

Welcome to Aberdeen

The original Aberdeen Elementary was first built in 1890 and has undergone several changes over the years. Although Aberdeen began as a school for rural families, the demographics are now changing. More than half of our 220 students live in urban neighbourhoods. One thing that has not changed, however, is that Aberdeen is a school where everyone knows your name.

Our Mission Statement is "to develop successful learners through targeted individualized instruction and support to ensure high levels of learning". In the past few years, the Aberdeen staff has focused their attention on small group instruction that targets the needs of individual (or groups) of students. Through ongoing assessments, teachers can monitor each child's progress and provide meaningful feedback to promote academic achievement. Aberdeen staff strive to provide small group instruction in many areas throughout the school day. Currently, all students receive small group instruction during reading instruction to target specific reading skills. Research indicates that early interventions promote greater success for students. Our Elementary Strategic Plan outlines a goal of having all students reading at grade level by the end of Grade 3.

Our school goal is focused on reading instruction and achievement. "We strive to have 100% of our students improve their reading achievement throughout the school year".

We also pride ourselves in providing students with activities and leadership opportunities. Extra-curricular activities for our Grade 4/5 students, recreational activities, academic and behavioural support, and friendship groups are a few examples of how Aberdeen Elementary develops a sense of community for our students.

Involving parents, and finding ways to develop partnerships with them, is essential. Research indicates that when schools have good communication with parents, it helps develop academic and social achievement. The Aberdeen staff looks forward to working in partnership with each and every parent. Even if parents are unable to come into the school, a few things that can be done at home to help your child are:

- Listen to your child read every night
- Read to your child
- Talk about the books that your child and you are reading
- Ask your child to write something for you (get your child to choose something they want to write about)
- Read and sign your child's planner nightly
- Ask your child about 3 great things that happened at school each day

Welcome to Aberdeen Elementary School! We are glad to have you as part of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. David Rossi at the school. We are looking forward to a great school year.



Importance of Independent (Home) Reading

Independent (home) reading is an important component of improving students' reading achievement by providing students with the opportunity to practice the skills that they have obtained in class and introducing them to new language and vocabulary. This also helps develop a love for reading that will hopefully stay with each student for years to come. The chart below illustrates the importance of reading and how students that read more frequently are exposed to more vocabulary, resulting in increased achievement levels in reading.

| Achievement percentile | Average minutes of reading per day | <u>Minutes read in one year</u> | <u>Words read in one year</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 90th | 21.1 | 7,701 | 1,823,000 |
| 50th | 4.6 | 1,679 | 282,000 |
| 20th | <1 | 365 | 21,000 |

Goals

The Aberdeen staff strives to ...

...provide a welcoming, inclusive, collaborative, engaging, student-centered environment that allows students to develop a positive attitude and love for learning

Every Aberdeen student strives to ...

...become an ALL-STAR!

How do you become an ALL-STAR?



S.olve problems peacefully

T.ry your best

A.lways make wise choices

R.espectful and Responsible (Respect yourself, others, and the school)



Aberdeen Elementary School

Code of Conduct and Expectations for Behaviour

Purpose

The purpose of the Aberdeen Code of Conduct is to establish and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment where all children can learn. It is essential that our caring adults model and students learn that they have the right to attend a school that is safe, caring and orderly and are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others in learning environments free from discrimination as set out in the B.C Human Rights' Code. We all have a responsibility to do our part to sustain Aberdeen Elementary School Code of Conduct.

Acceptable Conduct

While going to and from school and while attending any school function students are expected to:

- keep their hands and feet to themselves
- respect self, respect others, respect the school and respect property
- help make the school a safe, caring and orderly place
- inform an adult of any unsafe behaviour
- do their very best to participate and learn
- act in a way that brings credit to their family and Aberdeen Elementary

Unacceptable Conduct

- Behaviour that:
 - interferes with the learning of others
 - interferes with an orderly environment
 - creates unsafe conditions
- Acts of:
 - bullying, harassment or intimidation
 - physical violence
 - retribution against a person who has reported something to an adult
- Illegal acts, such as:
 - having or sharing an illegal or restricted substance (e.g. alcohol, fireworks, tobacco)
 - having or using a weapon
 - stealing or damaging property

Consequences

The severity and frequency, age and maturity of the students are taken into consideration when unacceptable conduct occurs. Special consideration may apply to students with special needs who are unable to comply with widely held expectations.

- response to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair
- disciplinary action, whenever possible, is preventative and restorative, rather than merely punitive
- students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for acts of misconduct

Minor Offences

These will be handled "on the spot" by any staff member. Students will be made aware of how their actions were inappropriate and discuss how a better choice could have been made. Minor offences may result in a "Thinking paper" being completed and sent home

for the parent to sign and return to the school. We understand that everyone makes mistakes. When mistakes are made, we need to think about how to make them better so that they don't continue to happen.

Major Offences

Major offences fall into two categories:

1. Conduct which interferes with or threatens the orderly functioning of the school or adversely affects the well-being of others.
2. Conduct injurious to the safety and/or dignity of students or staff. Some examples of major offences are: physical abuse, open opposition to authority, stealing, vandalism, and continuous disruptive behaviour.

The severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct as well as the age and maturity of students is considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action.

- responses to unacceptable conduct are pre planned, consistent and fair
- disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and follows the principles of Restorative Action
- students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations in the code of conduct
- for major offences consequences may involve one of the following:
 - in school suspensions
 - out of school suspensions
 - an Internal Board of Review

Communication

School staff have a responsibility to inform other parties on a serious breach of conduct. For example:

- parents of student who breaks the rules
- parents of the student victim
- school district officials as required by School Board policy
- police and other agencies as required by law
- all parents in a situation deemed by the principal to be important to reassure members of the school community that school officials are aware of a serious situation and are taking appropriate action to address it.

Dress Code

In keeping with District policy 9.260 a dress code is in place. As the need arises this list may be added to:

- Avoid attire that is offensive or distracting because it is extreme in style or too revealing (no spaghetti straps, belly shirts, short shorts etc)
- Avoid attire that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or gangs (this includes jewelry, hats, tattoos)
- Wear appropriate footwear (sneakers in PE class)
- No makeup

Additional School Guidelines

School Hours

9:02am - Welcome Bell
9:07am - Classes Begin
10:50am - Recess
11:05am - Recess Ends
12:35pm - Lunch - Eating Period
12:50pm - Lunch - Outside Time
1:20pm - Classes resume
3:00pm - Dismissal Bell

Student Health and Safety

i. Sick/ill or Late

In fairness to all, children should not be sent to school if there are definite signs of ill health in the morning. If a child is too sick to go out at recess and lunch he/she is too sick to be at school. Sick children need to stay home until they are feeling better. We have neither the facilities nor the personnel to care for sick children. Good health is necessary for effective learning. Students who are ill should receive proper medical attention and should not attend school until their health has improved.

Parents are asked to please call the school or log an absence online every time your child is absent. Please log this absence by 8:45am. We will contact families that have not logged an absence to ensure each child is safe each day. Thank you for doing your part to make sure that all students are safe and accounted for at the school.

ii. Late

Students arriving late must sign in at the office to be marked present for the day. The student will be given a late slip so that the classroom teacher is aware that he/she has signed into the office. This process is in place to ensure attendance accuracy and child safety.

iii. Illness or injury at school

Students who become ill during the day are to inform their teacher. Our policy is to get students who are ill, home as soon as possible. Our practice will be to call parents and ask that the student be picked up as soon as possible. If a parent is unable to come immediately, the parent must make an alternative arrangement. For this reason, it is important that parents keep work and emergency phone numbers current.

iv. Emergency contact numbers

Make sure the school has your current phone number for home and work, and an emergency contact number. Also, please inform the office of any changes to these numbers throughout the year.

v. Medical Conditions

If your child has been identified with any type of serious medical condition with supportive medical documentation (such as Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, Epilepsy, bee allergies) please let the school office know (as per School District Policy AP 327 - Medical Alert Conditions).

vi. Medication for Students

On occasion we have been asked by a parent to ensure their child receives emergency medication. Please be aware that in order to do so, we require the completion of the AP 328-1 Request for Administration of Medication at School Form, by the prescribing Physician.

vii. Long Term Absences

On occasion, parents withdraw students for extended periods of time. Before plans are made to have a student miss an extended period of their schooling, please contact the school principal as early as possible. Consideration should be given to the impact that an extended absence may have on the child's educational progress.

viii. Nut Free School

As we have several students at the school with nut allergies, we have made our school Nut-Free. Thank you for keeping all the students at Aberdeen safe.

iv. Scent Aware

We have many students and staff that are sensitive to scent. Please refrain from wearing scents to school that are overpowering that may affect the well being and learning of others. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Classroom Communication

Teachers welcome frequent communication with parents. Feel free to contact the school to set up a suitable time to talk about your questions and/or concerns. *If Problems Arise*

- First - talk to the classroom teacher, before talking with others. If you are not satisfied...
- Then - talk to the principal. If you are still not satisfied...
- Then you may phone the School Board Office

School Communication

Aberdeen Elementary will be publishing a school newsletter once a month to inform parents about events that are happening at the school and celebrating student success. Please go to the Aberdeen website (aberdeen.abbyschools.ca) to find the newsletters, calendar of events, pictures and more information about the school.

Emergency Drills

Fire, earthquake, and lockdown drills are held on a regular basis throughout the year to practice student safety procedures.

Personal Property/Valuable Items at School

Cell phones and Smartphones, tablets and handheld devices using mobile operating systems are NOT to be brought to school (as per School District Policy AP 323 - Handheld Devices). If these items are brought to school, they are to be turned off during the day and not to be taken outside at recess or lunch. Toys and expensive items should not be brought to school since they often lead to problems between students. We ask your cooperation in having children keep such items at home unless they are specifically requested by the teacher. Aberdeen Elementary is not responsible for any lost or broken items. Children should not bring money to school unless specifically required by the teacher or to purchase an item during a fundraiser. Lending and borrowing money is not allowed.

Homework Policy

Each classroom teacher will have their own homework policy. It is important to get into a regular routine of completing homework/reading at a certain time to develop good study habits. Homework should be a compilation of unfinished classwork, home reading and/or reviewing of concepts that were covered in class. Outside of homework, it is important for students to have the opportunity to be "kids" and play outside, participate in extra-curricular activities, participate in family events, etc. Balancing homework and play is important for all students. By setting up a routine, students should be able to read every night and complete any unfinished classwork and still have plenty of time for choice activities.

K-3 students - 10-15 minutes of reading each night

Grade 4-5 students - 20-45 minutes of homework each night (including reading)

Use of Telephone

We discourage student use of our school phone in all, but EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. Only for important reasons will students be permitted to use the school telephone. School phones cannot be used by students to make plans for after school activities with their friends, this should be done at home the day before.

Bus Expectations

It is of utmost importance that students are on their best behaviour while traveling on the bus. Students behaving inappropriately are not only a danger to others, but to themselves, as well. The bus driver will explain the rules at the beginning of each year. Students not following the rules may receive a written warning depending on the seriousness of the situation. If your child receives multiple written warnings, he/she may be suspended from riding the bus for a period of time. If your child is going to a friend's house after school, please send a note along for the bus driver and advise the teacher.

Physical Education

Aberdeen's Physical Education Program emphasizes on active living through participation in a variety of movement activities, including: games, gymnastics, dance and team sports. These are the Physical Education guidelines: All students are required to have indoor runners with non-marking soles. Due to health and safety concerns, bare feet are permitted during gymnastics only. Runners should be sturdy and good to exercise in. Please do not send your child with tie up runners if they do not know how to tie their own shoelaces.

Kindergarten to Grade 3 students do not change clothing for P.E., however, they are expected to dress comfortably and to have proper indoor runners with non-marking soles.

Students in Gr. 4-5 are expected to have proper gym clothing to change into: T-shirt, shorts and indoor runners with non-marking soles.

When P.E. is held outside, children wear their outside shoes, which should be sturdy runners. Students keep their gym clothing in a bag at school from Monday to Friday. Students are encouraged to take their clothing home over the weekend for washing and then bringing it back on Mondays.

Full participation in all aspects of the program (including gymnastics and special events) is expected. If medical reasons prohibit your child from participating, please send a brief note with your child on that day or for the time period involved.

Lost and Found

All lost and found items will be placed in the "Lost & Found" box located in the hallway near the gym. Small items such as jewelry and glasses are kept in the office. Parents are strongly encouraged to check the lost and found throughout the school year. All unclaimed items at the end of December, March and June will be donated to goodwill. Please label your child's jackets, gym strip etc. to help reduce the amount of misplaced clothing.

Use of Technology

All classes have the use of technology in their classrooms. It is expected that the students follow the technology usage guidelines to make sure they are safe online and to ensure that the technology is used in an appropriate manner. Students that are misusing the technology, may have the privilege revoked for a period of time.

Visitors at the School

All schools in the Abbotsford School District are a CLOSED Campus. All visitors **MUST** report to the office, sign in and pick up a visitor badge to wear during their time at the school. Once they have finished, the visitor must sign out and return the visitor badge.

Volunteers

We invite parent volunteers into our school to help out in classrooms, the library, on field trips, or fundraising opportunities. Please contact the office to pick up a volunteer package.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) advises the Principal and staff on parental views about school programs and activities. The PAC also communicates with parents about what is happening in the school. The PAC organizes activities and events such as the Family Fun Night. The success of the PAC depends on parent involvement. The PAC meetings are held once a month. The dates of the meetings are noted in the monthly newsletters and on-line. All parents are welcome. The PAC makes recommendations regarding: School Growth Plans, learning resources, money matters, school spirit, fundraising, needs, etc.

Expectations

All students are expected to abide by and follow rules set by the classroom teacher in the classroom. Each teacher will outline, explain, and review classroom rules throughout the year to ensure students have a good understanding of the rules in the classroom.

Students at Aberdeen are expected to:

- S.olve problems peacefully
- T.ry your best
- A.lways make wise choices
- R.espectful and Responsible (Respect yourself, others, and the school)

1. Students are reminded that any teacher or staff member in the school has the responsibility to correct inappropriate behaviour.
2. Students will follow the classroom rules established by the teacher, with the students, for that classroom.
3. Wherever possible, students are encouraged and expected to speak up and solve issues of conflict themselves. When another student says or does something to them (or another student) that is not right, students are expected to say "stop". If the other student does not stop, then the student is expected to go and get help from an adult.

Before School/After School

Teacher supervision starts at 8:55am. Please do not send your child to school or drop off your child before that time to ensure child safety.

A staff member is on supervision until 3:15pm at the end of the day. Please make sure that your child is picked up before this time. Children are not allowed to play on the playground at the end of the day unless there is supervision by a parent/guardian.

Rollerblades/Skateboards/Scooters/Wheelies

For safety reasons, rollerblades, scooters, skateboards, and shoes with wheels on them ("wheelies") are not permitted at school. If a child is biking to school, they can bike to school but must walk their bike while on school grounds. Students riding a bike MUST wear a helmet according to BC Law.

West Coast Recess/Lunch

Due to our weather pattern in the winter months, we encourage all students to bring appropriate clothing for the weather. If it is raining slightly, we are going to be encouraging the students to go outside for fresh air and exercise. Students are required to come to school with proper coats, shoes (boots), etc. Parents are also encouraged to send a change of clothes with your child in case he/she becomes wet at recess or lunch.

On occasion, we will have inside days. During inside days, students are expected to find a quiet activity to occupy their time and keep their voices down (no yelling).

School Cash Online

All fees, including field trips, planners/agendas, etc. will be purchased on School Cash Online. This helps with accounting, avoids lost/misplaced money and saves time for parents and staff. Don't forget to sign up for school cash online to pay for all school related expenses. Please visit the website for guidelines on how to sign up for School Cash Online. It takes less than 5 minutes to sign up and you will receive email reminders when new items are posted online.

If parents are unable to pay online, they must come to the office to pay. Please do not send money with your child.