

## **Grade 5 Transition Strategies**

**The following are a list of transition strategies developed through discussion with R.L. Angus staff, PAC representatives from J.S. Clark, G.W. Carlson and R.L. Angus, DPAC and District staff. We hope that the implementation of these strategies will increase the confidence of parents and students as they transition from grade four to grade five. If you would like further information on these strategies, please contact Ms. Donna Powell, Principal, R.L. Angus Elementary School, or your PAC President.**

**Further information will be available at the Parent Orientation Meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the R. L. Angus library.**

- RLA Principal and Vice-Principal to phone each grade 4 parent and welcome them to RLA community
- Grade 4 Visit to RLA –
  - Remind grade 4's that the classroom they are visiting now may not be the one they actually go into next year
  - Tour of school and school grounds
  - Personal invitations from present grade 5's to grade 4's
- Welcome letter from RLA administration to grade 4 parents
- Mug & muffin for grade five parents and new parents within first two weeks of school (ask PAC to co-sponsor with school). Have Book Fair at time other than Mug and Muffin.
- Have Pod color codes to make it easier to navigate around the school
- Locate grade 5 classes closest to playground equipment
- First week of school provide bonding buddies to assist grade 5's with lockers, activities, etc.
- Optional (parent or student request) – provide new students who are feeling nervous an opportunity to shadow a duty staff member for breaks to help them get to know the school grounds and indoor activities
- Ensure grade 5's get to meet all staff and know who is available to assist them inside and outside the school
- Continued phasing in of Friends Program. Grade 6 & 5 will both know the language of this program and by the following year all RLA students will be “friends” aware
- Have the first school dance be a “family” dance

- Ms. Hay has volunteered to be the sponsor for the new Buddy/Mentoring/Peer tutor/Help program
  - School “Buddy” program to encourage grade 6/7’s to look after the younger members of our school community and build positive relationships with them
  - Continued social responsibility opportunities
  - Continued extra-curricular activities
  - Develop more opportunities for grade 4 and 5 activities throughout the year, including non-competitive and curricular activities .i.e. gr. 4 & 5 Spirit Day in RLA gym
  - Provide specific gr.5 activities/assembly so grade five students get to know each other
  - Investigate having the grade fives begin school without grade sixes and sevens to learn school layout, routines, etc.
  - School staff will look at Pod configurations that will best meet student needs
  - Introduce extra-curricular opportunities to the students so they are aware of what is happening and what the activity is.
  - Reissue class selection sheet at Orientation Night so that parents have met the gr. 5 teachers and provide opportunity on class selection sheet for parental input for “buddy program”
  - Have teachers go over expectations for home communicators with students and send information on this home to parents. Try for consistent use of home communicators
  - Display staff photos and names
  - Post a Pod map
  - Have mailboxes in gr. 5 classrooms for students
  - Encourage parent volunteers
  - Welcome parents to the student orientation
  - Work on website/communication tools
- Note that these strategies are available on the GWC website: [www.sd81.bc.ca/gwc](http://www.sd81.bc.ca/gwc)**