

From the Principal's Desk:

Summer semester

September 5, 2017

I have been honoured to be Acting Principal since August 21st while Opal Charters-Voght is on extended bereavement leave. I look forward to the next couple of weeks as our Summer Semester winds down.

- 1. New Maintenance Worker, Robin Sam:** Please join me in welcoming our new Maintenance Worker, Robin Sam to our School Team! Robin has many years of experience in the construction field and has been a contractor for many many years. He comes with an overall knowledge and experience in construction, roofing, painting, electrical and plumbing – a jack of all trades!

This week Robin's work hours are from 9am to 5pm. However, starting on September 11th, Robin's regular hours will be 7am to 3pm with an hour for lunch. We are excited to be working with Robin in ensuring that our buildings are healthy and safe for the students, staff and community!

- 2. Attendance:** If you want your child to be successful in school, they must attend school. There are many studies that show that there is a direct link between absenteeism and not completing high school. Students who attend school on a regular and consistent basis are more likely to complete high school. Students who complete high school are more likely to be successful in life. A student who misses a day of school misses an opportunity to learn. Hence, please discuss the importance of attendance and being on time for school with your child.
- 3. Homework:** Another aspect to being successful in school is students who complete their homework in a timely manner. Every day after school, please check with your child to see if they have homework and be sure that they complete it before returning to school the following day. Completing homework in a timely manner can lead to academic success for your child.
- 4. Nutrition and Junk Food:** Nutrition and learning go hand in hand. Healthy food enhances your child's brain function, memory and concentration. Children who eat healthy foods on a regular basis are more focused, have more energy for school work and have more success in school. Hence, we ask that you limit the amount of junk food that your child brings to school. Try to send healthy food and snacks so that they are ready and able to learn. Our staff will be talking to your children about healthier and

nutritious choices for lunch and snacks and they will be encouraged to have similar conversations with you at home.

5. **Friendly Reminders:** In the past few weeks, we have had a number of incidents relating to bullying, student dress, gym strip and cell phones. Hence, I want to remind our students and their families of the following:

A. **Behavioural Expectations and Behavioural Guidelines:**

In order to create a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff, student behavior guidelines have been established. There is a **“Zero Tolerance for Bullying and Disrespect”** and the following will not be tolerated:

- a. Name calling
- b. Hurtful teasing e.g. Mean words about another person
- c. Swearing
- d. Rejection talk e.g. saying another person cannot play.

Please talk to your child and remind them that we will not tolerate such behavior. Should your child be participating in bullying and disrespect, we will be calling the parents/guardians and asking them to come to the school to discuss the misbehavior.

- B. **Student Dress:** We ask that you remind your children that there is a dress code for all students and staff in the school. The following is our school policy:

Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing that is provocative, revealing, vulgar, offensive or obscene, or which endangers the health and safety of the students or others is prohibited. For example:

- a. Bare midriffs
- b. Excessively short or tight garments
- c. Revealing clothing
- d. Attire or belongings with messages or illustration that are lewd, indecent or vulgar or that advertise products or services forbidden by law to minors
- e. Offensive hardware jewelry, such as studded arm bands
- f. Symbols, styles or attire associated with intimidation, violence, violent groups or racism.

Students inappropriately dressed or whose appearance violates this dress code will be asked to change immediately or be sent home to change.

- C. **Gym Strip:** Please send gym strip and indoor shoes for your child to participate fully in gym.

- D. **Cell Phones, iPads, iPods etc:** We ask students not to bring these to school. If they bring them to school, they must keep their devices in their lockers. If staff catch

students with their devices during school hours, they will be taken away and returned at the end of the day.

6. **On-going Registration:** Although we will be completing our first Summer Semester on Friday September 22nd, we are continuing to accept new registrations. This school year is an exciting one at Stein Valley Nlakapamux School that truly embraces your culture and way of life while at the same time in providing your children with a solid academic education.
7. **Open Door Policy:** Please stop by for a visit in your child's classroom and/or to see me. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday September 13th for the Summer Showcase where students and staff will showcase what your child has learned in the first semester of the Stein Valley Nlakapamux Cultural Semester School Year!

Thank you.

Edith Loring-Kuhanga, B. Ed.; M. Ed.

Acting Principal

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