

# École Isabella Dicken Elementary School

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

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Ki?su?k kyukyit! Bonjour! Hello Panther families!

We are so excited to welcome back our students and families to École Isabella Dicken Elementary School (ÉIDES), and we extend a special welcome to the new students and families joining our community—we are so glad you're here! This September, **550 students and over 60 dedicated staff members** are filling our hallways with energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning.

Our first week was both busy and positive as students settled into classrooms, built connections with new classmates and teachers, and began learning school routines. We also gathered for our **Welcome Back Assembly**, where we celebrated the year ahead and explored our core values of **Kindness, Connection, and Courage**. Together, we practiced ways to build a caring community, strengthen relationships, show kindness, and recognize courageous acts.

At ÉIDES, we believe strong communication builds strong connections. Families can stay up to date through our **monthly newsletter**, the **School Messenger App**, our **Facebook page**, and the **ÉIDES school website**, where you'll always find calendars, resources, and key information. We also encourage parents to get involved with our **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** - a wonderful way to support our school community. The first PAC meeting of the year will be held on **Tuesday, September 9th at 7 pm**, and we hope to see you there!

We are also looking forward to our **Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 18th** - a meaningful tradition where our school community comes together in support of courage, hope, and perseverance.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a year of learning, kindness, connection and courage.

Warmly,  
**Ms. Neufeld & Ms. Leeden**  
Administrative Team



## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

- September 18 Terry Fox Run
- September 19 Indigenous Education Professional Dev Day
- September 23 - 25 School Photos
- September 29 Orange Shirt Day
- September 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day  
NO SCHOOL
- October 2 Family Read Night
- October 10 Yellow Day - NO SCHOOL
- October 13 Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL
- October 20 - 23 Early Dismissal - Communicating Student  
Learning Conferences
- October 22 Take Me Outside Day

### ÉIDES Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting

Please join us for our first meeting on  
Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

**School Library in person**  
*There will be free babysitting in the  
kindergarten room during the meeting*



Breakfast Club is up and running again for the 2025-2026 school year. All students are welcome to join us in Room 110 from 8:30 - 8:55 am for something to start the day off right! We offer a variety of cereals with milk, fresh fruit, bagels, yogurt, cheese, granola/fruit bars, applesauce and homemade muffins. There is no charge to join us for breakfast and is open to our entire student body. Come say hi to Kassidy & Hailey!



## Indigenous Education

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a fabulous Summer. I am thrilled to be back for another year at ÉIDES as the Indigenous Education Support Worker.

I work with students of Aboriginal Ancestry. We engage in multiple programming including individual support, small group activities, breakfast/lunch programs, provision of school supplies, cultural activities, elder support/community connections, field trips and more.

**At Isabella Dicken School we are proud to honour Indigenous Culture and welcome students to our Indigenous Program who Self Identify as First Nation, Metis, or Inuit.**

**Please contact Mrs. Peters or the office to sign up your child for Indigenous Programming if they are not already signed up and you would like them to participate. 😊**

The next upcoming School Wide Indigenous Event is Orange Shirt Day on Monday September 29<sup>th</sup> in honour of Residential School Survivors; I'm looking forward to seeing a "sea of orange" at our School.

If you would like any more information about the Indigenous Education Program or upcoming events, please feel free to contact me at: [kerry.peters@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:kerry.peters@sd5.bc.ca).

Enjoy the upcoming fall weather!

Mrs. Peters/Indigenous Education Support Worker- ÉIDES



# Things to Know:



## Cell Phone/Electronic Devices & Smart Watches

The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen cell phones. Cell phones/Electronic Devices & Smart Watches must be turned off and put away safely DURING THE SCHOOL DAY and are not to be used for taking pictures anywhere on the grounds and are not allowed in the change rooms or washrooms at any time. In order to encourage social interaction and creative play, students are asked NOT to bring electronic games or devices to school.

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Our district utilizes the School Messenger System -  
<https://home.schoolmessenger.ca/>

to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can join by sending a text message of "Yes" or "Y" to **978338**. Please make sure you are utilizing the cellular number that the school has on record. The cellular phone number for SMS must match the contact information on file.

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Click here for  
[Nut Free Snack Ideas](#)





# Daily Bell Schedule

8:20 - 8:50 am	Morning Supervision #1
8:50 am	Welcome Bell / Students Enter
8:55 am	Classes in Session

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## Recess

10:15 - 10:30 am	Kindergarten, Grade 1 & Grade 1/2 (Murray) - Primary Playground Grade 5 - 6 - Intermediate Playground
10:30 - 10:45 am	Grade 2 - Primary Playground Grade 3 - Primary or Intermediate Playground Grade 4 - Intermediate Playground

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12:15 - 1:05 pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
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1:00 pm	Welcome Bell
1:05 - 3:05 pm	Classes in Session

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### Starting on September 8th

To register for a StrongStart program in British Columbia, you must visit the office to complete the registration form and provide proof of residence and your child's identification.

Acceptable documents for your child's ID:

- Birth Certificate, Passport or Visa
- Permanent Resident Card
- Other documentation issued by Immigration Canada
- Aboriginal Status Card

This must be a current document showing a parent or guardian's name and address:

- Mortgage statement
- Property tax assessment
- Rental or lease agreement
- Current utility bill (BC Hydro, FortisBC, internet, or cable)
- BC Driver's Licence

## StrongStart - Fernie



- A free, parent-accompanied play and learning program for children ages 0-5.
- Snacks provided.
- Play-based and learning activities facilitated by a qualified early childhood educator.

**Monday-Friday**  
**9:00-12:00**  
\*Follows school calendar\*



StrongStartBC

**Ecole Isabella Dicken**  
**Elementary School**

250-423-4651  
[cbal.chawkins@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:cbal.chawkins@sd5.bc.ca)



**Play**



**Connect**



**Learn**



# **SIBSHOPS SCHOOL YEAR KICKOFF**

**OPEN TO ANY KIDS 8-13, WITH A SIBLING WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS.**

**Scan the QR code to register!**

- **4 Free workshops**
- **Every Tuesday from Sept 23 – Oct 14**
- **9–10 AM**
- **@EIDES Elementary**





# Family Fun Time for Newcomers

NEWCOMER  
SERVICES  
PROGRAM



Mondays

September 15 – October 27

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Isabella Dicken Elementary School

**To register or learn more contact:**

**Jodie Parker** - Settlement Worker

✉ [swiselkvalley@cbal.org](mailto:swiselkvalley@cbal.org)

☎ or text 250-946-6474

🌐 [cbal.org](http://cbal.org)

**Come and join us every week!**

Are you a **work permit-holder** or a **permanent resident of Canada**?

This **FREE** program is for you and your kids!

- Meet other newcomer families
- Eat healthy snacks
- Make fun crafts
- Play games and activities

You'll also learn about CBAL settlement services and other community programs that can help you.



**cbal**  
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

Funded by / Financé par:



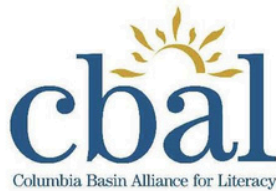
Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



WelcomeBC

# Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program



## What is a Settlement Worker in School?

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS Workers) help eligible immigrant and refugee students and their families to settle and integrate into their schools and communities.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) provides support for immigrants as they begin their new lives in Canada.

We can help with many things, including referrals to community services, helping to understand the Canadian school system, and English language training for adults.

Your SWIS worker is not there only for students - they are able to provide the wrap-around support your entire family needs to thrive.

## Is my family eligible to receive SWIS services?

If you and your family members are:

- Permanent Residents
- Refugees
- Refugee Claimants
- Work permit-holders
- Study permit-holders
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens



Yes! You may register for the SWIS program at your school.



## What does service look like?



## How do I register?

- ✓ Complete a paper or online registration form
- ✓ SWIS Worker will connect with you by email / text / phone
- ✓ Bring your family members' immigration documents to your first meeting

**We help students and their families access the supports they need to successfully settle and thrive!**

## What kind of services do you provide?

That will depend on the kind of support you and your family need!

Here are some examples of the work we do:

- Support with completing registration forms
- Help with understanding your children's report cards
- Join you for support at parent - teacher meetings
- Hold workshops for families to learn about the Canadian school system
- Host cultural events
- Provide one-to-one support for students at the school or at our local CBAL office
- Host after school groups and homework clubs
- Make referrals to community supports
- Provide other information and resources to support you and your family

## Why should I register?

We know that adapting to a new school can be challenging. It is even more challenging in a new country. The SWIS Worker in your community can provide many types of support for both you and your children.

Beyond helping with learning about your school, your SWIS Worker and our community settlement team are able to support you in many different ways:

- Language training for eligible adults
- Workshops to support employment success
- Connections to many community-based programs and services
- Volunteer opportunities
- Building your social network through events and programs

Contact us to register & to learn more.

**All of our services are FREE to eligible newcomers!**





## **Meet your Elk Valley SWIS Worker**

Jodie Parker

Jodie lives in Fernie with her husband and two teenagers. She is passionate about working with families and children and feels grateful for the opportunity to do so through her work.

Committed to making a positive impact, Jodie values the connections she builds along the way.

In her free time, Jodie enjoys running, cross-country skiing, and creating art.