



**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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**Hitting Our Stride**

What an exciting first month of school we have had. Under normal conditions, this period is always a flurry of activity, when the relaxed summer routine is broken off, and we all have to change gears in a short span of time. And would you call this ‘normal conditions’? Given that most students hadn’t stepped foot in school for five months, and pretty much no one has been on anything close to their normal routine since the pandemic first reared its ugly head, our transition back to school has gone remarkably well.

I’d like to take this moment to thank our staff for everything they have done to create a safe and welcoming environment for our students. There has been an astounding amount of individual work done by every staff member, behind the scenes prior to school even starting. And those efforts continue each and every day. It takes a special mix of energy, enthusiasm, patience and skill to work with students. All of those qualities are being put to the test, with COVID-19 ever on our minds. Educating through a pandemic isn’t covered in any teaching program I am aware of. Our staff are handling the situation like champs. With World Teachers’ Day on October 5<sup>th</sup>, please take a moment to let the adults that support your child or children know you appreciate them.

I’d also like to show my appreciation to all of you in the Cheam community, for your support through all of this. I can well imagine how much effort is going on in each and every home to protect your children, and do what you can to make life ‘normal’ for them. The saying ‘it takes a community to raise a child’ has never resonated so profoundly for me than it does now.

I would like to share the following video link with our staff, and with all the amazing parents that make up our Cheam community. Many of you are front line workers and essential service providers, and all of you are dedicated caregivers. It is clearly evident that everyone is going above and beyond to do whatever it takes to ensure our children are well taken care of. [Good job](#), everyone.

<b>New Bell Schedule</b>	
7:59	Supervision Begins
8:09	Warning Bell
8:14	Classes in session
10:00-10:15	Recess #1
10:15-10:30	Recess #2
11:45 – 12:30	Lunch #1
12:30-1:15	Lunch #2
2:14	Dismissal
2:14 – 2:29	Supervision after school

*Specific COVID-19 related information will be regularly updated on our school website, via email and also on our district website.*

**Staffing Update**

We have a number of new staff to welcome to our community.

- ❖ Mrs. Izabela Szczur, Resource Teacher
- ❖ Mme Emilie Poirier, troisième année
- ❖ Ms. Autumn Mastin, Aboriginal Education-Assistant
- ❖ Katie Bennett, Custodian

I am also sad to announce that we have had to say good-bye to Mrs. Laura Catellier, our Teacher-Librarian and English Learning-Assistance Teacher. We wish her the best of luck with her move to Manitoba.

### Allergy Aware: Medical Alert

In an attempt to make Cheam a safer place for all of our students, we respectfully ask that you be 'allergy aware'. We have several students with potentially life-threatening allergies to a variety of food products. Please pay very close attention to communications coming home from your child's classroom teacher for specifics that might impact your food choices. The main one we all need to concern ourselves with is peanuts, as even residual oils can trigger a reaction for some of our students. This could even include the transfer of oils on hands to shared areas like our playground equipment. Our goal must be to make our school a peanut-free area. Thank you for your support and continued vigilance.

### Labeling Clothing

Please label all your children's clothing (jackets, shoes, gym strip, etc.). It is amazing what can get lost at school! In order to eliminate lost clothing, please put your child's name on the label of their personal items.

### Parking Lot

The flow in our parking lot each morning and after school is looking better every day. To help ease the congestion at the end of the day in particular, please consider arriving just a few minutes later. An ideal time to arrive to pick up your child is around 2:20 pm, after the buses have departed.

The number one area we need to see improvement in is the walking traffic, i.e. kids and adults walking through parked vehicles and cutting across the bus lane. I appreciate wanting to find the shortest path from your car to the school, but safety needs to trump efficiency. Please use the sidewalk and crosswalks.

*Here are a few other reminders:* Our buses stagger in before school between 7:35 am and 8:15 am. After school, they will be parked in the bus lane as

early as 1:45 pm, ready for the students at dismissal time. Do not attempt to drive through the bus lane during these times. Please also remember to never park and leave your vehicle unless you are in a designated parking stall. Additionally, make note of the traffic cones placed in certain areas along the roadside and by the exit gate. Our buses require a fair bit of space to make the swing out of the parking lot onto Banford Road. We will have supervisors in and around the parking lot before and after school each day. Please respect the direction they provide. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding. FYI, there's an excellent video outlining [parking lot safety](#) on our school website.

### Terry Fox Challenge

This year's run was a muted affair, but no less important...and fun! As of October 4<sup>th</sup>, we have raised \$792.00. Well done, everyone. We also tallied up all the laps the kids and staff ran. Collectively, we ran over 300 km!

### Early Dismissal and Open House

Our first Early Dismissal Day of the year is planned for *Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>*. The students will be dismissed at 11:14 am. **Buses will be running their normal routes.** Traditionally, the purpose of the early dismissal is to allow teachers time to meet with parents, and share how the students are progressing thus far this term. We are currently working through our options, and will share our plan shortly.

## École Cheam Elementary

### T-BIRD Behavioural Expectations

Here at Cheam, we are all Thunderbirds, and we show this by meeting our expectations each and every day.

**T- Think First** means stopping and making smart and safe choices.

**B- Be Responsible** means doing the right things.

**I- Include and Cooperate** means working and playing together.

**R- Respect Others** means treating others in a kind, fair and polite way.

**D- Do Your Best** means being proud of yourself and your school.

*This is a snapshot of events on the horizon. Please keep your eyes on the website for details and updates.*

### Important Dates in October

Oct 5: World Teachers Day

Oct 12: Thanksgiving (no school)

Oct 15: ShakeOutBC Earthquake drill

Oct 23: Professional Development Day

Oct 29: Early Dismissal

Oct 30: Black and Orange school spirit day

### Important Dates in Nov./Dec.

Nov 11: Remembrance Stat Holiday

Nov 15-21: Bullying Awareness Week

Nov 23: Individual Student Photos

Nov 27: Professional Development Day

Dec 11: Term One Reports

Dec 18: Last Day of 2020

*"Soaring for Excellence"*