

Chalmers Elementary Newsletter

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Issue #: 1

Date: September 10, 2018

Important Dates to Remember:

Sept. 14	Terry Fox Assembly and Run 11:00am
Sept. 20	Welcome Back BBQ & Open House from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Sept. 21	PRO-D Day (No School for Students)
Sept. 28	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 2	Individual Student Photos
Oct. 3 – 5	Grade 7 Outdoor Ed (Camp Jubilee)
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct. 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:25 pm Dismissal)
Oct. 18	October Sharing Assembly at 11:00 am
Oct. 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:00 pm Dismissal)
Oct. 19	Provincial PRO-D Day (No School)
Oct. 22	PRO-D Day (No School)
Oct. 29	Grade 6 Immunizations
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade at 11:00 am

Dear Parents:

Once again, I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year at Chalmers Elementary. We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and that the first week of school was smooth. A warm welcome is extended to our new families, both those in Kindergarten and those with older children. We hope your children are settling into the school and that new friendships are already starting to form.

Ms. Doukas and I are very excited to be joining the Chalmers team! We have both been appreciative of the warm welcome we have received. The school is very well organized, and

the staff is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of your children. The students are showing us that they are extremely polite, well mannered, and respectful. Through our interactions with parents, we have noticed a strong sense of pride and caring about the school and surrounding neighbourhood. It is obvious to us that this is a great school and we are excited to be joining the community and look forward to getting to know everyone in the weeks ahead!

All parents are encouraged and welcome to be participants in the life of Chalmers Elementary, whether that means assisting with classroom or special events, attending Parent Advisory Council Meetings or being involved with school activities as they occur. This kind of assistance is always welcome and appreciated and lets the children see that parents and teachers are working together to provide the best possible opportunities for growth.

We are truly looking forward to a great school year!

Mr. J. McCallum
Principal

Ms. T. Doukas
Vice Principal



Helpful Suggestions for a Successful School Year:

Here are some suggestions that will be helpful in establishing school routines and will make this year the most successful one yet for your child!

Read Together – Children who read at home with their parents are more successful in school. Show your children that you view reading as an important activity by keeping lots of reading material around the house and set aside time each evening for reading. Also, model reading yourself.



Establish A Daily Family Routine – Set a specific quiet time and place every day for homework or general reading. While you should be actively involved in your child's homework routine, let them do the actual work. Other helpful routines involve assigning responsibilities for household chores, being firm about times to get up and go to bed (most children require about 10 hours of sleep per night), and have dinner together whenever possible. Don't forget about the importance of a healthy breakfast and lunch to ensure your child has the energy needed to make it through the day productively.

Talk Together – Find some time each day to ask your child about school. Ask specific questions that will require explanations. Not only will this provide you with an overview of what your child is learning each day, but explaining their learning to you will heighten their understanding of their lessons.

Home-School Relationship – The importance of a strong home-school relationship cannot be overstated. Get to know your child's teacher(s) and what they expect. Let them know you will reinforce the importance of schoolwork at home and keep them informed of important things happening in your family that may be affecting your child at school. Make sure your child knows that you are interested in their school. This will send the message that what they are doing is important.

Have High, But Realistic Goals – Make sure you set goals with your child that are achievable, but not too easy for their age, maturity, and ability. Don't forget to celebrate when these goals are achieved.



Student Planners:



Please note student planners have arrived for students in Grades 2 – 7. This book is an excellent tool to help students develop effective habits and take responsibility for their learning. Student planners are also an excellent communication tool for keeping parents informed about their child's homework. The student planners cost **\$8.00 each** and students will receive one only after bringing in their payment.

PAC News:

Chalmers PAC is very excited for the upcoming 'Let's Build the Chalmers Primary Playground' weekend on October 13 and 14. This is a volunteer driven installation with some supervision by the equipment company so we need all the help we can get! There is some equipment that parents are expected to provide so please check the Chalmers PAC Facebook page for this list of requirements. It will be a fun and rewarding weekend having had a part in giving to your child's school and community. Come out and support our school, community and enjoy a barbecue too! Please email chalmerspac@deltasd.bc.ca if you are able to help in any way.



Please see below for information about the Chalmers Welcome Back Pizza Night on Thursday September 20.

Don't forget to check the Chalmers PAC Facebook page and website www.chalmerspac.weebly.com for updates.

New Stinger Staff:

While many of our staff are returning from last year, there are a number of new faces joining the "Stingers" team. Please join me in extending a welcome to the following new staff members:

- Ms. R. Cameron (Grade 6/7 Teacher)
- Ms. J. Henry (Grade 6/7 Teacher)
- Ms. T. Ho (Grade 3 Teacher until Ms. Williams is able to return)
- Mrs. Dawn Bate (returns to Chalmers job-sharing with Mrs. Sidhu in Grade 3)
- Ms. A Poirier (Grade 1 Teacher until Ms. Baghela is able to return)
- Ms. S. Ghag (School Psychologist)
- Mr. P. Jain (Inclusion Team Teacher)
- Ms. S. Kassam (Speech Language Pathologist)



We hope to fill the following positions very soon:

- Grade 6 Late French Immersion Teacher
 - Supported Learning Classroom Teacher
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School Organization:



As you know, students were placed into their new classrooms for the 2018-19 school year last Friday afternoon! We start the year with 464 students spread into 21 divisions. Staff are excited to get underway with a year filled with inspiring educational experiences, and we look forward to working together with you so we can have your children be the best that they can be!!

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, goober peas, 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!!



Staff and Student Safety:



Visitor Sign-in – While we begin to get to know you, parents, guardians and all other visitors are asked to enter the school using the main entrance and to sign in at the office. Please do not proceed directly to a classroom. All visitors are asked to sign-in and wear a “visitor” identification badge while in the school. This is for the safety of our students, staff, and visitors and identifies our visitors as belonging to our school community. If you are picking up your child for an appointment please ask the office to page them down from their classroom. If you are dropping off lunches, please leave them on the “lunch table” in the front hallway and please ensure they are labelled with your child’s name and division. I am sure you would agree that our students’ safety is of the utmost importance. It is important that students, parents and staff feel safe in our building, and that the school is not readily accessible to strangers. Aside from the daily security of our building, we are required to account for each and every child and adult who is in our school during a fire drill, emergency preparation drill, earthquake drill and lockdowns (for this reason, it is also important that you sign-out when leaving). Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated

Administration of Medication:



Schools are required to maintain a safe procedure for dispensing medications. We would like to have information regarding medication administration within the first two weeks of school. If your child is required to take medication at school, please request a Request for Administration of Medication at School form from the office. These forms must be completed each year and are required to be signed by your physician.

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.



“Welcome Back” Event and Open House:



The staff at Chalmers Elementary are excited to invite the parents and children of our school community to our annual, “Welcome Back” and Open House on Thursday, September 20th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. During this event, our fantastic Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be hosting a concession and giving our families an opportunity to come together for a fun and social event. Notices will be going home giving families an opportunity to pre-order food. We encourage all families planning on attending to take advantage of this pre-order opportunity as this is the only way to guarantee that your family gets a meal. Additionally, there will be a limited amount of additional food items available for families that want to participate but failed to return a pre-order notice.

In addition to the food, families are invited to tour the school and meet the staff. During the evening, you will have an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and ask questions about information on routines and procedures in your child’s class. Please note that this is not a time during which teachers will be able to talk with you about your child’s goals or progress to date. You will have an opportunity to provide us with information and discuss these matters in October during Parent/Teacher Conferences.



Attention All Runners:

Cross Country Club will be starting next week. All students in grades 2-7 are welcome to join in the fun. Practices will be every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:25pm in the gym. Come check it out!

Lost and Found:

At Chalmers, lost and found clothing items are stored on a laundry line located in the hallway alongside the gym. The school has the following policy with respect to lost and found clothing items. Students and parents will 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.



Chalmers Code of Conduct:

Our school motto is: **“Bee The Best You Can Be”**

To help students “Bee The Best You Can Be”, we have set the following behaviour guidelines:

At Chalmers, students will be expected to:

Take Care of Themselves:

- Be prepared to learn each day
- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Dress in a manner appropriate for their age and occasion
- Adopt healthy living habits:
 - Get regular sleep
 - Make healthy food choices
 - Participate in regular exercise



Take Care of Others:

- Be respectful in words, tone of voice, actions, and body language to others
- Be respectful of the rights and property of others
- Be respectful of the thoughts and feelings of others

Take Care of This Place:

- Clean up after themselves
- Leave areas in the same or better condition than how you found them
- Report unsafe conditions on the grounds or in the building

- Reduce, reuse, and recycle

*Please help us instil these guidelines in your child by reviewing them at home on a regular basis.
Thank you.*

Strong Start Program:



Strong Start is a free Parent Participation Early Learning Program at Chalmers Elementary. You can help your child learn early literacy, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development through play with carefully selected materials and activities under the guidance of an Early Childhood Educator. The sessions run Monday to Friday during the school year, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. The program is **designed for children from 0 to 5 years, and their parent/caregiver**, and you are invited to drop-in anytime.

Red Cross Babysitting Program

So, you want to be a babysitter? Or, your parents want you to take this course so they feel confident leaving you at home alone?

Different from all other babysitting courses, “Babysitting with First Aid Hero” emphasizes first aid and learning through real life scenarios. Active role play! Interactive and fun! Covered in the course:

- Exploring the business of babysitting
- Creating safe environments
- Safely caring for ages 0 – 12
- First aid skills



Where: Chalmers Elementary
When: Friday, November 23, 2018
Time: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Who: Students in Grades 6 & 7
Cost: \$63.00 (taxes included), register online and save \$5!
Mail Fee: \$68.25 (taxes included), extra charge for administration

For more information and to register go to:

<http://www.firstaidhero.com/babysitting-vancouver.html>

Parking Lot Policy:



Repeatedly over the course of last year, concerns were raised by staff, parents, and PAC members regarding the number of vehicles illegally using the school parking lot.

Vehicles illegally parked in our school parking lot pose a serious safety risk for students who walk through the parking lot to get to school.

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 in advance for your support with this pressing matter.

Parent Connect:

Updating Family Information Using the Parent Connect System

The Delta School District’s Parent Connect program is a piece of online software that provides parents with the ability to update personal family information, and monitor your child’s school records and attendance.

Please remember to update your family’s emergency information online throughout the year. This includes changes to cell phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc. The only change that cannot be completed online by a parent is a change of address (which can be done by bringing this information to the school office).



For the convenience of our families, a quick link to the Parent Connect program has been placed on the Chalmers Elementary website (Home Page). Alternatively, parents can log into the Parent Connect program using the address:

<https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsignore.aspx>

Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding the use of the Parent Connect program.

Terry Fox Run:



Chalmers Elementary's annual Terry Fox Run will be held on **Friday, September 14th**. We are hoping to support Terry's dream by holding a **"Toonies for Terry Drive"** to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation and Cancer research. Our goal is to raise a Toonie for each person in our school (families are welcome to donate more if they wish). **We will be collecting money in classrooms during the week of September 10th**. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

The city of Delta will be holding their annual Terry Fox run on **Sunday, September 16th** at Sungod Rec Centre. Registration begins **at 9:00 am** and the run itself will take place **at 10:00 am**. Prizes will be drawn and students will be eligible to enter a draw for a bicycle. Please consider taking part in this worthwhile community event.

District Recycling Program:

Four years ago, all schools in Delta began recycling organic waste. To support this initiative, all classroom garbage cans were removed by district staff. Each classroom now has a mixed paper recycling bin, and each pod hallway has a recycling station for organic waste, mixed paper recycling, refundable drink container recycling, and garbage disposal. As you can imagine with only one recycling station per pod hallway, there is the potential for significant access problems as students from many classrooms line-up in the hallway to dispose of their organic waste and garbage. To resolve this, Chalmers Elementary will once again be implementing a "Pack it In... Pack it Out" lunch program. Students will be expected to bring home whatever garbage and organic waste they bring to school in their lunch bags. The students at Chalmers have done a fantastic job of supporting litterless lunch initiatives in the past, and the staff are confident that students and parents will be able to support these practices on a daily basis at our school. While it is easy to say, "let's have a litterless lunch", how can this be accomplished in a "low impact" way? Here are some suggestions:



- Use a reusable lunch bag or container (not a single use plastic bag or disposable container)
- Pack food in reusable containers (no plastic wrap, foil, plastic bags, or pre-packaged foods)
- Pack beverages in reusable containers like a refillable water bottle or thermos (recyclable containers are acceptable but discouraged)
- Organic waste (apple cores, banana peels, etc.) should be taken home for composting

- Cloth napkins and non-disposable cutlery can be packed if necessary

Pack a litterless lunch!

