Chalmers Elementary Newsletter

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Principal: Ken Levenstein
Vice Principal: Tony Weber
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Issue #: 5 **Date: January 10, 2018**

Important Dates to Remember:

Jan. 24	Hot Lunch Day (Subway)
Jan. 25	DreamRider Theatre – Emergency Preparedness Tour
Jan. 26	PAC Toonie Treat Day – Krispy Kreme Donuts
Jan. 30	Grade 7 Visit to Burnsview
Feb. 1	Student-Led Conferences (Dismissal at 2:00 pm)
Feb. 2	Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly at 11:00 am
Feb. 6	PAC Parent Education Evening at 7:00 pm (SOGI Session)
Feb. 7	Late French Immersion Parent Information Night at 6:30 pm in the Chalmers Library
Feb. 12	Family Day (No School)
Feb. 13	Kindergarten Registration from 9:00 - 12:00 pm
Feb. 14	PAC Toonie Treat Day – Valentine's Themed Treat
Feb. 20	Kindergarten Vision and Hearing Testing at 9:00 am
Feb. 21	Hot Lunch Day
Feb. 22	Jump Rope for Heart
Feb. 23	PRO-D Day (No School for Students)

Dear Parents:

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday break was restful and renewing and that you enjoyed time with friends and family. The staff and students have come back to school with lots of energy and enthusiasm. This term promises to be a busy one, with many exciting classroom and school activities planned. Our Grade 6's will take to the hills for their annual ski and snowboard lessons, basketball season will begin shortly, planning has begun for our *Ready, Set, Learn* session and our Grade 6 Late French Immersion parent information night, and towards the end of the term we will be supporting the Heart and Stroke Foundation by participating in Jump Rope for Heart.

I hope 2018 is a wonderful year for everyone in the Chalmers community. The staff and I look forward to a fun and busy 2018!

Mr. K. Levenstein
Principal

Mr. T. Weber
Vice Principal

Delta School District
Inspired Learning

Playground Update:

Throughout the month of December, school district staff worked with staff from the playground company to install new playground components to replace the components that were burned down by an arsonist last August. I am pleased to inform everyone that the playground was completed and opened for student use during the final week of school before the Christmas Break! Our intermediate students seemed quite delighted to have their outdoor play space back!

I want to thank our students and families for their patience throughout the process of having our intermediate playground rebuilt. I would also like thank school district staff for their swift response to the initial arson attack of our playground; which included removing the burned down structures and wood chips, installing new wood chips and cleaning the site so that our students could use what remained of the playground while we waited for the insurance companies to determine how they would proceed with our claim. All in all, a successful conclusion to an extremely unfortunate situation for our community.

Staff Changes:

I have some staffing updates that I would like to share with the Chalmers community. First, Ms. Baghela, one of our Grade 1 teachers, is expecting and will begin her maternity leave shortly. In fact, her final day at Chalmers before starting her maternity leave is Friday, January 12th. I am pleased to announce that Ms. Marisa Beeksma has been hired for the position. Ms. Beeksma is currently in a teaching assignment at another school until January 19th. Her first day at Chalmers will be Monday, January 22nd. The school district will provide us with a teacher-teaching-on-call for the week of January 15th while Ms. Beeksma completes her teaching assignment at her other school.

Ms. Bagri, our Primary Supported Learning teacher, resigned from the school district over Christmas Break. We are in the process of posting this position and hope to have it filled over the next two weeks. We are very fortunate that Mrs. Susan McClary has agreed to temporarily cover the position while it is being posted. Mrs. McClary is a retired primary teacher from the Richmond School District who is currently working as a teacher-teaching-on call with the Delta School District. I have had the pleasure of working with her for many years in the Richmond School District and can say that she is an absolutely outstanding teacher. I hope to share the name of the successful candidate for the Primary Supported Learning teacher position with you all in the February newsletter.

Electronics at School:

Santa is often very good to the students at Chalmers, as staff often notice a dramatic increase in the appearance of cell phones and other electronic devices at school when we return from Christmas Break. Staff are concerned with a number of issues associated with students bringing electronic devices to school:

- The invasion of privacy that can occur with cell phone videotaping or photographing
- The type of music being played on personal listening devices cannot be monitored effectively
- The ability for handheld games to distract students during class time and prevent students from participating in active play on the playground
- The potential for lost or stolen valuables
- The status that seems to be attached to these items has placed unnecessary pressure on other students

For these reasons, we ask that students leave electronic devices at home. If a parent wishes their child have a cell phone we are requesting that students turn them off while they are at school and leave them stored in their backpacks during the day. Parents wishing to communicate with their child during the school day can do so via the office. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Traffic Safety:

This is just a reminder to the Chalmers parent community of the following policy with respect to the use of the school parking lot:

There is no parent parking or drop-off in the school parking lot from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

There are two exceptions to this policy. First, licensed daycare providers can contact the school office for a parking lot pass that will provide them with access to the school parking lot during “restricted” hours. Second, families who require the use of our handicapped parking may continue to do so provided they have clearly displayed handicapped parking passes.

We thank you for your support with this matter.

Scent Sensitivity:

At Chalmers, we have staff who suffer from respiratory difficulties that are made worse by scented products. We ask that students, parents, and staff do what they can to avoid using scented aftershave, hair spray, cologne or other scented personal care products.

School-Wide Medical Alert:

Several of our students have life-threatening allergies to eggs, peanuts, nuts (cashews, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, Brazil nuts, pecans, macadamias), and sesame seeds. Exposure to even tiny amounts of nut particles – residue on a desk, a book, a door handle, a computer keyboard or a drinking fountain – may be enough to trigger a reaction. Please help us create a safe environment for them by keeping foods containing eggs, nuts, peanuts, and sesame seeds at home. Several companies are now making nut-free snacks and we encourage you to look for these new products when shopping. Other names for peanuts and other nuts include: arachide, arachis oil, beer nuts, goober nuts, ground nuts, kernels, mandelonas, nut meals, valencias, anacardium nuts, calisson, marzipan, pinion, Queensland nut (macadamia). Label reading is the key to sending safe egg-free, and nut-free foods to school. Please do your part to ensure our school environment is a safe one for all our students. THANK YOU!!

Student-Led Conferences:

This year, student-led conferences will take place on **Thursday, February 1st.** Conferences will last approximately 30 minutes and the students will be in charge of conducting the conferences. To provide time for conferences, **students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm on Thursday, February 1st**. All conferences will be booked using Delta School District's Parent Connect Interview Booking System. Information will be sent home later in the month explaining how to use this online system to book student-led conferences.

Lost and Found:

This is just a reminder that students and parents have until the last Friday at 2:45 pm of every school month to claim lost and found clothing items. Clothing items not claimed after 2:45 pm on the last Friday of every school month will be donated to charity.

Late French Immersion Parent Information Meeting:

Late French Immersion is available at Chalmers Elementary to a child eligible for Grade 6 in September of the application year.

Parents and students interested in learning about the Delta School District's Late French Immersion Program (Grade 6 entry) are invited to attend an important information meeting:

Date: Wednesday, February 7th
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Chalmers Elementary (Library)
11315 75th Avenue

Note:

- The application deadline for Late French Immersion (Grade 6 entry) is Friday, March 2, 2018 at 4:00 pm
- Please apply online at: https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/programs/french-immersion

Kindergarten Registration at Chalmers:

Our Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year will take place from 9:00 – 12:00 pm on Tuesday, February 13th for children who will turn five-years-old by December 31, 2018. Please bring the following information with you when you come to register your child(ren):

- An original Canadian birth certificate, Canadian passport or Permanent Resident Card (for the student **AND** one parent)
- Immunization records
- Care Card
- Proof of residence (current property tax assessment or mortgage agreement documents) or rental agreement

Parents of Kindergarten students are required to register at their catchment area school, but they may pick up a Non-Catchment or Non-District Application Form and take it to the school they wish their child to attend, anytime on or after February 5, 2018 at 8:30 am. ***The earlier you get your paperwork into the school of your choice the better. Please note that applications will not be accepted unless all of the documentation above has been provided.***