

Ellison Elementary School

2400 FULTON ROAD • VERNON BC V1H 1S3

Phone (250) 260-4176 • Fax (250) 260-3956

Principal: Mrs. C. Johnson

Vice Principal: Mrs. Jodie Bzdel



ELLISON ELEMENTARY

Welcome Back! 2025-2026

Principal's Message

We hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer! We hope that you are relaxed, recharged, and ready for a fresh start to the school year. We are looking forward to an incredible year filled with lots of smiles, positive energy, productive classroom environments and an ongoing commitment to building a strong and caring school community. By working together, we will continue to provide the best opportunities for our students to grow as kind, independent, creative, curious and enthusiastic citizens in our world.

This year, our school has grown by another division, with a total of 19 classes. There have been a few staffing changes, as we have said farewell to some teachers and support staff and welcomed several new faces to the Ellison Eagles. Our energetic team is already getting ready to welcome your amazing children to the 2025-2026 school year! We look forward to seeing our Grades 1-7 students on Tues., Sept. 2nd and our Kindergarten students on Wed., Sept. 3rd.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Colline Johnson, Principal & Mrs. Jodie Bzdel, Vice Principal

Back to class plans

First Day Back: Tuesday, September 2nd 8:30-11:30am

- Students will return to the same teacher that they had last year.
- Before school, we will have teacher names on pylons at the back of the school to indicate where students are to line up. If your child's teacher has moved to a different school, we will have a new or returning teacher take the class for the first day.
- New students will check in with Mrs. Palmer and Ms. Shore at the Welcome Table. If you know someone new who will be registering for school, please direct them to the office as soon as possible.
- Early dismissal will take place at 11:30.
- For students in kindergarten, their gradual entry schedule begins Sept. 3rd. Gradual entry schedules were sent out earlier this summer. Please contact the school office at 250-260-4176 if you have any questions about your child's kindergarten gradual entry schedule.

We are hoping that we will be able to have students begin in their 2025-2026 classes on Wednesday, September 3rd. We will confirm this decision by email afterschool on Sept. 2nd. If we are unable to settle our classes for Wednesday, students will be back with the same teacher they were with on Tuesday. We ask for your patience while our team works to ensure that all registrations are appropriately placed.

Important Dates

Sept. 2	Grades 1-7 Students back in session 8:30 - 11:30am
Sept. 3	Welcome Kindergartens! Gradual entry begins
TBD	PAC Meeting – info coming soon!
Sept. 19	School Terry Fox Run 9:00am ~ route volunteers needed!
Sept. 24	Cross-country Race #1 Marshall Fields
Sept. 29	District Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Sept. 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no school)
Oct. 1	Student school supply fees due Cross-country Race#2 DND

Save the Date!

Oct. 8: Cross-country Race #3 (in Lumby)

Oct. 13: Thanksgiving (no school)

Oct. 15: Photo Day (Nov. 5 retakes day)

Oct. 15: Volleyball games begin

Oct. 22/23: Fall Conferences early dismissal days (11:30am)

Oct. 24: Pro-D Day (no school)

Nov. 10: Pro-D Day (no school)

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day (no school)

Dec. 17-18: Christmas Concert week

School Fees

School supply fees are a way for us to provide a common set of materials for all students in each class at a cost that is economical for families. Fees are as outlined below:

- K – 1\$50.00 (supplies for year and cultural fee)
- Grade 2-3.....\$65.00 (supplies for year, agenda, and cultural fee)
- Grade 4-7.....\$70.00 (supplies for year, agenda, and cultural fee)

Fees can be paid in person at the office or by using our online payment system through MyEd BC. Fees are due October 1. To login to MyEd and 'how to' instructions, please visit: <https://www.sd22.bc.ca/myed-bc>



Allergy Reminders & Medical Alert Updates

We are a “nut aware” school as we have several students with severe food allergies. Please avoid including nuts and nut products, in your child’s lunches. As a public building, we are required to maintain a fragrance-free environment. Please avoid using fragrances (such as body spray, perfume, or fragrant body lotions, hand sanitizers, etc.) while on school premises, as we have staff and students who are sensitive to fragrances.

If your child has a medical alert, please ensure that you contact the school office to update the appropriate forms for planning purposes.



Dress for the Weather

Please help ensure your child dresses appropriately for the weather. All students will go outside for exercise, play, and fresh air in all kinds of weather conditions (except during times of extreme inclement weather).

Before and After School Planning

Safe Arrival: Please make sure to call the school office at 250-260-4176 to inform us if your child is sick or will be absent from school. If we have not received a call and your child is absent, we will need to call to ensure student safety. Please note we have a new SMS “School/Text Messaging Service” to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. [Information flyer click here.](#) You can opt out anytime you choose.



After School Plans: Please arrange after school plans with your child prior to school drop-off in the morning. This should include who is picking them up after school, and where they are to go at the end of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation as this helps to reduce the amount of confusion and phone calls for students at the end of the school day.

Student Supervision: Supervision begins at 8:10am. After school supervision is provided *for bus students* only. All other students are expected to leave the school site directly after dismissal.

Ready for School!

Please help your child build their confidence by encouraging them to be more independent with their morning and end-of-day routines. Please encourage your child to enter/exit the building in the morning/at the end of the day on their own. Choose a special “meeting spot” outside for end-of-day pick up.

Volunteering at Ellison

We encourage and welcome parent volunteers in our school. Parents who wish to help must have a completed criminal record check (CRC). This is at no cost to you through the Ministry of Justice. If fingerprinting is required by the Ministry of Justice, the cost is the responsibility of the volunteer. This process is all online and takes only a few minutes to complete.

Access Code: T8YMWQVAFD Web link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC>

We also have some Noon Hour Supervisor positions currently available at our school. These positions are one hour per day (12:00-1:00). Please refer to website: <https://makeafuture.applytoeducation.com/>

Demographic Information

If you have a change in address, phone number, or contact information, please contact the office. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all our information is up to date and accurate.



Ellison Parent Advisory Council

We are grateful to have a dedicated and hardworking group of PAC Executive members at Ellison. Our PAC president is Tiffany Weatherbee. For updates on PAC activities at Ellison, please refer to their Facebook Page: “Ellison Elementary PAC – Home of the Eagles.” All parents are welcome to attend general PAC meetings. It is a great way to connect with other parents and to share your ideas of how we can make Ellison an even better place for our students.

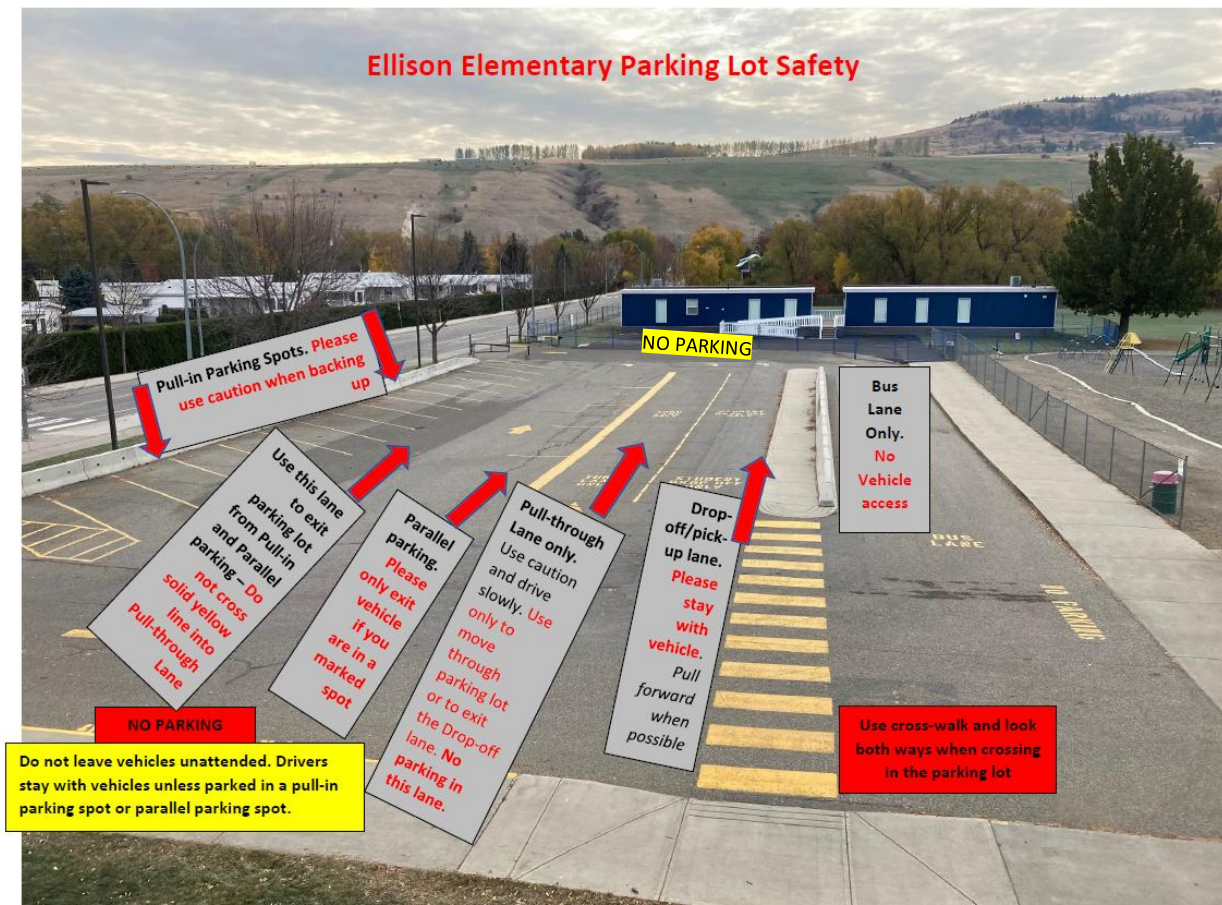
The PAC needs parent volunteers to assist with the Hot Lunch Program. Without the support from our families, we will not be able to offer this program. Please email ellisonpac@gmail.com if you can help in some way, even for one day a month for 45 minutes. Thank you!

Parking Reminders

Our parking lot is a busy place every day, particularly just before and after school. A few things to be aware of:

- Please do not leave vehicles unattended unless you are in a designated parking spot.
- Please make note of which pull-through lane to use.
- No parking in the pull-through lane.
- Drop Off/Pick-up Lane: This is a super quick “drop & go” lane! Please pull forward as soon as you can.
- Please remind your children to use the crosswalk and to make sure drivers can see them when crossing the parking lot.
- Please be patient and courteous to other drivers.
- Please walk, bike, carpool, etc. as often as possible!

Thank you for your help in making our parking lot safe for everyone!



SOARING to Success!

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ELLISON EAGLES

August 26, 2025

Hello Ellison Families,

It is with great excitement that we write this letter of introduction to you as the new Administrators of Ellison Elementary School. We are honored to have the opportunity to join a school with so much heart, dedication and support. We feel very fortunate to be part of this school team! We're grateful for this opportunity to keep building an environment that connects students, staff, families, and community partners to support every child's success through meaningful experiences.

With over 50 years of shared experience in education, we've come to believe deeply in the power of connection, compassion, and purpose. As leaders, we're here to create meaningful learning opportunities by fostering a culture rooted in collaboration, integrity, and innovation. We lead with heart—supporting students, staff, and families—because we know that when we work together, we can shape a school community where every child feels seen, valued, and inspired. Grounded in the present and hopeful for the future, we nurture excellence and empower our students to grow into confident, self-reliant citizens ready to make a difference in the world.

Please know that our doors are always open to you. We heartily welcome your conversation and positive input throughout this year. We will always keep our students the primary focus of our work. We look forward to meeting you and celebrating our collective successes as we move forward!

Sincerely,

Colline & Jodie

Hello everyone – I am Colline Johnson and I am thrilled to be the Principal at Ellison this year! My journey in education has been driven by a deep belief in the power of connection, inclusion, and lifelong learning. I've had the privilege of serving as Principal at Coldstream & Mission Hill Elementary schools, and a short time at Charles Bloom Secondary, where I worked alongside passionate staff and families to create a nurturing, student-focused environment. I spent most of my childhood in Nelson, BC and settled in Vernon in 1999, where I am grateful to live with my husband and 2 teenagers. Throughout my career, I've been committed to fostering safe, respectful spaces where every student feels seen and valued. I believe leadership is about listening, learning, and lifting others up. I'm continually inspired by the resilience and creativity of our school communities and I look forward to the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

C. Johnson

way and hello - My name is Jodie Bzdel, and I am honored to join the staff and families at Ellison School as Vice-Principal this year. Returning to Vernon from Saskatchewan feels like coming home. About 20 years ago, my husband, our two daughters, and I moved here, and I worked as a School-Based Resource Teacher and Grade One teacher at Beirsto Elementary School. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to serve in many roles, including classroom teacher from Kindergarten to Grade 8, Learning Consultant at the Division Office, and Vice-Principal. These experiences have shaped my commitment to fostering strong relationships, collaboration, and a student-centered approach to learning. I am proud to live, work, learn, and play on the ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Nation. I am dedicated to working closely with staff and families to create a supportive, welcoming school community where every student feels safe, included, and a true sense of belonging as they thrive, grow, and develop a passion for lifelong learning.

Sincerely,

Jodie Bzdel

SD22's Code of Conduct has been established to maintain a safe, caring and healthy learning environment.

It is the shared responsibility of students, staff, parents / guardians and the broader community, to demonstrate positive conduct while attending any school or District related activity, at any location.

The Code of Conduct applies to behaviour within District premises and during activities that are organized or sponsored by the District. It also extends beyond the typical school or workday when it affects the provision of a safe, caring or orderly environment – including social media and other interactions where they impact the safety of the environment for members of the school community.

All members of the school community are expected to:

- show respect for the diversity of the members of school and District communities;
- behave in a safe, thoughtful and courteous manner;
- never threaten, harass, intimidate or assault, in any form, any person within our school district community, through physical violence, verbal abuse or any forms of media;
- never be in possession of weapons, dangerous articles, alcohol or illegal drugs, while in school or work;
- show respect and pride in district facilities and equipment through care and appropriate use of school district property;
- treat guests, at sport, cultural, graduations and all other events with respect; and
- comply with the purpose and spirit of the BC Human Rights Code, including not engaging in discriminatory conduct on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

All members of the school community must refrain from engaging in any in-person or digital communication or behaviour that is considered to be:

- Interfering with the learning and working of others;
- Bullying, harassing, intimidating, retaliating, discriminating or violent; and
- Unsafe or illegal including the possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, or the possession of weapons or replicas.

Use of Personal Digital Devices:

- “**Personal Digital Device**” means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet, smart watch, and IoT (Internet of Things) devices. All use of personal digital devices must be in compliance with Ministerial Order 89/2024ⁱ and SD22's Acceptable Use of Technology Administrative Procedure whereby:
 - Use of student personal digital devices during hours of instruction is for instructional purposes and digital literacy.
 - Digital devices may be used to support students with diverse abilities as outlined in student's support plans and Individual Education Plans.
 - Use of personal digital devices is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage.
 - Personal digital devices may be approved from time to time to support medical necessities outlined in a safety plan.

All members of the school community are entitled to experience spaces that are free from harm, where acceptable behaviours are met, and where all members feel they belong.

Priority will be placed on supporting individuals and determining the root causes of behaviour. If the safety or educational program of others is compromised, or if there is an ongoing failure to meet the expectations of the Code of Conduct, a range of consequences will followⁱⁱ. Every effort will be made to protect individuals against retaliation relating to the Code of Conduct. Whenever possible, incidents will be resolved by discussion, mediation and restitution.

ⁱ Minister of Education and Child Care, R.S. (2024) *Ministerial Order 89/2024* (gov.bc.ca), PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Ministerial Order No. M89. Available at: https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/mo/hmo/m0089_2020 (Accessed: 29 April 2024).

ⁱⁱ See [SD22 Progressive Discipline and Suspension Guidelines](#)