



École Cheam Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

January 6th, 2025

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break. To help children be successful after a long break, it is important to get the family back on a regular routine. It's a challenge, to be sure. A set homework time and a regular bedtime are key, and both truly help students be at their best at school. Your support is always appreciated.

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child that will turn 5 years old before the end of 2025, or know of anyone with kids this age, it is time to register for Kindergarten. You can apply online at any time.

- <https://sd33.bc.ca/registration>.

School Goal

To increase our critical thinking in Literacy, Numeracy, and Social Responsibility.

Inclement Weather

The decision to close schools due to inclement weather is made by our superintendent, and announcements will be made on the district website [www.sd33.bc.ca] and on local radio. Please do not call the school.

Parking Lot

Thank you for your continued patience in and around our parking lot. Please remember, you do not need to rush in the morning. Similarly, there's no need to rush at the end of the day. We have supervision after school. I know many of you arrive very early to get parking. However, if you have the flexibility in your schedule, I invite you to wait until 2:20 - 2:25 pm. Once the buses are gone, our

parking lot becomes very quiet. Your kids will be safe waiting a few extra minutes.

As pedestrians, the safest place to be walking is along the sidewalk. The sidewalks will guide you safely to one of two crosswalks- one by the main entrance, and the other just before the exit.

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

Important Dates

Jan 10 Hot Dog Day
Jan 23 Hot Lunch
Jan 24 Pro-D Day
Jan 31 PJ Spirit Day

Feb 7-16 Carnaval d'hiver
Feb 5 Global School Play Day/Popcorn Day
Feb 12 Family Skate
Feb 13 Hot Lunch
Feb 14 Pro-D Day
Feb 17 Family Day
Feb 24 Hot Dog Day
Feb 26 Pink Shirt Day
Feb 28 Early Dismissal

Mar 12 Term Two Learning Updates
Mar 14 World Book Day/Hot Lunch
Mar 15-30 Spring Break

Additionally, we have narrow walking lanes along two sides of the lot, marked by striped, yellow paint. Pedestrian traffic must remain within these areas. Please respect that the bus lane is for bus use only, **at all times of day**. The *only* exception to this would be when directed by staff. In the morning, at times we can get a backlog of traffic along Banford Road, and the only way for folks to proceed is if cars are directed through the bus lane.

As soon as the pressure has been relieved, we'll stop allowing cars through the bus lane.

Coming Soon *We have so many fun, fascinating, and exciting things on the go through February and March. Here's a preview of some of what we have in store. Updated information will be provided as we approach the various events. Please keep informed by checking our website regularly.*

Global School Play Day

Wednesday, February 5th marks the eleventh annual Global School Play Day. To show our support for this initiative, our teachers will be dedicating one hour during the day to pure, simple, unstructured, and creative play.

How this looks in each class will be a little different, and your child's teacher may have additional information for you. In general, though, we invite students to bring their favourite toy or board game to share with friends. Please don't send anything that is too fragile or expensive, and please, no electronics! For more details, visit:

- <http://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>.

Carnaval d'hiver

Starting on February 7th and continuing to February 16th, the Québec winter carnival, a fine example of québécoise tradition and culture, will be celebrated. On February 12th, everyone is invited to join us for a Family Skate at The Chilliwack Coliseum. In the meantime, for more information about the *Carnaval d'hiver de Québec*, visit:

- <http://carnaval.qc.ca/en/>.

Pro-D Days, Early Dismissal, and Family Day

Our next Professional Development Day is Friday, January 24th. We then have another Pro-D Day on February 14th. Monday, February 17th is Family Day. Our next Early Dismissal Day will be on February

28th, when the students are dismissed at 11:15 am. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 26th is national Pink Shirt Day. The purpose of Pink Shirt Day is to remind us to never lose our focus on working together and treating others with dignity and respect. For more information on this day, and to order t-shirts and other gear to mark the day, visit:

- <http://pinkshirtday.ca/>.

One School, One Book

This is an international initiative that was launched some time ago, designed to encourage the love of reading.

- <https://readtothem.org/programs/one-school-one-book/>

For several years, our PAC has funded the purchase of a chosen novel to gift to each of our families, in the hopes that parents and their children can enjoy reading together. This year, we have chosen the Wendy Orr novel, *Nim's Island*. We will be sharing a variety of materials along the way to help keep families engaged and excited. We will celebrate together on our World Book Day, Friday, March 14th. On this day, students are invited to come dressed as their favourite character from this novel, or any other book they have read.

Cheam 150

Did you realize that our school will be celebrating our sesquicentennial anniversary, that is to say our 150th anniversary this year? The original Cheam school was opened in 1875 at a nearby location (close to Yale and Quarry Road). We will be holding an Open House in May to celebrate this milestone. We are still in the planning stages, but will have more details to share soon.

