

Cedar Elementary

Year: 2023-2024

Principal/Vice Principal: C. Wood/L. Watford



Our School Story

What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?

Cedar Elementary is a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school with an enrollment of approximately 341 students for the 2023-2024 school year. Our school has a unique and rich history. Originally our campus was Cedar Junior Secondary School, home of the Spartans. It later became home of North Cedar Intermediate (Grades 4-7) and then in 2016, we became Cedar Elementary School when Woodbank Primary combined with North Cedar Intermediate. We are now home to the mighty Timberwolves.

A dedicated parent group volunteer on the school's PAC supporting Cedar Elementary School. The PAC organizes many fundraising opportunities throughout the school year. They generously support learning opportunities for all students.

Our school enjoys a positive connection to our local community. I.e. Fire Station, local businesses, Gas N Go, high school, etc.

What are the important demographics of our school and community?

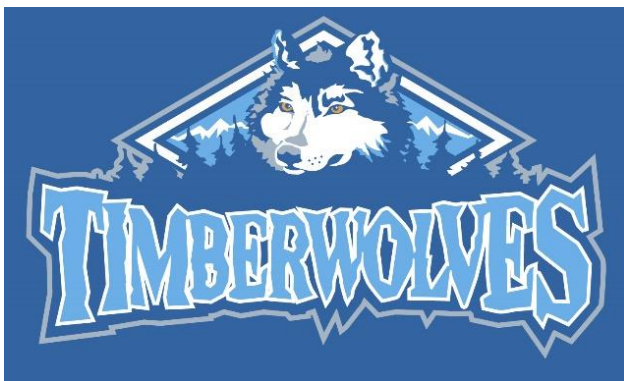
Our students are currently organized into 15 divisions, with many divisions including split grades. Our school also hosts a Strong Start program which is accessed by many families in our catchment area who have preschool aged children. There are approximately 100 students registered in our Strong Start Program. Our school is located on the traditional, unceded lands of the Snuneymuxw people and we are grateful to work, learn and play on this beautiful land.

Cedar Elementary School students mostly live in the surrounding rural area and represent diverse family structures, socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic and cultural groups. Our catchment area is very large, and many students go to and from school on a school bus. There are approximately 62 students of Aboriginal ancestry attending our school and we believe in integrating Aboriginal Understandings in all facets of our learning through the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

Our School Goals

1. **Literacy goal - (Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment):**
To foster a love of reading and writing.
2. **Social responsibility goal - (Safe, caring, and healthy learning and working environment that is inclusive of the diversity of our entire learning community and Truth and Reconciliation):**
Our goal is to create a positive school environment by fostering our PACK traits – Problem Solver, Accountable, Cooperative, and Kind Timberwolves.

Leading with Kindness



Our School Celebration Story

Cedar Elementary has a strong JEDI focus this year (Justice/Equity/Diversity and Inclusion) fostering a positive school environment through our PACK values – Peaceful problem solving, Awareness, Responsibility and Kindness.

We began our year with a weeklong PACK initiative meeting each morning for a whole-school assembly. At each assembly we discussed individual values using relatable slides, songs, and fun events. Classes continued to further develop their skills with activities and projects which were proudly displayed on bulletins boards and in classrooms. We celebrated the culmination of the week with a buddy/pancake breakfast supported by both PAC and the Cedar Fire department.

As a commitment to using PACK values at school, each student decorated and put their name on a heart which we used to decorate our school community bulletin board.

To support our PACK initiative, students are recognized each day 'for putting their best paw forward' with blue PACK tickets. When they bring their ticket down to the office, students stamp their hand, so everyone knows they are proud to be part of the PACK. Each week a name is pulled from every class to claim a prize.

In addition, we recognize 2-3 students each month at our spirit assembly as a Timberwolf of the Month. The Cedar community GasNGo has teamed up with the school to offer prizes for our amazing students.

As a beautiful reminder for students to remember our school values, we redesigned our PACK poster and have displayed it prominently across the school and in each classroom. By designing the poster with both words and symbols, it has been a very useful resource for K-7.

Great Kindness challenge – students participated in a week of kindness activities including the Clippers, Seniors placement decoration, glow bowling, creating a positive PACK quote of the day and a school-wide picnic and peace photo.

Another area we are focusing on is increasing a school wide student love of reading and writing. A few of the activities to support this goal are:

- Lots of read alouds
- Guest authors
- Principals and SD68 staff reads
- Invite community members (police, fire, medics etc to read)
- Buddy reading
- Independent reading programs
- School wide writes
- Increased primary and intermediate collaboration
- Book reviews
- Story workshop
- Independent reading programs
- Got caught reading tickets with a prize draw