

Telkwa Elementary School
1000 Hankin Avenue, Telkwa BC V0J2X0
Telephone 250 846-5851 email:
teloffice@sd54.bc.ca
<https://tel.sd54.bc.ca/>

Dustin Hersee, Principal

Grizzly Growl Newsletter - September 2026

Welcome Back, Telkwa Elementary Families!

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I welcome everyone to the 2026-2027 school year at **Telkwa Elementary School**. Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of the TES family.

Over the summer, our staff has been hard at work preparing classrooms, renovating our new kitchen, learning spaces, and programs that will support every child in reaching their full potential. We cannot wait to see the hallways filled with smiling faces, reconnecting friendships, and the energy that comes with a new year of learning.

As Principal I believe that strong schools are built on strong relationships. At Telkwa Elementary, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, caring, and respectful environment where every child feels they belong. When students feel connected to their school, supported by the adults around them, and confident in who they are, they are better able to take risks, grow as learners, and achieve success.

This year, our work will be guided by three key priorities:

School Culture

We will continue to build a positive school culture where kindness, responsibility, respect, and belonging are at the heart of everything we do. Staff will spend time teaching and reinforcing shared expectations and routines to ensure students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

Community

Telkwa Elementary has always been a special place because of its strong community connections. We value the partnerships we have with families, local organizations, and community members. Together, we create meaningful experiences for students and help them develop a sense of pride in their school and community.

Literacy & Numeracy

Literacy and numeracy remain a key focus for our school. Reading, writing, speaking, and communication skills are the foundation for learning across all subject areas. Through engaging instruction and meaningful learning opportunities, we will continue to support students in developing their literacy and numeracy skills with programs such as UFLI and MathUP (new this year).

While academic growth is important, we are equally committed to supporting the whole child. Helping students develop social and emotional skills such as self-regulation, resilience, empathy, responsibility, and teamwork remains a priority. These skills help students navigate challenges, build healthy relationships, and become positive contributors to our school community.

I am incredibly proud to be part of Telkwa Elementary and look forward to working alongside our dedicated staff, supportive families, and amazing students. Together, we will create a year filled with learning, laughter, growth, discovery, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and beginning another fantastic year together.

Dustin Hersee || Telkwa Elementary School Principal ||

School Start-Up & Class Organization: Students in **Grades 1-7** will go **directly to their classrooms** on the first day of school. Kindergarten students will follow their own gradual entry schedule, as shared by their teachers. Please note that class placements may need to be adjusted in the first few weeks if enrollment changes affect class sizes. **Class lists** will be posted at the front of the school at **3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.**

We kindly remind families that **we cannot accommodate requests for specific class or teacher changes.**

Thank you for your support as we start a great year together!

First Day of School—Wednesday September 9
Bell Schedule 9:00 am
Dismissal and Bus pick up 11:30am

2026-2027 School Day Schedule School begins at 9:00 am for all students. <i>For All Divisions</i>	
Recess	10:30 am - 10: 45 am.
Lunch break	12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
School is dismissed for all students at 3:05 pm on M, T, W, F Thursday dismissal for all students is 2:10 pm	

Parent Parking & Student Pick-Up/Drop-Off: Parents, thank you for helping us keep Telkwa Elementary safe! Enjoy our new paved parking at the front of school.



Keeping Our School Beautiful - Indoor Shoes & Outdoor Shoes: We have a beautiful school, and we are committed to keeping it that way! To help, **all students, staff, and visitors must remove outdoor shoes immediately upon entering the building.** Students will have their indoor shoes stored on the shelf on top of their coat rack

All students should have **proper indoor shoes to put on once they get to class** that can also double for **gym class**. Our school was noticeably cleaner every day last year because of this - shoes off on the mats!

School Food Programs: Telkwa school will be continuing our lunch program with PAC this year, while breakfast and snacks will be provided by the school. There will be a paid lunch option once a week -- stay tuned for more information to follow shortly.

Breakfast & Lunch Program Volunteers Needed: We are currently searching for volunteers to help with our lunch program. Please contact the Telkwa PAC / office if you are interested in volunteering.

Safe Arrival System: To assist with our Safe Arrival procedures, parents are requested to use one of the three options below to record absences or lateness. In doing so, we can be sure all children are accounted for:

Beginning April 14th, 2025

SD54 will be introducing a new method for caregivers to report

STUDENT ABSENCES

With the SafeArrival system, you can report or schedule absences in one of three simple ways:

1-833-829-5808

Call toll-free to report an absence.
(No account required)

www.home.schoolmessenger.ca

Log onto the website where you can set up an account to report and schedule absences.

SM Home App

Using your smart phone or tablet simply download the SM Home - SchoolMessenger App.

*Please report all absences prior to 9:20AM

Contact Information: If any of your contact information has changed (address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, e-mail address) please let the school office know so that we can update our student information system. You can email the details to teloffice@sd54.bc.ca or call us at (250) 846-5851.

School Supply Fees:

The school supply fee for all students this year is \$40. You can either send in the funds with your child or pay at the office. Payments can be made by check (made out to Telkwa Elementary School), debit or cash.



Student Photo Day – Kelly Bergen Photography:

All students will have their individual photos and class photos taken on **September 18, 2026**. Students will be issued a proof package and 'Portrait ID' to order their photos. Students who are absent on the first date can have a photo taken on the re-take date: TBA

Meet the Teacher Night – Wednesday, September 23, 2026: Join us on **Wednesday, September 23, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm** at Telkwa Elementary to meet your student's teacher! Teacher introductions will begin at **5:45 pm** in the gym. After introductions, parents are invited to **visit classrooms and tour the school**. Enjoy **cookies and coffee/tea**—donations are welcome, with all proceeds supporting the **Terry Fox Foundation**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Terry Fox School Run/ Hike Day – Tuesday, September 22, 2026: Telkwa Elementary is excited to take part in this year's Terry Fox School Field Trip to Houston, more information to follow. Join us as we celebrate the inspiring legacy of one of Canada's greatest heroes.

We'd love your support! Students, families, and community members can help by donating a loonie or a toonie—every little bit helps us make a big difference. Lace up your sneakers and join us in keeping Terry's dream alive!

Elementary Soccer Play Day – October 9, 2026: The annual elementary soccer play day will be held on Friday, October 9, 2026, at Muheim Elementary or the Chandler Park sports fields from 12:00-6:00pm. More information will be forthcoming once coaches/chaperones are in place.

Grade 4-7 Cross Country Running: It's time to lace up those sneakers and hit the trails—**cross-country season is here!** The cross-country run is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 15, 2026**.

More information will be forthcoming once coaches are in place. All grade 4-7 students are welcome. Don't forget to wear **comfortable clothing and proper running shoes**.



Healthy and Vibrant Kids: Staying healthy helps students feel their best and tackle the school year like champs! Here are some ways you can help your child stay strong, focused, and energized:

- **Sleep:** Kids in grades K-7 need **9-12 hours** of sleep each night—plenty of rest fuels super brains and super bodies
- **Nutrition:** Fill plates with **whole, nutritious foods**—vegetables, fruits, eggs, dairy, meat, fish, and unprocessed grains.
- **Limit Sugar & Processed Foods:** Treats are fun, but diets high in sugar and processed foods will eventually have negative impacts on energy, health, and emotions.
- **Screen Time:** Balance is key—make time for screens, but also for moving and playing. Screens are a new thing in evolution; more screen time leads to negative impacts on physical and emotional health.
- **Move Your Body:** Aim for **60+ minutes of activity** daily—run, jump, dance, bike, or play! You can break it into smaller chunks—just keep moving!
- Healthy habits at home help students show up ready to **learn, play, and grow** every day!

Outside and Active Learning: At Telkwa Elementary, we believe learning is more fun when it happens **outside and on the move!**

- **Get moving:** Students and classes will be encouraged to spend time outside and stay active whenever possible.
- **Be prepared:** All students should be ready to head outdoors **every day**—rain, shine, or snow! Spare change of clothes that are labeled with name of student.
- **Dress for success:** Warm, weather-appropriate clothing is a must so everyone can enjoy outdoor learning comfortably.

Fresh air + movement = **happy, focused learners**—let’s get outside and make the most of every day!

Cell Phones and Personal Devices:

Students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices at any time during the school day. If a student is found using a device, it will be confiscated, and a parent or guardian will need to pick it up from the office.

Please note that the school day begins upon arrival and ends after the buses depart. This means if a student is on a device before school or after school while the busses are still running, their phone will be confiscated. We appreciate your support in helping us keep students focused during the school day. This is good for their academic and social development!

Strong Start:

Strong Start is in session at Telkwa Elementary this year from 9:00 - 11:30 Monday to Thursday. The program is on a drop-in basis for children aged 5 or younger along with their caregiver. Please dress for the outdoors and be prepared to play outside daily.

If you have any questions, please have a look on Facebook “Telkwa Strong Start Program” page. The Strong Start program uses the main entrance of the school next to the parent parking lot and it will begin September 21, 2026.

Music with Mr. Anderson:

This year in the music classroom Mr Anderson is excited to be starting an extra-curricular “Synth Club” funded by the Bulkley Valley Arts Council. Youth mentors will hold paid positions to help new musicians understand the multitudes of complex instruments we have available at the school. Perhaps the most exciting part of this is that Adults are also encouraged to join. More details will be coming soon but the club will be hosted in the evenings twice a month at Telkwa Elementary School. The Bass player from Lorde, and the trumpet player from Peter Gabriel hosted a summer session with mentors at the CICK Train Car in July, and it was a great start to what should be an exciting moment in time for free musical education in the Valley.

Choir will also be starting up in the Fall for Remembrance Day and carol Fest performances. In class, students can expect to learn melodies and rhythmic/dynamic structures with voice and instruments, while playing in ensembles and choral groups. Looking forward to a fun start!

Telkwa Elementary Staff

Mr. Dustin Hersee, Principal	Ms. Dash, Secretary
Mr. Moes, Grade 6/7	Ms. Price Special Education Assistant
Mr. Rode, Grade 5/6	Ms. Peters, Special Education Assistant
Ms. Klassen, Grade 3/4	Ms. Koudelkova, Special Education Assistant
Ms. Bowman, Grade 2/3	Job posting, Special Education Assistant
Ms. Kluss, Grade 1/2	Ms. N. Rousseau, Indigenous Support Worker
Ms. Jakubec, Grade K	Ms. Mellroy, Food Service Worker
Ms. Silvera, Learner Support	Ms. T. Rousseau, Custodian
Mr. Anderson, Music	

Calendar

September	
8	Class Lists posted -3:30 pm - Non-Instructional Day (Students do not attend)
9	First day of classes - dismissal 11:30 am (busses are running)
10	Regular Classes begin
14	1 st PAC meeting @ 12:15pm in Multi-Purpose Room
17	Class and Individual Photo Day - Retake Day TBA
21	First Day or Strong Start
23	Meet the Teacher Night
22	Terry Fox Run/Hike Houston
29	Orange Shirt Day
30	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (no school)
October	
9	Soccer Play Day - Muheim
12	Thanksgiving (no school)
TBD	Pizza Day - First Day (more information to come)
15	Cross Country Meet (tentative date)
21/22	Parent / Teacher Interviews - Early Dismissal

21/22	Book Fair
23	Non - Instructional Day (Students do not attend)
30	Halloween / Costume Day

Notes from the Community:




CanSkate

LEARN TO SKATE

FOR ALL ICE SPORTS!

Classes Start October 19th

Funding available through Kid Sport & Canadian Tire Jump Start!

Please note that SFSC is not responsible for funding approval

Scan QR Code to Register



www.smithersfigureskatingclub.com

