

PAC NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

Welcome Cheam families, both new and returning.

Thank you for all who came to the Welcome BBQ. It's purpose was to celebrate the unique sense of community we have as families (and staff) at École Cheam Elementary, and you made it an overwhelming success. Special thanks to the planners, committee, and our many volunteers for putting together such an excellent menu and event.

By now we hope that all families are falling in to the school routine. The purpose of the PAC newsletter is to inform you, as parents, about PAC related news & events throughout the year. We've already started planning events (read more about those in this newsletter) but we can always use more volunteers!

This is not your (stereo) typical PAC - we are fun, open to ideas, and do more than just fundraise.

I'm proud to say that we have 3 Cheam PAC executives who attend District Parent Advisory Council meetings (2 as executives, 1 rep), a partner liaison at Chilliwack Healthier Communities, and 2 active PAC members sitting on the Reconfiguration Implementation Advisory Committee. Through these channels we continue to educate ourselves on important school-related topics such as Reconfiguration, Curriculum, Anti-bullying initiatives and so on.

We also have a Traffic Safety Committee, which initiated discussions with the School District and helped design the new parking lot configuration (Phase 1, slated for Summer 2018). We continue to lobby for improvements. We also lobby the District and Province directly regarding capital funding, portable conditions and overcrowding. We hope to further strengthen our partnerships and resources this year – if you have any suggestions, please contact us!

That isn't to say that fundraising isn't important. Over the years, fundraising has provided some *excellent improvements for Cheam*, including the new Playground structure, the gymnasium's filtered water fountain, annual library book purchases, classroom support and the subsidization of new (coming soon) gymnasium A/V equipment to name just a few.

The fundraisers that we do run are generally very popular (Neufeld Farms and Coupon Books are excellent examples) and parents generally partake based on value rather than pressure. Cheam PAC also has a Hot Lunch Committee which manages about 2 hot lunches per month(!), and also takes on the Milk Program. If you have a fundraising idea that is both fun and profitable, please feel free to contact us at cheam-pac@sd33.bc.ca.

As parents, we are all PAC members. Just showing up to a meeting as a parent or caregiver gives you the right to vote. We encourage you to view our meeting agendas, attend our meetings, and become part of the discussion in making Cheam a better place for its students and families.

Looking forward to another great year at Cheam.

Jared Mumford

on behalf of

École Cheam Elementary PAC

Calendar Dates

- Dec 11th PAC Meeting at 7pm
- Dec 15th Pancake Breakfast with Santa
- Dec 15th Christmas Carol sing-along
- Dec 22nd Last day before Winter Break
- Jan 8th First Day Back to School

Early French Immersion applications for kindergarten and grade one can be made online at www.sd33.bc.ca during the week of January 8th-12th.

Reconfiguration Updates can be found on the Chilliwack School District Homepage



Volunteer Today!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our programs, have ideas for new programs, or simply want to help out and get involved, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Email: cheam-pac@sd33.bc.ca

Why do we need to fundraise?

Fundraising is important for any school for a number of reasons. Fundraising certainly helps fill some of the recent gaps we've seen in school funding - some field trips, presentations, and important learning equipment simply wouldn't be possible without fundraising dollars. Fundraising can also provide an opportunity for us as a school to get together as a community, and provides opportunity for some of the older children to learn entrepreneurial arts and general responsibility.



Jared Mumford—President

"I have two sons at Cheam Elementary, in grades 2 and 3. I am a small business owner. This year I am President of École Cheam Elementary PAC as well as an Executive Member at Large at Chilliwack District PAC. I believe that the Elementary Years should be full of inspiration, discovery, self-growth and of course, quality education. I believe parents can play an important role in ensuring our schools have access to the resources they need to provide all of these things, which is the predominant reason I became involved in PAC. "

Melissa Berthiaume—Vice President

I have been involved in the Cheam PAC since my oldest child started Kindergarten. My kids are in grade 4 English and grade 2 French this year.

Over the years I have been involved with various committees within the school and I am excited to now be involved in an executive role



Diane Braun— Treasurer.

This is my fourth year at Cheam, my children are in grades one and three French Immersion. I also have an older son who will be starting late immersion at CMS next year. I am also vice chair of DPAC. Contact me at dpacvp@sd33.bc.ca with any questions or comments.

Pollaris Raymond—Secretary

I am a mother of 2 Cheam students. I work part time as a CDA (certified dental assistant). I started going to PAC meetings to get to know a little bit more about what's happening where my children spend most of their day. I found it a good way to meet other parents, listen/talk about our school and everything around their educations.



Have you joined our Facebook Page? If not, please do so as we update it often. Also a great way to connect with other Cheam parents

Yearbook

We would love to receive more pictures, art and poetry for Cheam's 2017/2018 yearbook. Here are some theme ideas :

December and January: Winter Wonderland / Snowflakes

February: Hearts / Family and Friends

March: Mythical Creatures and Monsters

April: Mother Earth, the natural beauty of our planet / Planet Earth

May: Sunshine and Flowers

June: Favorite Sports / Cheam Spirit

Send you pictures, art and poetry to

cheamsyearbook@gmail.com

Parking Lot

Please remember how hectic our parking situation can be at times. Keep an eye open for traffic cones and our handicap parking stalls. The cones are there to provide adequate space for our buses to exit the parking lot. We have two double wide handicap parking spots (though the blue paint is faded) marked out near the entrance. Even if you're only parking for a minute, you should NOT be using these stalls unless you have a valid pass. Please do not block the front entrance, or park in front of the chained area beyond the last portable. This chained area is where our two daycare vans pick-up at the end of the day.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PAC Positions 2017/2018

- **Chair:** Jared Mumford
- **Vice-Chair:** Melissa Berthiaume
- **Secretary:** Polaris Raymond
- **Treasurer:** Diane Braun
- **DPAC Rep:** Jamie Benton
- **Special Events:** Natalie Worrall, Tanesha Vaughn, Tai Weatherhead, Tamara Holdal, Alandra St. John
- **Fundraising:** Kelly Marks, Catrin Marks
- **Hot Lunch:** Tanesha Vaughn, Kara Humphries
- **Fruits & Veggies:** Mrs. Sheppard
- **Spirit / Sunshine Team:** Connie Macleod, Jocelyn Thomas, Kelly Beaman
- **Newsletter:** Catrin Marks
- **Yearbook:** Polaris Raymond , Nicole Acker and Chris Kendall

