ms. Holliday – Grade 4
Mrs. Farley – Grade 1	Ms. Pinning – Grade 4/5
Ms. VanderZwaag – Grade 1	Mr. Lodders – Grade 4/5
Miss. McNabb – Grade 2	Mrs. White – Grade 5/6
Ms. Brouwer – Grade 2/3	Mrs. Locke – Grade 6
Mrs. Ellis – LA / Resource	Mrs. Derhousoff – Librarian/Prep
Mrs. Epp – Music Teacher	Ms. den Ouden - Counsellor
Mrs. Elderton – Child & Youth Worker	Mr. Kojima – Aboriginal EA
Mrs. Cowdy – EA	Ms. Law – EA
Ms. Lebedovich – EA	Mr. Kerr – EA
Miss Kulba – EA	Ms. Plaskett - EA
Mrs. Remple – EA	Mr. Schroeder - EA
Mrs. Skinner – EA	Mrs. Theune
Mrs. Trichard - EA	
Mrs. Wodtke - Secretary	
Mrs. Mayer – Noon Hour Supervisor	Ms. Elderton – Noon hour Supervisor
Mr. Kojima – Noon Hour Supervisor	
Mr. Kasper – Custodian (day)	Mr. Henao – Custodian (night)

Robertson community welcomes two new teachers this year: Ms. Winter teaching Kindergarten and Mrs. Locke teaching grade 6. We currently have three temporary teachers at Robertson: Mrs. Hornsby teaching Learning Assistance, Mrs. Semke teaching our 2/3 class and Ms. Milette teaching Physical Education. Please also welcome two Education Assistants: Mrs. Lebedovich and Mrs. Theune.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Following the lead of many other schools in our district, we have opted to go with pre-packaged supplies for September. We were able to purchase high quality school supplies at bulk prices and will be charging a flat fee for students as listed below:

- Kindergarten \$40.00**
- Grades 1-3 \$30.00**
- Grades 4-6 \$35.00**
- Planners (Gr 1-6) \$ 7.00**



We would appreciate all school supplies purchased from classroom teachers by **Friday, September 15th**. *Due to depositing delays in September, we are requesting cash payments, but we will accept cheques payable to Robertson Elementary.*

MEDICATIONS/HEALTH CONCERNS

If you require the school to administer **any kind of medication** to your child, an authorization form must be completed first. Please see the office to get the forms, which must be signed by the family doctor and parent. Please notify the school office and your child's teacher if there are any health issues or allergies that we need to be aware of.

VOLUNTEERS / POLICE INFORMATION CHECKS

We are always happy to welcome and accommodate people wishing to volunteer at Robertson Elementary. However, to ensure the safety of our students, we ask that individuals wishing to volunteer complete a Police Information Check (PIC). These forms are available at the school office. They must be completed in full and submitted in person to the Chilliwack R.C. M. P.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Just a reminder that if your child is staying home or will be arriving late to school to inform the office by calling 604-795-5312 and leaving a message on the answering machine or by using the **Safe Arrival Link** on our website. Our secretary, Mrs. Wodtke, will continue to phone home for unexplained absences as part of Robertson's safe arrival program. Thank you again for your continued support.

CHILD CUSTODY/COURT ORDERS

Please inform your child's classroom teacher and the office regarding any family custody issues or revised court documents. The office **must have current copies of court orders, custody access documents, and/or documents that limit or restrict access, in order for the school staff to support enforcement.**

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

We are fortunate to have courtesy breakfast and lunch programs at Robertson. Chilliwack Rotary has enabled us to provide students with a nutritious breakfast each morning. Students wishing to have breakfast can enter the school via our doors to the right of the building after 8:10am. Our appreciation goes to the Rotary Club for their sponsorship. We thank the Bowls of Hope who have partnered with us to provide a healthy lunch every day. Our breakfast and lunch programs will begin on Monday, September 11th.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

We have accident forms available in the office if you wish to purchase accident insurance for your child. If interested, parents are encouraged to apply online at kidsplus.ca/apply or by phone, toll-free at 1-800-566-7411. More information

can be found at <http://www.sd33.bc.ca/kids-plus-accident-insurance>

FROM THE LIBRARY

Hello! It has been wonderful to see all your excited and smiling faces once again this September! Thank you to those who are bringing back lost or forgotten Library books this Fall after finding them at home during the Summer. Just a reminder, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are able to take ONE book out for one week. Grade 2 students may sign out TWO books for two weeks. Grades 3-6 students may sign out THREE books for a TWO week period. Please remember to keep these books in a safe place at home, where they will not get damaged or lost and return them to school before their due date.

Kiwanis Super Reader Program

Once again, we are excited to have the Kiwanis Club sponsor the Super Reader program here at Robertson! They provide some great prizes to all students who read 100 and 250 days this school year. All your child has to do to participate is read for 15 minutes... this could be independent reading or being read to. Then, check off each day you read on the Super Reader tracking sheet, located in your child's planner. For students who do not have a planner, a paper copy is available at the Library. Every 50 nights, show Mrs. Derhousoff your planner to receive a prize in the Library! The Kiwanis Club will recognize and award those students who read 100 nights and 250 nights at our special Assemblies. Watch for these assemblies in January, April and June. The program started on September 5, so be sure to read every day after school and start tracking! Last year, we achieved some Robertson reading records, so the bar has been set high for this year!

Library Book Bags

Library book bags are provided for each Kindergarten student. If your child attended Robertson's Kinderfair last May, he/she would have received a book bag with their name on it. Please return this book bag to the Library or to your child's classroom teacher. Your child will use it when they sign out a Library book and use it as a safe place for their book at home. For any students in grades 1-6, book bags can be purchased for \$1 if you choose

DOGS ON LEASHES

If you walk your dog to school for student drop-off and pick-up, please ensure your dog is on a leash at all times. We also ask that you keep your pet a safe distance from students/staff/parents as not everyone feels safe around animals. Please remember to clean up after your dogs!

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

As Fall settles in and our sunny days disappear, please make sure that your child dresses for the weather. We would like the students to have their recess and lunch breaks in the fresh air as much as possible so raincoats, boots and umbrellas are best on rainy days.

TERRY FOX RUN

This year's Terry Fox Run will take place on **Friday, October 6th** at 1:30pm. To fundraise for this important cause, we will be holding a coin drive beginning Monday, October 2nd. On the first day we will collect nickels, on day two we will collect dimes and so on... You may also choose to donate online: <http://www.terryfox.ca/RobertsonElementary>

The Community Terry Fox run takes place on Sunday, September 17 at 9:00am, beginning at Evergreen Hall (registration at 8:00am)

GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?

Last year we noticed a growing number of students who were tired at school and even falling asleep in class. Getting enough sleep is imperative for learning and being active. A recent Canadian study showed that 33% of children aged 5-13 have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep. Too little sleep can cause hyperactivity, impulsiveness and a short attention span. Reduced sleep can also cause children to struggle with verbal creativity and problem solving. You can help your child with their sleep patterns by establishing a regular bedtime routine and ensuring that screen time ends at least an hour before going to sleep.

ANNUAL FALL MARKET

The 6th Annual Fall Market will take place on Saturday, October 14th from 10am-3pm. We will have 40 tables inside our school gym and there are only a few tables left. Each 8ft table is \$25 plus a gift donation valued at \$10 for our door prize draw. All monies raised at our Fall Market will help pay for the Grade 5 & 6 Year End Celebration!! If you are interested in becoming a vendor please PM us at Robertson Elementary Annual Markets on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/events/1270195453089937
www.facebook.com/RobertsonElementaryAnnualMarkets

PAC NEWS

Our first PAC meeting will be held on Friday, September 29th at 9:00am in the Raptor Room.

Community Corner

Chilliwack Community Cupboard began in Chilliwack in 2013 as a nonprofit organization in a portable behind CMS. Chilliwack Community Cupboard has a large supply of seasonal clothing, footwear and accessories in very good condition for every member of the family from infant to adult. These items are all supplied by donation from individuals and schools lost and founds. They also supply donated food, personal hygiene and household items. Families in need simply need to go to the Chilliwack Community Cupboard (located at 45635 Yale Road in Building E on the old campus of UFV) on Thursday's between 9:00 am and 11:00 am. There are no qualifications, except you must have a child in school living in your home. For more information, please check the Chilliwack Community Cupboard Society Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/ChilliwackCommunityCupboard/>

ANN DAVIS TRANSITION SOCIETY Support and services for those affected by abuse or violence. Emergency shelter for women and children, counselling for men, women and children, information on community programs, and advocacy providing information and resources to assist with income support issues, residential tenancy disputes and family law problems.

Where: 9046 Young Road **When:** 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Contact: 604.792.2760

24 Hour Transition House Line: 604-792-3116

Learn More: www.anndavis.org

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN SUPPORT LINE

Help for grandparents and other relatives raising a family members child. **Contact:** 1.855.474.9777

BC HEALTHY KIDS

Helps low income families with the costs of basic dental care and prescription eyewear for their children.

Contact: 1 866.866.0800 ext 42

FAMILIES FIRST

Parent instruction groups with individual support offered at no cost. Some childcare and transportation available. Delivered by Chilliwack Community Services.

Where: Central Community School **When:** call for next program start date. *Registration required

Contact: Sandy @ 604.793.7225

Learn More: www.comserv.bc.ca