

# École Heather Park Elementary

WEB: [hpar.sd57.bc.ca](http://hpar.sd57.bc.ca)

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7151 Heather Park Rd

## NEWSLETTER

September 15, 2010

### TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

The staff at Heather Park wants to send out a special thanks for the patience and support of parents and students as we work out the best ways to handle bus and vehicle safety before and after school. Every day things are working out more smoothly. We appreciate the helpful suggestions that have come into the office.

To date, we have taken the following steps to address the issues:

- Hired 4 additional supervisors to help students through traffic area before and after school.
- Designated the area on Heather Park Rd in front of the visitor parking as a Pick Up and Drop Off area.
- Consulted with city traffic engineers to generate ideas for reducing traffic problems.
- Worked with the SD57 bussing partner, Diversified Transportation, to get buses lining up consistently and safety each day.
- Raised the issue of changes to parking lots and grounds with SD57 senior administration.
- Listened to numerous parents and community members' ideas about how to improve things.
- Posted a map of foot traffic pathways on our school website at:

<http://www.hpar.sd57.bc.ca/index.php?id=5738>

- Scheduled a meeting with SD57 staff, Diversified Transportation, RCMP and city traffic engineers to finalize our plan for traffic safety.

Until this plan is finalized, parents can support our efforts in the following ways:

- If you must drive your children to school, please try to come a bit earlier so you can take your time and drive at safe speeds around the property.

- Please check our website to see the foot traffic map to show children where to cross the streets and how move through the grounds so that they stay out of parking lots.
- Have older students meet you in pre-organized areas such as the Elks Centre or the Heather Park Rd drop zone so drivers can stay in their vehicles and leave more quickly.

### SCHOOL RE-ORGANIZATION

On Friday September 17, 2010 we will be adjusting our class groupings. This change is required in order to meet Ministry of Education class size guidelines and also to ensure that we will have room for any new registrations that join our school during the year. In addition to meeting class size guidelines, we will also be doing our best to accommodate parent suggestions for student success.

Change highlights:

- No changes to French Immersion classes.
- Due to significant last minute registration, we will create a K/1 split in Mrs. Chilver's class.
- Many students in primary classes will have new teachers.
- Creating new classes: 3-4 split and 5-6 split.
- Minor changes to class groupings in grades 6 and 7.

We will manage these changes by having students go their present classrooms on Friday morning. After gathering their supplies, we will assist students to transition to their new rooms and teacher. Students who change classrooms that day will bring home a note to parents explaining the change.

## **PAC EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

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All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend École Heather Park Elementary's first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting on Wednesday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Parents are needed to fill PAC executive positions and provide support for PAC's initiatives. Child minding will be provided in the gymnasium. Please come out and support this very important process. Everyone is welcome.

Mr. Fleck, as representative of the school district, will be running the election process with the priority of filling the four basic PAC executive positions:

- Chairperson
- Vice-chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

After the core executive is elected, motions from the floor will be accepted to establish additional executive positions. All voting will be done by confidential paper ballot. If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to put your name forward for nomination, please contact Mr. Fleck.

Thank you to the parents who brought snacks to the gathering on September 14th. If you are able to help out again, snacks on the 22rd would be much appreciated! Thank you in advance to Mr. Fleck for offering to oversee the election in the absence of a PAC executive.

For information about these positions, please visit the Prince George District PAC website, at:  
<http://www.sd57dpac.ca>.

## **STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL**

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Given the size of our school population it is very difficult for staff members to know all parents and guardians of all students. With this in mind, we will use the following protocols for students leaving the building before the regular dismissal time:

- Students leaving the school property before 2:30 PM must have a note signed by a parent or guardian.

- Students leaving the school need to come to the office to be picked up by the parent(s) or person(s) named in the note from home.
- Parents who need to pick up students unexpectedly should contact the school by phone, if possible, to explain the situation. Parents or designated guardians should then come to the office to meet students.
- Any special circumstance or deviation from these protocols requires approval from the principal or vice-principal.

## **ABSENCES**

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It is very important for parents of absent students to phone the school before 8:30 AM and talk to Mrs. Goldie, leave a message on our voicemail or email our office at [lgoldie@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:lgoldie@sd57.bc.ca).

We are spending a lot of time each day trying to track down absent students in the morning. It would be great if parents could help by letting know if anything unusual is happening with their children.

On the first day of an absence we encourage students to contact another student in their class for homework. Students who are absent for more than two days should contact teachers to find out about missed assignments.

## **TELEPHONES**

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We encourage students to make after school arrangements prior to arriving each morning. This ensures our office phones are available for important business, parent or emergency calls. Students may access classroom phones provided they have teacher permission. Office phones are to be used for emergencies only.

