



May 1st, 2026

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The Final Push

It's hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of another school year. It will be summer before you know it! But while students are focused on closing out this year, staff are also turning an eye to next year. It's as things wind down in classes our tentative plans for the upcoming school year start to take shape.

Planning for September

Staffing is directly related to student enrolment. If you are planning to move, or transfer to another school in Chilliwack, please contact the office as soon as possible.

At this time, it looks like we will continue to have combined grade classes at just about every level. The more accurate a picture we have of our student population, the more proactively we can build our classes for next year. We don't have a lot of flexibility, but where we do, we want to make the wisest decisions.

Student Placement Information

Staff will be meeting before the end of this school year to discuss the placement of students in classes for next year. To achieve a good balance in each class, we consider many factors:

- Academic achievement and needs
- Class size and composition
- Peer relations
- Previous placement history
- Learning styles

While considering the needs of the school/class as a whole, we take into account the learning and social needs of each child.

Staff members will be working together closely to make thoughtful student placement decisions through a comprehensive process. We do the bulk of this work in June, while we have the students fresh in our minds. We always face a few surprises in the fall, so the stronger our plans are now, the better we can adjust before classes are finalized at the end of the first week of school in September.

School Goal

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

With respect to combined classes, please understand that combined classes are a fact of school life and are more the norm than the exception. The thought process we apply in our selection for combined grade classes, in situations where we have options, is as unique as the students we are working with. We are very confident that the students in these classes receive a full and rich academic program at their grade level. And truly, with the way the curriculum has been redesigned in recent years, teachers have the flexibility they require to balance the needs of their students.

If you have pertinent details to share regarding your child's class placement, we are open to hearing your thoughts. If you send me an email (iain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca), I will ensure this information will be taken into consideration, along with all the other factors already mentioned. Please put 'Student Placement Information' in the subject line.

While all parent input will be given careful consideration, we cannot promise any specific

placement. We can promise, however, that we will do our very best for each and every child. Ultimately, our job is to ensure our students are successful, and their class placement is just the first step.

Summer Learning

Our School District Summer Learning Program is now open for online registration:
<https://sd33.bc.ca/summer-learning-2026>.

School Bus Registration

Registration for bus transportation for the 2026/2027 school year is open. Visit <https://www.sd33.bc.ca/bus-registration-2026-2027> to register your child.

PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting is on Monday, May 11th, 7:00 pm at the school.

Pro-D Days and Long Weekend

Our next Professional Development Day is Friday, May 15th. This is an extra-long weekend as Victoria Day is on Monday, May 18th. Fingers crossed for nice weather! Our final pro-d day of the year is Friday, May 29th.

Spring Arts Showcase

Our school will become an art gallery/theatre on May 20th (1:00-2:30 pm). Scan to the end of this newsletter for full details.

Parking Lot- General Reminder

The safety of students, staff and community members is our number one concern in and around our parking lot. It is very important we all take time to periodically review the expectations at drop-off and pick-up.

All foot traffic through the lot should be contained to the sidewalks and painted crosswalks. If there is

a line-up of cars, please wait until you can pull forward to the crosswalk before letting your child out. If you need to get out of your vehicle to assist your child, please park in a designated stall. It is also essential that drivers not enter the bus lane *unless directed by staff to do so*. The safe walking zone for students along the portables is minimal, so keeping cars out of that area is very important throughout the day.

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

Important Dates in May

- May 5 Class Photos
- May 10 Cheam 150 Carnival
- May 11 PAC Meeting
- May 14 World Education Support Staff Appreciation Day/Family Movie Night
- May 15 Pro-D Day
- May 18 Victoria Day
- May 20 Spring Arts Showcase
- May 22 Hot Lunch
- May 26 Ruby Creek Adventure Park
- May 28 Break the Rules Day
- May 29 Pro-D Day

Important Dates in June

- June 2 Kindergarten Orientation
- June 5 Summer Fun Day/Hot Lunch
- June 11 PAC AGM
- June 12 Bridal Falls Water Park
- June 18 District Track and Field
- June 20 Nat'l Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 25 Last Day of School-Early Dismissal-Final Report Cards

Boundary Review Feedback

The final decision on the future of Cheam by School Trustees will be announced soon. Watch your email for updates.

Happy Mother's Day

Last, but not least, on behalf of the staff, I'd like to wish all our moms out there a very happy Mother's Day on May 10th. Enjoy!

École Cheam Arts Showcase *Bienvenue à la Place des Arts*



Please join us on Wednesday, May 20th anytime between

1:00 and 2:30 pm for an open House gallery walk

Our students have been creating all manner of amazing pieces to share with you. You'll find models, sculptures, paintings, drawings, mixed media and even some drama on display.

Why the Arts?

From the earliest markings upon cave walls, to the rhythmic beating of drums, cultural dance or even the creation of written language, people have been driven to express themselves through art since the earliest days of our species. It can even be said it is one of the unique qualities that make us human.

Yet most people, if asked, would deny being an artist. We assume that to be an artist, we must be a virtuoso or have created a masterpiece, but this is simply not true. The truth is that everybody has the capacity to express themselves through art, and perhaps more surprisingly, we can all benefit from doing so.

We pursue the arts in education for many reasons beyond just making something beautiful. Although, that is a good enough reason on its own. Seeing a completed work of art that you have created stimulates the release of dopamine -*the feel-good hormone*- into our bodies, which lowers feelings of depression and increases feelings of confidence.

Art-making is also a great stress relief, helping reduce the levels of cortisol -*the stress hormone*- in our bodies. It forces the mind to slow down, to focus on the details, and it helps to block out the mind's distractions, resulting in people feeling noticeably calmer and less anxious.

Art can also improve our ability to solve problems. That's right, creating art can help us become better problem solvers. There are two reasons for this. One is that the practice of creating is inherently without boundaries or parameters. It forces you to use your imagination, to think through how you are going to convey your image or message through art. And the habit of thinking creatively helps you to learn new, resourceful ways of solving problems in your art, but also in life.

But secondly, the process of turning our problems into narratives can help us to work through them. By organizing our problems into the framework of a narrative—be it through writing, song or visual art—it helps to bring a sense of order to the chaos that is represented in the problem. This, in turn, gives individuals a sense of predictability and control over their lives.



We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 20th (drop in anytime between 1:00-2:30 pm).