

John Diefenbaker Public School



1090 Branion Drive

Prince Albert, SK

S6V 2S8

306-763-6031

Principal

Mr. Kevin Koroluk

Vice Principal

Mrs. Brandi Sparboe

Welcome to John Diefenbaker Public School

Our school was opened in September of 1965. Over the years, we have developed a reputation for being an excellent school with current, quality programming; a reputation enhanced by supportive parents in a terrific neighbourhood. What a combination!

The present staff is proud of this tradition and is committed to maintaining and continually enhancing this reputation. We fully support our motto that “Every Child Matters” and we also support the extensive research that says parent involvement improves school and student performance.

We are looking forward to working with you to maintain and enhance the great traditions of John Diefenbaker Public School.

John Diefenbaker Public School Staff

General Information

John Diefenbaker Public School is a Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8 public elementary school. We have a population of approximately 400 students.

The school facilities consist of the following: Twenty classrooms, a music room, two Student Support Services rooms, art/science room, language arts reading materials and math materials room, a computer lab, a library and a gymnasium. In addition to providing a quality education, John Diefenbaker Public School provides many opportunities for students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Bell Schedule

8:37	Warning Bell
8:40	D.E.A.R. and Announcements
8:50	Period 1
9:30	Period 2
10:10	Recess
10:25	Period 3
11:05	Period 4
11:45	Noon
12:32	Warning Bell
12:35	Period 5
1:15	Period 6
1:50	Recess
2:05	Period 7
2:40	Period 8
3:15	Dismissal

Before & After School Program

A Before & After School program is offered at John Diefenbaker. Drop-off time begins at 7:40 am and the pick-up time is by 5:30 pm.

Registration forms and additional information are available in the main office.

Staff List

Mr. K. Koroluk	Principal
Mrs. B. Sparboe	Vice Principal
Mrs. S. Gosselin	Secretary
Mrs. B. Ward	Secretary
Mrs. T. Hamilton	Pre-Kindergarten
Ms. M. Gervais	Kindergarten
Mrs. C. Hickie	Grade 1
Mrs. P. Klassen	Grade 1
Mrs. S. Auramenko	Grade 2
Miss. B. Hoda	Grade 2
Mrs. B. Dansereau	Grade 3
Mrs. L. Meyer	Grade 3
Mrs. J. Compagna	Grade 4
Mr. D. McConechy	Grade 4
Mrs. S. Donaldson	Grade 5
Mrs. K. Skrudland	Grade 5
Mrs. M. Jones	Grade 6
Ms. G. Moline	Grade 6/7
Mr. R. Fines	Grade 7
Mrs. M. Currie	Grade 8
Mr. R. Tomy	Grade 8
Mrs. C. Berge	Phys. Ed./Grade 8
Mrs. K. Clarke	Band/Music
Mrs. S. Paul	Student Support Services
Mrs. M. Smith	Student Support Services
Mrs. T. McHenry-Vick	Teacher Librarian
Mrs. Calder-Aydt	Library Technician
Miss C. Wendelborg	School Social Worker
Mrs. B. Bassingthwaite	E.A.
Mrs. C. Freed	E.A.
Mrs. D. Gottfried	E.A.
Mrs. S. Kohle	E.A.
Mrs. L. Lloyd	E.A.
Mrs. L. Magee	E.A.
Mrs. C. Stark	E.A.
Mrs. L. Wirtz	E.A.
Mr. P. Ksyuniuk	Caretaker
Mr. D. Demerais	Caretaker
Mr. D. Lohmaier	Caretaker

School Social Worker

Our School Social Worker is a liaison between the school, the home, and the community. She assists families with concerns regarding their children and helps new students and families to adjust to the new school environment and neighbourhood. She is available for home visits, and can be reached at the school, 763-6031.

School Fee

All children from Kindergarten through Grade 6 attending in the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division pay an annual school registration fee of \$15.00. Grade 7 and 8 students pay a \$30.00 school fee. This money is used to cover a wide range of expenses such as outdoor education, field trips, and extra items necessary for school programming. It is sometimes necessary to charge an additional nominal fee to cover extra field trips or special project costs. We will try to minimize extra costs as much as possible.

Supply List

All students are given a supply list in June to allow parents to buy school supplies. The supply list is similar for all schools within the system. Extra copies of the supply list are available at the general office or on our website.

Attendance & Phone-in Policy

Regular attendance is very important. Parents are expected to telephone the school or send a note if their child will be missing classes for the day or a portion thereof. **Our phone number is 306-763-6031.**

If your child does not arrive at school, and you have not notified the school through a note or phone call, we will attempt to reach a parent at home or at work to ensure that your child is safe. This is a time-consuming process for us. Thank you in advance for notifying us when your child will be late or absent.

Newsletter

A detailed newsletter will be sent out near the beginning of each month to inform you of upcoming events, school closures, special activities, etc. It is helpful to keep the newsletter and use it to help plan your month.

Remind App

Our school uses a one-way text messaging and emailing system called *Remind*. *Remind* is intended to improve communication between the home and school. With *Remind*, all personal information remains completely confidential. We will never see your phone number, nor will you see ours. It is fast, free, easy, safe, and an excellent way to stay informed about important events at our school.

There are two ways of receiving messages, either through text messaging or through email. You will receive short messages when there are important days or events coming up at school.

Please take a minute to give it a try!

- Text the message **@johndi** to the number **306-500-6044** or
- Send an email to johndi@mail.remind.com (You can leave the subject blank and do not need to write a message.)

If you want to get started but aren't sure how, please contact Brandi Sparboe or your classroom teacher for help. If you would like more information about *Remind* you can also visit www.remind.com to learn more. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Report Cards & Parent–Teacher Interviews

Report cards are sent out three times each year. Reporting periods fall within the following three months:

§ November

§ March

§ June

Since it is impossible to communicate fully with parents through a report card, parent – teacher interviews are scheduled after the November and March reporting periods. Parent – teacher interviews are scheduled right after report cards are sent home, but are not limited to these times.

Lunch Program

All students are welcome to stay for lunch at John Diefenbaker School. With this privilege comes the responsibility to behave in a respectable manner. If students abuse the privilege through lack of cooperation, parents will be contacted and appropriate action will be taken. Ongoing issues with any one student will lead to lunch hour privileges being revoked.

Parents will receive a note at the beginning of the school year asking parents to indicate whether students will have lunch at school or will have permission to leave the school to go home for lunch. Please return this note so that noon supervisors are aware of which students leave at lunch and which students stay.

Telephone/Cell Phone

We have only 3 phone lines at the school. Our phones are often busy. We try to keep a line free for calls from parents, etc. If you get our answering machine, and choose to leave a message, please indicate the date and time so we can get back to you as soon as possible.

Students are allowed to use a school phone with special permission for significant reasons. We discourage student use of the phone for casual reasons and prefer that students make social plans from their home.

Students that bring a cell phone to school will have it turned off and stored in a safe place, such as their locker. Cell phones are not to be in use or turned on during the school day. If students are found using their cell phone the phone will be taken and kept in the office until the end of the day. Should this happen a second time the phone will again be kept at the office until the end of the day and the student's parent/guardian will be informed. If a third incident occurs, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the phone will be kept until the parent/guardian is able to come in to pick up the phone.

Students Taking Pictures at School

With the possibility of pictures being placed on Facebook, etc. without the consent of an individual, the school will be following the guidelines below to protect the privacy of students, staff, and community members.

Unless given permission from staff, students are not permitted to take pictures.

- ❖ First time– The student will be asked to delete the picture and the camera or electronic device will be taken from the student and stored in the admin office until the end of the day. Parents will be contacted.
- ❖ Second time- The student will be asked to delete the picture and the camera or electronic device will be taken from the student and stored in the admin office until the end of the day. Parents will be contacted and the student will not be permitted to bring a camera or electronic to school.

Dress

Unless it is unusually cold, children are expected to play outside before school and during recess. They should, therefore, be warmly dressed and have on appropriate footwear. Clothing with inappropriate language, slogans and/or advertising are not permitted. Students will be asked to change at school or make a quick trip home for appropriate attire.

Clothing should be marked so that, if it becomes misplaced or stolen, it can be identified and returned. Outdoor footwear must be left on the boot rack – therefore alternate footwear should be provided for indoor use.

If clothing or overall appearance is in excess of the perceived norm of a young student, we reserve the right to ask a student to change into attire more appropriate for a K-8 facility. Hoods, coats and hats are not to be worn in class.

Bikes, Skateboards & Scooters

Students bringing bicycles to school must lock them in the bike racks. Bikes cannot be ridden on the school property between 8:20 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. on school days. Skateboards and scooters are considered the same as bikes. They also may not be ridden on school property. Students who deliberately disregard these rules will have the privilege of bringing their bikes, skateboards & scooters to school revoked for a period of time. Thank you to our students for their cooperation.

Bikes without locks must be left at home. **The school does not accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged bikes.**

Gum, Candy, Sunflower Seeds, etc.

Children are not allowed to chew, eat, or bring to school such things as gum, candy, or sunflower seeds. Should it be necessary to have cough drops or throat lozenges at school, please send a note. Teachers will hold any candies brought to school by children. Any pattern of gum or candies at school will result in a parent contact and disciplinary action.

Discipline

The majority of our students are co-operative, well behaved young people. Great!

Occasionally, minor disciplinary action is required for some students. When possible, consequences directly related to the misbehaviour are implemented. Time out or detentions are given by teachers for misbehaviour as well. This type of detention is served in the classroom or in a study cubicle.

When misconduct is ongoing or of a more serious nature, students will meet in the office with the principal and / or vice-principal to create a positive, behaviour-corrective action plan. Parent contact, in-school suspensions, loss of privileges, and eventual out-of-school suspensions are hopefully avoided by a student who commits him or herself to get "back on track".

Home and school communication is a very important part of the discipline process, and it is often the key to assisting a student in improving his or her behaviour. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Physical Education Program

Our school's program is presented by a physical education specialist. Fitness, fundamentals, and fun are very important aspects of any physical education program. To have fun and become physically fit, total participation is very important. Students at John Diefenbaker Public School enjoy physical education and participation has always been very high.

There are certain requirements that should be met by all students. These requirements are that each child has a pair of gym runners with non-marking soles, and some type of gym clothing (usually shorts and t-shirt). Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are required to have gym runners only. They should try to wear suitable clothing on the days of their gym class. Gym wear is extremely important because of our concern for each child's health and safety. It is much easier and safer to move around in gym clothes than in jeans or a dress.

Since physical education is a mandated part of the Saskatchewan Curriculum, it is expected that all students will participate in class unless the teacher has been informed of health problems which will restrict activity.

Band

The John Diefenbaker Public School Band program begins in Grade 5. At the end of Grade 4, students go through a selection process to decide which instrument they will play the following year. All students from Grade 5 to 8 are welcome to join; no one is excluded from the program. School instruments can be rented by the band students for an annual fee of \$50.00. The bands perform throughout the school year at concerts, assemblies and festivals.

We have two levels of band: Junior and Senior. The bands traditionally participate in the local Music Festival and depending on finances and ability may or may not undertake certain road trips to other festivals and concerts in other schools.

There is no fee for band students other than the instrument rental. The uniform is a band shirt and black pants.

John Diefenbaker School has a long history of a strong band program, encouraging students in the performing arts.

Music Program

The music program is presented to students during class time and includes a variety of different activities. These range from singing, movement, dance and instrumental playing. The younger grades begin with rhythm instruments. In Grade 3 and 4 the recorder is added. The older students spend time learning the ukulele and guitar. Orff instruments are also used.

Library

John Diefenbaker Public School library consists of nearly 15,000 books, magazines, newspapers and other related materials which the students are encouraged to make use of in their studies.

Each class has a scheduled library book exchange period every six days. Full replacement cost is charged for any lost or damaged new books. Students who lose library books will lose their borrowing privileges until books are returned or paid for.

With the permission of the teacher-librarian, students are welcome to use the library for additional research or reading before or after school. Several computers are available in the library. Students will be able to word process, browse several CD-ROM programs for research purposes and surf the Net!

Outdoor Education

Our school carries on an active outdoor education program from Kindergarten through Grade 8. The program in Grades K-3 usually consists of trips within the city to visit places such as the Fire Control Centre, Post Office, a bakery, the hospitals, etc. Grades four and five are involved in more extensive trips, which may take them to places such as Fort Carlton and Batoche. Grade 6, 7 and 8 students may be involved in day camping or skiing trips as well as day trips to such places as Waskesiu or Waneskewin Park in Saskatoon.

Places such as Mouse Meadows and Little Red Park have, in the past, been visited quite often by students of all ages. Thank you to parents for your support in attending such trips as supervisors and for supporting ongoing fundraising.

Extra-Curricular Activities

This is a priority at our school. We provide extra-curricular activities aimed primarily at Grade 5 to 8 students. Special events and theme days are organized for students Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Activities are conducted primarily before school, during the noon hour, recess, and after school from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. The activities are predominantly physical education, music oriented, and events organized by our student council. We strongly encourage students to become involved in the many rich opportunities that will be available to them.

Assemblies

Assembly presentations provide a special opportunity for students. Teachers will arrange assemblies throughout the school year. Assemblies will be held occasionally in the rotundas as well as the school gymnasium. All assemblies and times will be communicated to our parents via the monthly newsletter.

Assemblies allow us to showcase our learning and our growth as individuals. Assemblies are connected to learning outcomes and highlight student development in areas such as reading, writing and speaking which are directly linked to the English Language Arts Curriculum. Students also have a chance to perform music, dance and drama which are part of our Arts Education Curriculum. Parents are encouraged to attend as often as possible. Please come!

Special Activities

Special activities are happening all the time at John Diefenbaker Public School. We are sensitive to and try to be careful not to be too disruptive to our academic program. Events such as our assemblies, carnival, special S.R.C. days, Christmas concert, and playday are among the many special activities we have enjoyed at John Diefenbaker. The staff and S.R.C. will continue to strategically plan special activities throughout the year – so be sure to come and join us – whenever possible.

Fundraising

The students of John Diefenbaker – either on a classroom basis or on a school-wide basis – conduct fundraising activities. We try to conduct 1 larger scale fundraiser throughout the year so that families do not feel that they are constantly fundraising throughout the year. The JD School Band will also have some fundraising events. The school will make a sincere effort to spread these activities out over the year so as not to cause a burden during any one month. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Pictures

School photos are taken in the fall. The program we are using contains individual and class pictures available to students and parents in a wide range of packages with varied prices. The photographer does return for retakes if necessary.

Fire Drills/Lockdown Drills

Fire drills will be held several times in the fall and again in the spring to familiarize students with this aspect of fire safety. Students are expected to have indoor footwear in the event that a fire drill occurs during inclement weather.

John Diefenbaker Public School has a process for preparing students for other potential emergencies by doing lockdown drills. This process will be taught to the students ahead of time and practiced throughout the year. Essentially, this is a drill by where the student would be the safest if they remained in their classrooms.

Lost & Found

Clothing in almost new condition often ends up in the lost and found. We encourage parents to periodically check our overflowing lost and found box for missing items. Please have rubber boots, shoes, coats, runners, etc. clearly labelled so they can be easily identified and returned.

Although students can look for missing articles at any time, we periodically display the contents of the lost and found box in the hallway to give the children a better opportunity to identify and claim their belongings.

Insurance

All children at John Diefenbaker Public School are insured on a 24-hour basis on any school day or while taking part in a school sponsored activity and related travel. Accident Insurance information is sent home with all students in the fall of each year.

Busing

Busing is provided for all students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten will be picked up at their home. Busing is also available for students living a distance greater than 200 metres from the school. Designated bus stops have been established. Please ensure that you know where your child will be picked up and dropped off. If students should miss the bus, parents are responsible to ensure the child gets to school by some other means.

Students will be dropped off and picked up in front of the school. Please be aware of the bus zones and avoid parking in these areas. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Parking Lot

For student safety, we ask parents **NOT** to use the staff parking lot to drop off students. Please stop on Branion Drive to drop off students, and they can then use the walkway.

School Community Council

Parents are a wonderful asset to any school and have a positive impact on students and performance. An active parent group is one indicator of a successful school, and our parent group is no exception! Our monthly newsletter will inform you of the opportunities at John Diefenbaker Public School and within the larger school division. Please do not hesitate to call the school (763-6031) if you missed some of the information or are interested in becoming more involved. Get involved for your child's sake and for you too. It is fun and rewarding. Give it a try; we'd love to have your input.

Public Health Nurse

A Health Nurse is assigned to John Diefenbaker Public School. She provides ongoing service to students and information and advice to staff throughout the school year. The public health office is located on the 2nd floor, in the McIntosh Mall (953-2245).

The basic school program consists of:

- § Immunizations

- § Vision and hearing screening

- § Health appraisals and follow-up of health concerns as referred by teachers

Our nurse welcomes parents and students to contact her at the office or school regarding any health concerns.