

# WELCOME BACK!

Please read the following information carefully



Dear DG Families,

We hope you had a wonderful summer and that you're looking forward to starting a new school year! Here is some important information about School Opening to help get you ready for the first week. **Please note - students should only bring limited school supplies the first week - a pencil case with a pencil/pen, pencil crayons, etc... is sufficient.** Once students are into their new classes, teachers will let you know when to send supplies to school.

**SCHOOL STARTS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th**

## Kindergarten

### GROUPS 1 & A

9:15 - 10:00

### GROUPS 2 & B

11:00 - 11:45

For Sept 7th and beyond, please refer to your [gradual entry schedules](#)

## Grades 1-7

### SEPT 6TH

8:45 - 12:00

(bring a water bottle & snack)

### SEPT 7TH

8:45 - 1:45

(bring a water bottle, snack & lunch)

### SEPT 8TH & 9TH

8:45 - 3:00

### MEETING SPOTS

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS: UNDERCOVER AREA

GRADES 1-7: RETURNING STUDENTS, FIND CONE MARKED WITH YOUR LAST YEAR'S TEACHER'S NAME.

NEW STUDENTS, MEET AT DESIGNATED AREAS (PRIMARY/INTERMEDIATE). SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE (pls note, it is definitely NOT to scale!)

### Helpful Resources and Links



[Our School Website](#) contains lots of useful info. Including [School Supply Lists](#)



**Please don't send all the school supplies just yet.** Students should bring limited school supplies the first week (a pencil case, pencil, crayons, pencil, scissors, etc... is sufficient). Once students are into their new classes, teachers will let you know when to send the rest of the supplies to school.



How to Help Kids With Back-to-School Anxiety

### Helpful Hints



<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/>

# WHERE DO I GO ON THE FIRST DAY?

**Returning Students,** please find the cone marked with **your last year's teacher's name** and line up there. This will be, approximately, the same spot where you lined up last year.

**New students in Grades 1-7),** please meet at **the top of the stairs up to the playground.** A staff member will be there to meet you.

**Kindergarten -** meet in the **undercover area** at your designated time

**Still not sure where to go/what to do & need some assistance?** Please do not go to the office (it's way on the other side of the building from where you need to be). Instead, look for a staff member outside (on the field, in the undercover area, etc...). We'll be wearing **Safety Vests** - you can't miss us!



**NEW KINDERGARTEN MEET HERE** (Yellow arrow pointing to the undercover area)

**UNDERCOVER AREA** (Yellow star)

**JASSAL**, **BURR**, **CHAN**, **TURNER** (Orange pill-shaped labels)

**THESE CLASSES WILL MEET BY UNDERCOVER AREA** (Orange circle)

**NEW STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-7 MEET HERE** (Blue circle)

**MIDDLE DOORS** (Green star)

**LOVAT**, **LIN/RICHMOND** (Green pill-shaped labels)

**PLEASE USE CAUTION - FENCED AREA FOR PAVING PROJECT** (Orange diamond sign)

**LAWLER**, **OLIVEIRA**, **WILLCOX** (Green pill-shaped labels)

**END DOORS** (Pink star)

**FLAG/DAVISON**, **SAVU** (Pink pill-shaped labels)

**ARJUN**, **STATES & MOK** (Pink pill-shaped labels)

**SUTTER**, **KO** (Pink pill-shaped labels)

**DOWN'S RD** (Text at the bottom of the building)

**RETURNING TO DG? GO TO YOUR LINE-UP SPOT FROM LAST YEAR (LOOK FOR THE CONE DISPLAYING THE NAME OF YOUR LAST YEAR'S TEACHER)** (Cyan circle)

**NEW STUDENTS, LOOK FOR THE MEETING SPOT BY THE PLAYGROUND STAIRS** (Cyan circle)

**If you need any assistance, or are not sure where to go, please find a staff member on the field/playground side of the building (please do not go to the office). We will be wearing safety vests so you can easily spot us** (Text box with vest icons)

**DRAGONS** (Text on the dragon mascot's shirt)

## PAVING PROJECT AT DG

If you've been by the school recently, you will have noticed there is a major paving project underway. Essentially, all/most of the paved areas around the school are being redone. This includes the undercover area, the paved perimeter outside the library and first floor classrooms on the back side of the school, the basketball court area, and more. Although we had hoped the project would be wrapped up prior to the start of school, we're not quite there. As such, the paving crew will be working throughout the day, pausing during recess and lunch, and then resuming their work after dismissal; particularly over the next week or so while the weather is nice.

In order to help move the project along, they have asked for your assistance. **When picking up your child at dismissal over the next little while, please leave the school grounds promptly, rather than hanging around or playing on the playground equipment (particularly when you notice the crew/equipment on-site).**

For obvious safety reasons, the paving crew will pause their work during arrival and dismissal times and wait until the area is clear before resuming. The quicker we can clear the grounds, the sooner they can get back to work! We know how much families enjoy having some extra playground time before heading home after school, particularly during this last stretch of warm weather. However, not clearing the school grounds promptly will impede the paving crew's ability to resume their work and bring the project to completion. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and our apologies for the temporary inconvenience!



## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Continued Focus on Health and Safety for all members of our School Community

The School District is in the process of reviewing the updated [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings](#) that were released on August 25. Over the coming days, the School District will ensure that our school communicable disease prevention plan aligns with the latest public health advice. The health and safety measures in place for school start up on September 6 will likely mirror what was in place in our school prior to the summer break. If there are any changes, families will be notified. We anticipate that we will need to continue to be flexible and responsive to changes in transmission trends over the coming months.

### General Guidelines for Helping to Keep Yourself and Others Healthy

Review & practice proper hygiene and keeping personal space

- **Respect Personal Space** (their own and that of others) - keep hands to self, respect other's space (not crowding, etc..)
- **Frequent & proper hand washing** - review hand washing technique with your child and ensure your child washes his/her hands before coming to school
- **Stay Home if Unwell** - Staff/Students who are sick must not come to school. If someone does become sick while at school, they will need to go home
- **Respiratory Etiquette** - cover your nose/mouth when sneezing/coughing
- **Students encouraged to not share food/drink with others.**
- **Masks are a personal choice** - some members of our school community may feel more comfortable continuing to wear a mask and that's ok.



## BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL

- **Please ensure your child is in good health.** Staff/Students who are sick must not come to school. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell.
- **Please refrain from dropping-off items throughout the day, as this is disruptive for classes.** In order to maximize students' learning time, it's important that interruptions to the classroom are kept to a minimum. We will not be calling students out of class for messages during instructional time or to pick up forgotten items or lunches. As such, please ensure your child comes to school, each morning, fully prepared for the day and that your child is aware of any after school arrangements for pick-up. (Of course, this does not apply should you need to leave a message for your child due to an emergency or unforeseen circumstance)
- **Food & Water** - Please ensure your child brings snacks, a refillable water bottle and a lunch (beginning Sept 7th, for grade 1-7) to school each day. As we will be limiting access to the building, lunches cannot be dropped off at the school mid-day. Should a student forget his/her lunch, they will not go hungry. We will have some food supplies on hand for emergencies. For hydration and the environment, students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle (we have several water bottle filling stations in the school). Please ensure your child's water bottle is labelled with his/her name. If your child forgets his/her water bottle, water fountains are available throughout the school. However, we are no longer supplying single use plastic water bottles and cups.
- **Please send your child with proper clothing for the weather, as we they spend time outdoors at recess and lunch ...** even if it is raining. As such, we ask that ALL students (yes, even Grade 7s), keep an extra set of clothes at school. *Please send them in a sealed plastic bag labelled with your child's name.*



## ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- **Parent parking** is in the lot across the street from the school. The upper parking lot is for staff only. Please do not drive through the upper parking lot when picking up or dropping off your child. If the parent/visitor lot is full, there is street parking in the neighbourhood (however, there is no parking permitted on Downs Road or Russell Drive). [See map for more options](#) Please be respectful of our neighbours' property/driveways when parking
- **Please use/remind your child to use crosswalks**, including the one on Russell Drive, and to look both ways & use caution when crossing the street
- **Student drop-off and pick-up happens outside the school building.** Please have a **family meeting spot** to ensure your child knows where to meet you and/or their siblings.
- **Late students should report to the front door of the school.** Our Administrative Assistant, Ms. Labrosse, will check them in.
- **Parent/Visitor Access via the Front Door** - Our front door is locked to enhance school security. Should you need assistance, or to come into the school, we have a **newly installed intercom at front door** through which Ms Labrosse can buzz you in. You will see the button on the right hand side of the front door - of course, you can also knock on the door/window, like before :)

Parents, thank you for your assistance in keeping our morning entry procedure safe and orderly.



## THIS YEAR'S CLASSES (GR 1-7)

For the first week, students in Grades 1-7 will (for the most part) be with their previous year's teacher (there are some exceptions) while we review our enrolment numbers and process new registrations.

While students are anxious to meet their new teacher and to establish who their new classmates will be, it does take some time to confirm our enrollment numbers and to ensure that our class configurations for this year are accurate. As is usually the case when school starts up again, changes in enrollment (new students registering, families moving away, etc...) necessitate a reworking of the tentative organization we put together in June.

Over the course of the first week, we will be working hard to finalize our numbers and get students into their new classes as quickly as possible. In the meantime, students will be having a productive and busy week, engaged in meaningful learning activities based around our school-wide theme and the book ("It fell from the sky" / "la merveille" by the Fan Brothers

**See more info about this in the next column over**



### COMMON TIMETABLE

As you may recall, last year we began the year with a common timetable. Due to COVID restrictions, part way through last year, we had to move to staggered entry and dismissal times, as well as separate recess and lunch times for primary and intermediate classes. This year, we are planning to have a common timetable throughout the school:

- Morning Entry 8:45 am
- Recess 10:40-10:55 am
- Lunch 12:15 - 1:00 pm
- Dismissal 3:00 pm (1:45 on Wednesdays)

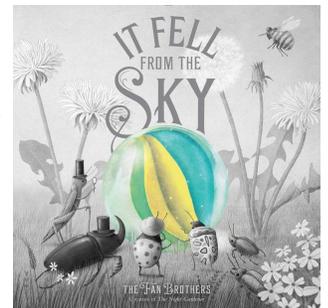


*Should we be required to adjust this mid-year, families will be notified*

## OUR BACK TO SCHOOL THEME!

For the past couple of years, we've started off the school year with a school-wide theme, based on a book. All students (regardless of which teacher they are with for the first week) will be reading this story and discussing the themes and ideas associated with this wonderful book. It's a great way to start the year off in a unified way (all students will be familiar with the same book, discussing similar topics, regardless of what grade they are in, who their teacher might be, etc...) and it creates a wonderful sense of togetherness as we start a new school year.

This year, we've chosen "It Fell From the Sky", written and illustrated by the Fan Brothers. It's a beautifully illustrated book that starts with a group of insects gathered in puzzlement around a glass marble that has landed in the grass (hence, "it fell from the sky"). The book touches on so many themes and big ideas: what happens when an everyday item is suddenly seen through new eyes, community, sharing, the consequences or greed, intentions vs outcomes, the importance of giving back, how we value/display/consume art, and much, much more!



## SEPTEMBER PAC MEETING

We have a wonderful PAC at Devon Gardens. All parents and guardians of students registered in the school are able to participate and are members of the PAC. PAC meetings is a great way to get involved in the school, and meet other parents. The first PAC Meeting of the year will be September 12th at 7:00pm (format/location TBD). We look forward to seeing you there! In the meantime, check out the DGPAC's Twitter page!

[@DG\\_PAC](#)

