

August 30th, 2024

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. 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 is a snapshot of a much more detailed newsletter, available online at <https://cheam.sd33.bc.ca/newsletters>.

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 be in temporary placements.

Something different we are doing is that we are having all students report back to their classroom from last year, where they will be with their teacher from last year and all of their old classmates. We'll do this on Tuesday and Wednesday. This will give everyone a familiar start to the year, and a chance to catch up after the summer. Over the course of the day Wednesday, we will have the students temporarily regrouped, and given the chance to meet and work with the teachers that could eventually be their new teacher for the year.

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.

First Week Plan

➤ **Tuesday, Sept. 3rd (8:20 am-10:20 am)**

Students report to their classrooms from last year. This is also where they will be dismissed from. New students to Cheam are to report to the gym and we'll assign them appropriately. *No Kindergarten students in attendance.*

➤ **Wednesday, Sept. 4th (8:20 am-2:18 pm)**

Upon arrival, Grades 2-5 students will report to their old classrooms, same as yesterday. *Grade 1 students will be given instructions from their teacher on Tuesday what the plan for Wednesday morning is, as the Kindergarten teachers will be occupied with interviews with their in-coming Kindergarten students.* New students also report to the same classes they were in

NEW Bell Schedule (8:20 am-2:18 pm)

8:00 am-----	Supervision Begins
8:15 am-----	Warning Bell
8:20-10:20 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
1:00-2:18 pm-----	Classes in session
2:18 pm-----	Dismissal
2:18-2:30 pm-----	Supervision after school

yesterday. If your child is unsure where to report, they are to meet in the gym where they will be redirected by a staff member.

Kindergarten interviews begin.

Over the course of the day, students will be regrouped and introduced to at least one of their possible new teachers. For our French classes, we have 2 or 3 potential options, depending on the grade level. For our English classes, things are generally more straightforward. It is only our grade one and grade two students that we need to look at how we place them.

At the end of the day Wednesday, students need to make note of where they are being dismissed from, as this is where they will start the day on Thursday. Please ask them about it!

➤ **Thursday, Sept. 5th and Friday, Sept. 6th (8:20 am-2:18 pm)**

On Thursday and Friday morning, students are to report to the class they have temporarily been assigned to. 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.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry schedule begins.

Placement Requests

Every year, I always receive a variety of placement requests from parents. In most instances, information we might not be fully aware of at school is shared. While I cannot promise requests will be granted, the insight shared will be taken into consideration as we make decisions. Balancing our classrooms is a tricky endeavour, with so many variables needing to be considered. We begin this process towards the end of May each year, and review it regularly. Decisions can't be finalized, unfortunately, until the first week of school as many changes in enrolment can occur over the course of the summer.

We want what is best for all of our students, and will do our utmost to ensure a successful school year for everyone. If your child comes home on Friday, upset about their new class, it is fair to explore why they are feeling this way. Check in daily with your child to assess how they are settling in. Work closely with the teacher to help work through any issues that may arise. A major aspect of schooling is to learn how to work and play with others, to develop resiliency, and an ability to positively work through challenging circumstances. Your support in this work is greatly appreciated.

School Supplies

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

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 making your payment. Please note, we are transitioning to an on-line payment system. Information on how to manage this will be shared and reviewed in the coming days.

Terry Fox National School Run

Our school will once again be having our Terry Fox Run down the road at *Leary Integrated Arts and Technology Elementary (and adjacent Walden Park)*. Our goal is to continue to promote awareness of this Canadian hero and for our school community to embrace the worthy cause of donating to cancer research. And if we can raise \$2500.00, Mr. Gardner is again offering to do 'something special'. Students can submit suggestions at the office.

- **School Run:** Friday, September 20th (12:30 pm-1:30 pm). Students will be bussed over to Leary IAT. Families are invited to drive down and join us in running for cancer research.
- **School Fundraising Campaign:** Beginning now and until the end of September, we will be raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation.
 - **There are three ways that you can participate in the fundraiser:**
 - i. Collect pledges. Forms can be downloaded from <https://www.terryfox.org/schoolrun/students/> (scroll down the page for full details). Complete and send back to school by Tuesday, October 1st. Our school code is BC1104.
 - ii. Send money to school with your child up until Tuesday, October 1st (small coins, big coins, paper money, or cheques, payable to the **Terry Fox Foundation**).
 - iii. Pledge <https://terryfoxschoolrun.org/> (Click 'Donate to a School' and search *Cheam Elementary*).