



École Cheam Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 3rd, 2021

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Welcome

Welcome back! We hope that you had a fabulous summer and are ready to embark on another fun school year. The first days of school always bring a lot of emotion to parents and students, and this year brings with it some very obvious challenges. Students will no doubt feel anxious to be back in school, but our goal is to restore their sense of safety as they look forward to the daily routines of learning once again. Students are always excited about returning to school to meet old and new friends, and to get to know their new teacher. From the walk into school to the call for dismissal, the opening days set the tone for a successful school year. The following newsletter contains a lot of information, updating you on some changes, and notifying you about what to expect in the coming weeks.

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

Please note that beginning in October, the newsletter will be available electronically only.

Classroom Organization

To ensure our projections from June match the reality now, we may require a few days to confirm our class organization. Until our student enrolment numbers are confirmed, students will remain in their tentative class placements. It is anticipated that students will be assigned to their permanent classroom grouping by the end of this week. We thank parents in advance for their patience and understanding as we confirm our student enrolment numbers.

Student Demographic Updates

If you have had an address, email or telephone number change since the last school year, please notify the office at your earliest convenience. Also, please ensure we have a current *alternate* phone number in case of emergencies. Please remember to always notify the school of any changes that would affect us contacting you, especially in the case of an emergency.

New Bell Schedule (8:15 am-2:15 pm)

8:00 Supervision Begins
8:15 – 10:05 Classes in session
10:05-10:20 Recess
10:25 – 12:12 Classes in session
➤ Eating Period at 11:55 am
12:12 – 12:55 Lunch
12:55 – 2:14 Classes in session
2:15 Dismissal
2:15 – 2:30 Supervision after school

Medical Alert Conditions

All students with potentially life-threatening medical conditions and those who require medication and/or special consideration at school should update their documents on file at the school office as soon as possible.

If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to know about, please speak with your child's teachers as soon as possible as well as contact the office so we can be informed.

Peanut Aware

In an attempt to make Cheam a safer place for all of our students, we respectfully ask that you be 'peanut aware'. Please do not send food containing peanuts, or products that 'may contain traces of peanuts'. We fully appreciate how challenging it can be to change habits and find safe and healthy alternatives. Thank you for your support.

Volunteering

If you are hoping to participate in activities in your child's classroom or help with fieldtrips, a Police Information Check (PIC) must be completed. Police Information Checks are mandatory for all volunteers and are valid for four years. We ask that a PIC be completed once while your child is in the Primary grades and again when they are in Intermediate to ensure all PIC's are current. There is no cost for having this done. Forms can be picked up at the school office.

Please note that we will not be inviting parent volunteers into the school right away, but do intend to be asking soon. We have missed having all your wonderful help! As it can take time for PICs to go through the system, we do encourage you to take care of this step as soon as you're able to.

Staffing Update

We have a number of new staff to update you about. Some will be joining us permanently, and a few will be here temporarily, covering for staff on leave. There are a couple pieces of the puzzle still to complete, but I am very impressed with the dedicated team we have in place. Here's a complete list of our amazing staff:

Teaching Staff

- ❖ Mme M. Gibbs, K (Immersion)
- ❖ M W. Barrow, K/1 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mrs. J. Zacharias, K/1
- ❖ Mme H. Johnson, 1/2 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mme M. Little, 1/2 (Immersion)
- ❖ Ms. T. Rozendal, 1/2
- ❖ Mme E. Poirier, 2/3 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mme C. Carvalho, 3/4 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mrs. K. Burgess-Leon, Grade 2/3
- ❖ Mme J. O'Byrne and Mme A. Valois, 4/5 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mme A. Cazander, 4/5 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mr. G. McDonald and Mrs. J. Williams, Grade 4/5 and PE

- ❖ TBA, Resource Teacher
- ❖ Mme I. Payne, Learning-Assistance Teacher (Immersion)
- ❖ Mrs. K. Sarrazin, Teacher-Librarian/ Learning-Assistance Teacher
- ❖ Mr. B. Klok, Counsellor
- ❖ Mrs. A. Green, ELL Teacher

Support Staff

- ❖ Mrs. N. Shepherd, Education-Assistant/ Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. D. Meester, Education-Assistant
- ❖ TBA, Aboriginal Education-Assistant
- ❖ Ms. E. Hoozevee, Child and Youth Care Worker
- ❖ Mrs. M. Thornton, Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. J. Malazdrewicz, Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. K. Bennett, Custodian
- ❖ Mrs. M. Adrian, Secretary

School Calendar 2021-2022

Our basic school calendar for next year is now ready. It has been included here, at the end of this newsletter, and has also been posted to our website.

School Supplies

In the interest of uniformity and efficiency, our teachers have all asked that you allow them to purchase everything your child needs.

Maintaining an organized classroom is such an important aspect of setting a positive educational environment. Even small details, such as using colour-coded folders and having a decent pencil ready to go, can make the difference between a smooth day and rough transitions for our students.

The list below shows you what we will be charging for each class. The costs reflect the general amount needed to cover the most common consumable items.

- ☐ Kindergarten-Grade Two: \$45.00
- ☐ Grade Three-Five: \$50.00

Please wait until classes are set before sending in your payment. Cash only, please.

Labeling Clothing

Our Lost and Found cupboard is often overflowing with jackets, sweaters, and such. To help minimize loss, please put your child's name on the labels of their personal items.

Supervision

A reminder that supervision begins at 8:00 am in the morning. For student safety reasons, please *do not* drop off your children or leave them unattended before this time. Supervision after school ends at 2:30 pm. Any students that have not been picked up by this time will be asked to wait outside the office.

Please note: The Health and Safety Protocols in place to protect our staff and students are based on school being a controlled environment. While many of the protocols we had in place last year have been relaxed, to help us maintain a safe environment, we ask that parents continue to minimize their presence on site, and respect the personal space of others at all times. Staff will be available to guide students safely at drop-off and pick-up to avoid too much congestion at these peak traffic times. The playground will be open after school, but ask parents to hang back a bit, until the buses and the majority of students have departed. Masks are no longer required in outdoor settings. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Parking Lot

Safety in and around our parking lot is something we need to monitor vigilantly. The majority of our families need to drive their kids to and from school,

so patience and caution should be front of mind. Here are some key things to take note of:

1. Our buses stagger in before school between 7:35 am and 8:10 am. After school, they will be parked in the bus lane as early as 1:45 pm, ready for the students at dismissal time. *On Tuesday, September 7th, the first partial day of school, they will be there by 9:45 am.*
2. The most significant thing we need your support with is remembering to never park and leave your vehicle unless you are in a designated parking stall. If your child needs help getting out of the vehicle, you need to find a parking stall. The bus lane and the through-lane must remain clear at all times, even if it doesn't appear to be a busy time.
3. If you are just dropping off, please pull forward to the cross-walk marked at the far end of the parking lot. Students (and parents) should not be cutting through the parked cars.
4. Coordinating pick-up at the end of the day is trickier as it can be very difficult to find parking. Please discuss your plan with your child. Again, keep in mind students should only be walking through the lot at designated cross-walks and along the paved sidewalks. Students should not be crossing Banford Road without an adult accompanying them.
5. The bus lane can only be used by other vehicles outside of our regular bus schedule, or if otherwise directed by staff on supervision.
6. Please make note of the traffic cones placed in certain areas along the roadside. 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 for your patience and understanding.

Accident Insurance

The Chilliwack School District or Schools Protection Program (SPP) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. Parents/Guardians are responsible for these expenses.

iA Financial Group offers a comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

For more information on the benefits of the coverage, please refer to <https://solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>.

Communication

If you want to know what's going on at school, our website is an excellent place to begin. Visit <http://cheam.sd33.bc.ca/>. Key areas to focus on are the *Home* page, the *Calendar* and *News and Events*. The site will be updated regularly. We will also send out periodic reminders via our email system: sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca.

Beyond this month's edition, all of our monthly newsletters will only be published online. If you require a paper copy, please inform Merilee at the office.

There is a Cheam Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cheamelementary/>, which has proven to be an excellent vehicle for sharing information and keeping families connected. I encourage you to visit the site and request to be added to the group. Please understand this is a parent forum, with parent administrators. If you ever need to get a hold of me or other staff, best to contact us directly.

Your child's teacher will also be in regular contact with you, of course, perhaps by newsletter, communication book, planner, class website, email or phone.

Positive Behaviour Support

Our school adheres to an approach to school safety and orderly conduct called Positive Behaviour Support (PBS). It is clear that people, children and adults alike, function best in a positive climate, where expectations are clearly understood.

PBS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide and classroom behaviour support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behaviour for all students.

PBS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

Fair Notice

Attached is a document entitled 'Fair Notice'. The purpose of this letter is to assure you that we are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff. In addition to our PBS supports at the school level, there are additional District-level supports we will access when student behaviours pose a potential risk to themselves or others. The attached letter outlines how we may respond in these more serious instances.

Parental Involvement

Study after study has shown that parental involvement is the number one determinant of how well all children, regardless of their background, do in school. Here are ten ways you can help your kids succeed in the classroom and beyond.

1. Create an environment in your home that encourages learning.

This will be a major influence on how well your children do in school. Provide them with many different opportunities to become excited about learning. Make sure that appropriate materials from puzzles to paints to computers are available to stimulate their curiosity.

2. Provide your children with a well-balanced life.

Establish routines so that your children get enough sleep, eat regular nourishing meals, and receive sufficient exercise. Limit excessive TV-viewing and the playing of computer and video games.

3. Read to your children every day.

Most of the learning your children will do in school involves reading. Read to your kids to teach them about reading, expand and enrich their vocabularies, and broaden their experiences. Reading aloud exposes them to materials that would be difficult for them to read on their own.

4. Encourage them to read extensively.

As your children progress through school, as much as 75 percent of what they learn will come from the printed page. The more children read, the better their reading skills become. Make sure there are a wide variety of interesting reading materials in your home to encourage the reading habit.

5. Show your children how to be organized.

Children who are organized find it much easier to succeed in school. One of the best ways to teach organizational skills is through example. Show your children how to use such organizational tools as assignment pads, calendars, notebooks, binders, and backpacks.

6. Teach them effective study skills.

Good study skills are absolutely essential to get good marks. Make sure your children know how to read their textbooks, prepare for tests, memorize facts, and use their time efficiently. Encourage

them to have a regular time for studying, and provide a study place that is free of distractions.

7. Urge your children to listen and participate in class.

Listening in class is the easy way for children to learn. Advise your older children to take notes, which will help them concentrate on what is being said. Encourage your children to participate in class. It will greatly increase their interest in what they're learning.

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

Important Dates

Sept 7: First day of school (dismiss at 10:15 am)

➤ Buses are running at dismissal

Sept 8: First full day for Grades 1-5

Sept 22: Welcome Back 'Meet and Greet'

➤ 4:00-7:00 pm, Food Trucks and Faces! Details TBA

Sept 28: Every Child Matters 'Orange Shirt Day'

➤ The official day is Sept 30, but you are all encouraged to wear orange today.

Sept 29: Individual Student Photos

Sept 30: Nat'l Day for Truth and Reconciliation

➤ School is not in session. More details on this inaugural day will be provided.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Sept 8: visits scheduled (no K's in session)

Sept 9: 8:15 am-9:55 am (Session A)

Sept 10: 8:15 am-9:55 am (Session B)

Sept 13: 8:15 am-9:55 am

Sept 14: 8:15 am-12:00 pm

Sept 15: 8:15 am-12:00 pm

Sept 16: 8:15 am-1:05 pm

Sept 17: 8:15 am-1:05 pm

Sept 20: 8:15 am-2:15 pm

8. Help your children learn how to tackle homework.

Doing homework can help reinforce what your children learn in school. Show them how to do it so that homework quickly becomes their responsibility. Help them learn what assignments to do first and how to plan their time. Encourage them not to rush through their homework but to consider every assignment a learning experience.

9. Talk to your children about school.

Your children spend hours in school every day. A lot can happen during that time. Show that you are genuinely interested in their day by asking questions about what they did and talking with them about the papers they bring home. When problems occur, work with your kids to find solutions.

10. Develop a good relationship with your children's teachers.

Good communication between home and school helps children do well in school and makes it easier to address problems.

As we learn how to navigate school in respect to the revised COVID-19 protocols, we will have updates on how you can be more physically present at school.

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.

"Soaring for Excellence"

2021-2022 Local School Calendar	
Days in Session	182
Minimum Number of Instructional Days	175
Number of Non-Instructional Days	6
Schools Open (Early Dismissal- 10:15 am)	September 7
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30
Early Dismissal (11:15 am)	October 8
Thanksgiving Day	October 11
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #1	October 22
Early Dismissal (11:15 am)	November 5
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #2 (Reporting/Assessment)	November 12
Remembrance Day (Statutory Holiday)	November 11
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #3	November 26
Last Day before Christmas Holidays	December 17
Christmas Holidays	December 20 to January 3
Schools Reopen after Christmas Holidays	January 4
Early Dismissal (11:15 am)	February 17
Family Day	February 21
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #4	February 18
Last Day before Spring Vacation	March 18
Spring Vacation Period	March 21 to April 1
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	April 4
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Monday	April 18
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #5	April 29
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #6	May 20
Victoria Day	May 23
Early Dismissal	May 27
Last Day (Early Dismissal 11:15 am)	June 23



Fair Notice

The Chilliwack School District and community partners are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff. As a result schools will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to themselves, other students, staff, and members of the community.

Student threat assessment protocol: Fair Notice

What behaviours initiate a student threat assessment?

A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to, serious violence or violence with intent to harm, or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill others, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/kill others, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours.

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

What is a Threat Assessment Team?

Each school has a Threat Assessment Team which is multi-disciplinary. The team may include Principal, Vice-Principal, District Resource Teacher, School Counsellor and Police.

What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behavior.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behavior by a student shall be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.