



École Cheam Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 1st, 2023

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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.

Classroom Organization

To ensure our projections from June match the reality now, we will 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.

There is a basic outline of the first week at the end of this newsletter.

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 our ability to contact you, especially in the case of an emergency.

Bell Schedule (8:19 am-2:15 pm)

8:00 am-----	Supervision Begins
8:15 am-----	Warning Bell
8:19-10:20 am-----	Classes in session
10:20-10:35 am-----	Recess
10:35 am-12:15 pm----	Classes in session
12:15-1:00 pm-----	Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm-----	Classes in session
2:15 pm-----	Dismissal
2:15-2:30 pm-----	Supervision after school

Reporting An Absence

Very soon our school will be switching to an online absence reporting system called *School Messenger*. For those that have been in the habit of reporting absences through the 'Report An Absence' link from our school website, this new system works much the same way. Click on this link for more details: <https://www.sd33.bc.ca/safe-arrival>. We will also be sending out further information when the site becomes accessible.

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 teacher 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.

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. Also, if you'd like to help out with driving, we'll need a driver's abstract on file. Volunteer driver forms need renewed yearly.

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 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mme M. Little, 1/2 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mrs. G. Palmer, 1/2

- ❖ TBA, 2/3 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mrs. K. Burgess-Leon, Grade 2/3
- ❖ Mme C. Carvalho, 3/4 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mlle C. Williams, 3/4 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mme A. Cazander and Mme A. Wall, 4/5 (Immersion)
- ❖ Mr. R. Marshall, Grade 4/5
- ❖ Mr. G. McDonald, PE Teacher
- ❖ Mme K. Sinclair, Learning-Assistance (Immersion) and Resource Teacher
- ❖ Mme. K. Sarrazin, Teacher-Librarian/ Learning-Assistance Teacher
- ❖ Mr. B. Klok, Counsellor
- ❖ Mrs. H. Brown, ELL Teacher

Support Staff

- ❖ Mrs. R. Zullo, Education-Assistant/ Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. D. Meester, Education-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. V. Nash, Education-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. M. Kelly, Indigenous Education-Assistant
- ❖ Ms. E. Hoogeveen, Child and Youth Care Worker
- ❖ TBA, Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ TBA, Supervision-Assistant
- ❖ Mrs. K. Dieno, Custodian
- ❖ Mrs. M. Adrian, Secretary

School Calendar 2023-2024

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: \$50.00
- ☐ Grade Three-Five: \$60.00

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.

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 5th, 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. ***Never stop to pick-up or drop off around the main entrance.***
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 if 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.
7. Please do not block access for our neighbours to their driveways.

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>.

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

Important Dates

- Sept 5: First day of school (dismiss at 10:15 am)
 - Buses are running at dismissal (i.e. 4 hours early)
- Sept 6: First full day for Grades 1-5
- Sept 20: Welcome Back 'Meet and Greet'
 - 4:00-7:00 pm, Food Trucks and Faces! Details TBA
- Sept 22: Terry Fox Run
- Sept 26: Individual Student Photos
- Sept 29: Every Child Matters 'Orange Shirt Day'
 - The official day is Sept 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, but you are all encouraged to wear orange today.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

- Sept 5: No school for K's
- Sept 6: visits scheduled (no K's in session)
- Sept 7: 8:19 am-10:00 am (Session A)
- Sept 8: 8:19 am-10:00 am (Session B)
- Sept 11: 8:19 am-10:00 am
- Sept 12: 8:19 am-12:00 pm
- Sept 13: 8:19 am-12:00 pm
- Sept 14: 8:19 am-1:05 pm
- Sept 15: 8:19 am-1:05 pm
- Sept 18: 8:19 am-2:15 pm

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.

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.

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.

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.

First Week Plan

➤ Tuesday, Sept. 5th (8:19 am-10:15 am)

All students in Grades 1-3 are asked to assemble on the blacktop (basketball court/Gaga Ball area) when the warning bell rings at 8:15 am. All students in Grades 4 and 5 are to assemble on the playing field, just outside the library.

At the end of the day, ask your child which classroom they were dismissed from. That will be their starting point for tomorrow.

➤ Wednesday, Sept. 6th (8:19 am-2:15 pm)

Upon arrival, Grades 1-5 students will report to their designated areas, as communicated yesterday. If your child is unsure where to report, they are to meet on the blacktop where they will be redirected by a staff member.

The process will be the same for Thursday and Friday.

We expect to be able to finalize classes on Friday. The students will be notified before they leave at the end of the day. You will also receive a brief email from your child's teacher, confirming which classroom they will be in this year.

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"



2023-2024 Local School Calendar	
Days in Session	188
Minimum Number of Instructional Days	178
Number of Non-Instructional Days	10
Schools Open (Early Dismissal- 10:15 am)	September 5
Nat'l Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Statutory Holiday)	October 2
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (District)	October 6
Thanksgiving Day	October 9
Early Dismissal (11:15 am)	October 19
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Provincial)	October 20
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (In Lieu)	November 10
Remembrance Day (Statutory Holiday)	November 13
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Assessment/Evaluation)	November 24
Last Day before Christmas Holidays	December 22
Christmas Holidays	December 25 to January 5
Schools Reopen after Christmas Holidays	January 8
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Assessment/Evaluation)	January 26
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (District)	February 16
Family Day (Statutory Holiday)	February 19
Early Dismissal (11:15 am)	March 1
Last Day before Spring Vacation	March 15
Spring Vacation Period	March 18 to March 29
Good Friday (Statutory Holiday)	March 29
Easter Monday (Statutory Holiday)	April 1
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	April 2
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (CTA)	April 26
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (In Lieu)	May 17
Victoria Day (Statutory Holiday)	May 20
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Assessment/Evaluation)	May 31
Last Day (Early Dismissal 11:15 am)	June 27



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.