

**September 10, 2018**  
On the Calendar

**Welcome Letters Home**

We want to hear from you. Classroom teachers will be sending home welcome letters and surveys school wide by **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please return to classroom teachers.

**District ProD Day**

**Friday, September 21st.**

School is closed while Minnehada staff participates in professional development activities.

**Terry Fox Run/Perseverance Assembly**

**Thursday, September 27th**  
Students will participate in a trail run and the Eagles team will run our Perseverance assembly.

**PAC Meeting**

Our next meeting is **Monday, September 17th** at 7pm in the library. Everyone welcome.

**Band/Choir Start-Up**  
**September 11th**

Before-school band is held Tuesdays and Thursdays. Choir is on Wednesdays. Contact Ms. Disney for more information.

**Three-Way Conferences & Explorations Showcase**

On **Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>** all parents are invited to Minnehada for teacher conferences and an Explorations showcase. **We will dismiss students at 1:30pm.**

# Minnehada Matters



**Our Goal:**

To grow a culture of connectedness and belonging where our actions reflect core values and enhance student learning.

*Kindness – Love of Learning – Respect  
Personal Growth – Perseverance – Safety  
Belonging – Connectedness*

**Principal's Message:**

What a pleasure it has been to welcome our 2018-2019 school year. At Minnehada we place high value on the partnerships we share with parents and our community. Our common focus to uphold core values and a culture of achievement and care for our students is something we strive to bring to life in all aspects of our programs and opportunities. A very warm welcome and welcome back to all of you.

Please never hesitate to connect with your child's teachers or school administration. We hope will find ways to be connected to the learning and experiences your children are having in their daily journeys at Minnehada and are always available to help enhance or support your family's experience at our school. It is our sincere pleasure to be a play a part in your child's educational journey.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan Ross

## **Thank You, Minnekhada Community School!**

Opening a school year is always such a busy and exciting time for our students, their families, teachers and school staff. Most of us remember what it was like to come to school for the first day in September and some of you will remember what it was like to walk into a new school at this age, whether it be middle school or junior secondary, with excitement and nervous anticipation.

Thank you to Minnekhada families and staff for placing a priority on working together to support this transition for our new students and for helping our returning students adjust to their new classrooms and experiences. Building resilience and confidence is very important in the middle years and we can work together to help kids travel the hills and valleys of what is a natural transition and time of change.

Our Pancake Breakfast was a big hit and we saw a sea of smiling and sticky faces that morning, teachers up early to grill and flip, students meeting and making new friends and wonderful connections happening everywhere. Every day Minnekhada staff feels very fortunate to work alongside this community. The year is off to a fantastic start!

## **Where to Find Important Information**

Middle school is an active and dynamic environment and sometimes it can feel like information overload. While much of the information you receive at home will come via your child's classroom teacher's home-school communications, parents are encouraged to consult our school website under Quick Links, Calendar and Announcements to locate information regarding upcoming school events and district information. We do endeavor to keep our site and up-to-date source for school-wide and district information. That said, never hesitate to be in touch with our school office at 604-936-4261. Also, please ensure our office has your up-to-date email address as we often send email reminders and other information of interest to parents

School website: [www.sd43.bc.ca/minnekhada](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/minnekhada)

School phone: 604-936-4261

Principal: Susan Ross, [suross@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:suross@sd43.bc.ca)

Vice Principal: Sandi Lauzon, [slauzon@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:slauzon@sd43.bc.ca)

## **Bell Schedule and Collaboration (Late Start) Days**

An attachment to this newsletter is our 2018-2019 bell schedule, also located on our website. The attached copy shows our Regular Day Schedule and an alternate Collaboration Days schedule. On eight school days this calendar year Minnekhada has a late start for students. You will find dates noted at the bottom of the Collaboration Days schedule and this message.

On Collaboration Days, Minnekhada teachers will be on site engaged in whole staff planning and activities designed to support programming at our school. To name a few topics, we will explore the revised BC Curriculum, share new practices, plan and coordinate enhancement activities for students, and grow our understanding of technology in the classroom.

Late starts (9:20am) are made possible by extending the instructional minutes in our timetable on Regular Days (all other days in session aside from the eight Collaboration Days) and below are the late start dates:

October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>

## **School Organization 2018-2019: Team Minnekhada**

### **Eagles – Grade 8**

Mr. Lore, Team Leader  
Mr. Hughes  
Ms. Ferriera  
Mr. Spencer

### **Bears – Grade 6/7**

Ms. Richardson, Team Leader  
Ms. Campagne  
Mr. Brookes  
Ms. Disney

### **Wolves – Grade 6/7**

Ms. Jackson-Gordon, Team Leader  
Ms. O'Donnell  
Ms. Pettenon  
Mr. Nishimura

### **Coyotes – Grade 8 & 6/7**

Ms. Sumner, Team Leader  
Mr. Vanstaalduinen  
Ms. Ladha  
Ms. Moen

### **Hawks – Grade 6/7**

Ms. Olsen, Team Leader  
Ms. Nishimura  
Ms. Kish

### **Explorations**

Ms. Otey, Team Leader - Art  
Mr. Gould – Tech Ed  
Mr. Wiebe – Media Arts  
Ms. Schnoor - Foods  
Mr. Erickson - Music

**Continued...**

**Student Services**

Ms. Harder, Team Leader  
Ms. McNeill  
Ms. Reid  
Mr. Johannson, Counsellor, Gifted  
Ms. Greene, Youth Worker  
Ms. Camp, Aboriginal Youth Worker

**Administration**

Ms. Ross, Principal  
Ms. Lauzon, Vice Principal

**Learning Commons/Library**

Ms. Sinclair

**Community Program Facilitator**

Ms. McKinley

**Office Staff**

Ms. Knechtel, Head Secretary  
Ms. Suszezewicz, Records

**Educational Assistants**

Ms. Kropninski      Ms. Kaznowski  
Ms. Chowdhury      Mr. Pratt  
Ms. Wise-Denholm      Ms. Hall  
Ms. Salim-Abady      Ms. Doyle

**Caretakers**

Mr. O'Donnell  
Mr. Razzell

### **PAC News**

Our next PAC Meeting is on **Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in our library. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Attending meetings is a wonderful way to get connected at Minnekhada and to meet other parents engaged in discussion about supporting students at our school.

### **eForms and School Fees**

eForms and school fee information is located at <https://schoolcashonline.com//>. For families new to the district, please visit the site to register for an account. To make it easy, you can go to our school website ([www.sd43.bc.ca/school/minnekhada](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/minnekhada)) and under Quick Links find an Online Payments link. The system is point and click for payment but also is a place where school information, field trip notices, permissions, etc. are communicated. Even if your family elects to send cash payments through our office as opposed to paying online, registering guarantees you are on the electronic communication list and **ensures you will receive notices and home communication that is housed on School Cash Online**. Please take a moment to register and don't hesitate to contact our office if you have questions.

### **Counsellor's Corner**

We are very pleased to introduce (and welcome back) Mr. Don Johansson who is our school counsellor. Mr. Johansson can be reached at [djohansson@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:djohansson@sd43.bc.ca).

***Follow us on Instagram  
@minnekhadamiddleschool***

## **Digital Responsibility and Cell Phones at School**

We continue to help support our students to make good choices with the use of technology and cellular phones at school. Thank you for supporting our efforts at home as this goes a long way toward helping us teach appropriate use of cell phones in students' workplace: school. Attached to this newsletter please find a refresher copy of our ***Digital Responsibility Guidelines***. Congratulations to our students who have overwhelmingly demonstrated very positive and respectful attitudes toward our expectations at school already. Well done, everyone!

Student safety is everyone's goal and the current landscape of digital access has some very real implications for students in schools and communities. Research shows that schools and parents cooperating to develop in youth the skills, attitudes and knowledge to safely and responsibly navigate technology is most effective. Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts in digital responsibility at home. The ongoing conversation is important and we look forward to working together to keep our kids safe and learning at school.

## **Happenings In and Around our Community**

**Our school district is endeavoring to help families connect to events and happenings in the Tri-Cities and close-by communities.** To learn about a variety of community organizations' events, activities and information [please visit this webpage](#).