



FALCONS

Francois Lake Elementary School

Volume 2026/27-3
October 8, 2026
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Admin. Assist.: Mrs. J. Vossen

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Principal's Message

Hello Francois Families,

It's been another busy two weeks here at Francois. Between new clubs, Talk About Learning Time, emergency drills, more assessments, and new school projects, in addition to all the normal classroom learning that happens every day, things are happening here.

Falling leaves, Thanksgiving, Halloween; what else does October mean? Our new volleyball team! Maybe you can tell, but AI didn't help me write that. A big thanks to Bob Fowler for returning as our team's coach. From my first gym class focusing on volleyball this month, I could tell this school has a higher baseline for volleyball foundations than I am used to. Definite evidence of good coaching and teaching in the past. For such a small school this was wonderful to see see! It seems like the primary class is also really enjoying my volleyball-adjacent activities I've been doing with them. Another benefit, I get to meet more of you when you're picking up your child after practice. As a school with such a high percentage of kids who ride the bus, It's been nice to see more parents around the school.

This month the teachers, district staff, and I have been speaking a lot about our students' literacy development. Throughout these productive discussions, one of the common themes has been writing. As we collaborate on this at school, you might be wondering what types of things you could be working on at home. While there are lots of good ideas out there, I usually start by suggesting journaling. Penmanship, hand strengthening, articulating ideas, healthy habits, processing emotions or thoughts, and just general comfortability with writing are all benefits I've seen from regular writing practice.

For some kids, this is an easy activity to have them do at home, or they are already doing it. For others, any type of writing results in a lot of pushback. Often, those are the students who might benefit from it the most. While building any habit might take some extra motivation at the start, like rewards or significant parent involvement, once it becomes a routine expectation (e.g. "we don't do X until the 10min of journaling is done"), the pushback usually decreases significantly. And for those really reluctant writers, I like to ham it up and give them prompts that might be over-the-top silly to get them going. If you have any pro-tips that you've seen work well at home, shoot me an email and maybe I'll share them in the next newsletter for others to try!

Mr. Rosenau
Principal

No School Tomorrow – Friday, October 23 – Pro D Day

Mark your Calendars!

(Dates & events subject to change)

October

23 (F) Pro D Day—**No School**

November

10 (T) Remembrance Day
Ceremony 10:45 AM

11(W) Remembrance Day—**No School**

18 (W) PAC Meeting 5:30 PM

20 (F) Pro D Day—**No School**

December

15 (T) Learning Updates Go Home

17 (Th) Christmas Concert 1 PM

21 to January 1—Winter Break

January

20 (W) PAC Meeting 5:30 PM



Bus Stuff

Just a reminder, our **phones** are **not** personally **answered before 8:45 AM, nor after 3:00 PM**, but you can always leave a message. Unfortunately, messages left after 3:00 PM won't be heard until the following school day.

Any **alternate** bus or pick-up **plans** need to be at our office **before 2:30 PM** every day. We are happy to book changes for a week at a time. If we don't answer the phone during the day, please leave a message! 250-695-6401.

And if you are making significant changes to bussing (drop off change, etc.), please contact the Bus Garage at 250-692-3130.

Lock Down Drill – Another Success!

Our Lock Down Drill took place today at 10 AM. If your child comes home that day all excited telling you of the RCMP coming to the school and rattling on doors, this is why ☺



The end of next week is Hallowe'en!

Students are welcome to celebrate Hallowe'en at school on Friday, Oct. 30.

1. No prop weapons. No weapons, real or pretend, are permitted on school property.
2. Masks or props are permitted before school, at lunch, and after school but will be put away during class time. Send these items at your own risk – FLES is not responsible for broken or lost items.

Students are also welcome to not celebrate Hallowe'en at school 😊 Celebrating is fully optional!

10 tips to staying safe at Hallowe'en – did you know that at Hallowe'en children are twice as likely to be hit by a vehicle than any other time of year?

1. Decorate costumes with reflective tape or stickers.
2. Use face paint. If you can't or don't have face paint, make sure masks have wide eyeholes.
3. Hold and use glow sticks or flashlights.
4. Make sure costumes fit properly.
5. Always cross the road at traffic lights or pedestrian crossings.
6. Always walk along sidewalks or pathways.
7. Make sure an adult goes with you, especially if you're 12 or under.
8. Leave your phone in your pocket while you're walking! Stop to look at it.
9. NEVER go into a stranger's house, even if they invite you in.
10. Stay with your friends.

Have a safe and fun Hallowe'en!



Searching for patterns and discovering math in nature!



Finding friendship while learning!

Board Biz...



New Board of Directors

Meet School District 91's new Board of Directors:

Steve Davis	Angela Clause
Nyree Hazelton	Rick Pooley
Manu Madhok	Carroll Walker
Nadine Frenkel	

PAC Posts...

The next **PAC meeting** will be **Wed. Nov. 18** at 5:30 PM. All parents are welcome, and babysitting is provided! How do **YOU** want your kid's experience at school to be? Come have your say!

Meet our PAC Representatives!

Chair – Amy Wainwright
Vice Chair/Treasurer – Jess Shively
Secretary – Ileasha Gooding

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91

We're Hiring!



See a need in your kids/grandkids school?
Have a bit of extra time?
Come work with us!
Check out www.sd91.bc.ca/employment, find "Join our Team!" and log in/make an account through Make a Future! We look forward to working with you soon!

And the last word goes to:

Alex M. who was seen practicing kindness, fair play and encouragement in the frenzy pit with the youngers. He shows wonderful sportsmanship both in and out of class. Thank you for being a terrific Falcon role model out in the playground!!!