

Chalmers Elementary Newsletter

11315 75th Avenue, Delta BC V4C 1H8
 School Office: 604-594-5437
 Absentee Line: 604-594-0269
 Principal: Jeff McCallum
 Vice Principal: Tina Doukas
 Admin Assistants: Anna Dougans
 Samantha Towler
 School Website: <http://ch.deltasd.bc.ca>



Issue #: 2

Date: October 3, 2018

Important Dates to Remember:

Oct. 3 – 5	Grade 7 Outdoor Ed (Camp Jubilee)
Oct. 4	Div. 20 at Rondriso Farm
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct. 9	Delta Fire Dep Visits Primary Classes
Oct. 11	Div. 20 at Westham Island Farm
Oct.12	Div. 16, 17, 18 at Westham Island Farm
Oct. 15	Div. 14 and 15 at Port Kells Pumpkin Patch
Oct. 16	Div. 6 at Reifel Bird Sanctuary
Oct. 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:25 pm Dismissal)
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. 26	PAC Smencils Treat Day
Oct. 26	PAC Movie Night
Oct. 29	Grade 6 Immunizations
Oct. 31	Halloween Parade at 1:30 pm
Nov. 7	Student Photo Re-Takes
Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov. 12	Remembrance Day Holiday – School Closed

Dear Parents:

Our Canadian Thanksgiving is just around the corner! Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for all the things we have received in our lives over the past year, and to give thanks to those who have helped us along the way.

We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have.

- Frederick Koenig

On behalf of the staff at Chalmers Elementary, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. I hope all of you are able to take some time to get together with family and friends and to be grateful for all the positive things in your lives. We all have so much to be thankful for.

We are also very excited and thankful that our new playground will be installed on the weekend of October 13 and 14! The playground should be ready for our students and the community to enjoy by the end of this month. For more information about the playground, please see the information posted on our website at:

<https://ch.deltasd.bc.ca/new-playground/>



Mr. J. McCallum
Principal

Ms. T. Doukas
Vice Principal



Traffic Reminders:

For safety reasons, there is no parent parking or drop-off in the school parking lot from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. The only vehicles that may enter the parking lot during the above mentioned restricted times are buses, licensed daycare vehicles with a current pass, vehicles requiring accessible parking (they must display an appropriate permit), and Chalmers staff. It is also asked that our parents respect municipal traffic laws; particularly those around making U-turns. While I know most of our community practices safe driving it is imperative that everyone follows the rules if we are to keep our children safe.



Parent Connect – Permission is Required for Every Student



Even if you think you have already completed these steps, please log on and double-check ...

Please log onto Parent Connect:

[https:// web.deltasd.bc.ca//content/resources/for parents/parentconnect](https://web.deltasd.bc.ca//content/resources/for_parents/parentconnect)

Use your email account (this is the easiest way to get in) and password (if you have forgotten your password click on “forgot my password” and your password will be emailed to you). You must allow for ‘Pop Ups’ on your computer. You can then access all your children at the school. You will need to do this for each of your children attending Chalmers.

Under the “Basic” tab you should update Demographic Information (phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts). Click on the “Select” button to the left of the line you need to update and make updates on the right side of the screen.

To add Emergency Release information click on the light blue button “**Emergency/Out of Prov/Other Contacts.**”

Click on the “Select” button on the left side of the screen and add contact on the right side of the screen. Add no more than 3 names using *type ER-Emergency Release* and add 1 name using *type OP-Out Of Province Contact.*

Once you have completed your changes/additions to your child’s Demographic and Emergency Release information click on the “**Bulletin**” tab on the screen and give your consent/permission to **ALL** of the following:

- ❖ Demographic Information up-to-date
- ❖ Emergency Release Information up-to-date
- ❖ Mac Computer Permission form
- ❖ **Photographs/Video/Website Consent (in addition to returning the signed consent form)**
- ❖ GAFE Permission – (Google Apps for Education)
- Walking Field Trip
- Fruit and Veggie Permission
- Outside Media Consent form

These show on two screens, once you have **SAVED** the first three the other one will show. Repeat for all children attending Chalmers.

When you log on to Parent Connect, please read the rules about outside media in schools. If you do **NOT** want your child involved with outside media activities, please print off the form to fill out.

Please take a few minutes to complete all of these important forms as soon as possible.

Electronics at School:

Since our return from summer break, staff and parents have noticed a significant increase in the number of students walking around the building talking on or playing with digital devices. 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 electronics devices at home. If a parent wishes their child to have a cell phone we are requesting that students turn them off while they are at school and leave them stored in the backpack 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

On **Wednesday, October 17th**, and **Thursday, October 18th** parents are invited to meet with their child's teacher. The purpose of these early conferences is to provide an opportunity for you to share your child's education and for the teacher to explain his/her expectations. Together, you may wish to discuss:

- Goals for your child's learning, defining areas of success and concern
- Homework expectations
- Communication between home and school
- Work habits and attitude towards learning
- Appropriate behavior expectations



To provide time for conferences, students will be dismissed **at 12:25 pm on Wednesday, October 17th** and **at 2:00 pm on Thursday, October 18th**. All conferences will be booked using

the Delta School District's Parent Connect Interview Booking System. Information will be sent home to families soon explaining how to use this online system to book parent/teacher conferences.

It takes a meaningful, learning partnership between home and school to educate a child in today's society. The parent/teacher conferences are a fantastic way to begin that partnership between home and school. The staff at Chalmers thank you for being a part of our community of learners!

The Great BC ShakeOut:



On **Thursday, October 18th**, the staff and students at Chalmers Elementary will participate in The Great BC ShakeOut. During this earthquake drill, our students, along with thousands of other students throughout BC, will drop, cover, and hold on, at a specified time in the morning. The Great BC ShakeOut is the largest earthquake drill in Canada.

Medical Alerts and Medication at School

We are required to maintain a safe and efficient procedure for all students who attend school. If your child has a medical condition that requires precautionary treatment or medication at school, and you have not filled out the required "Medical Alert Card" (Form 317-2) and/or the "Request for Administration of Medication at School" form (Form 317-1), please contact the school and complete the required forms. Please have the form completed and signed by your doctor, sign it yourself, and return it to the school as soon as possible. This procedure complies with Board Policy. If there are any questions, please leave a message at the school, and the school will return your call.



Supervision of Students Before and After School



Before school, supervision of students on the playground begins at 8:25 a.m. Therefore children should not arrive at school prior to that time unless they are participating in a specific, supervised activity (e.g. volleyball team) or have made a pre-arrangement with their teacher to come in for extra help. After school, supervision is provided until 3:15 (2:15pm on Wednesday). If parents/childcare providers are unexpectedly delayed beyond 3:15, students can wait by the office until they are picked up or another arrangement is made. Parents, please review with your children afterschool routines and expectations (e.g. walking home, going to daycare, etc...), so that your child knows ahead of time what to do. A reminder note in the planner works well, too.

Visitor Sign-In

Parents, guardians and all other visitors are asked to enter the school using the main entrance and to check 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. 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 –as well as in the event of an actual emergency situation. For this reason, it is also important that you sign-out when leaving. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Dress for the Weather



We are approaching the time of year when it is cooler and can be very rainy. Please ensure your children come to school dressed accordingly for playing outside at recess and lunchtime (e.g. boots and a coat), and perhaps also pack an extra pair of socks and pants into their backpacks for really rainy days! In the case of **extremely poor** weather, a decision will be made by staff to designate the recess and/or lunch hour as an “in day”, which means that students are to stay inside and play quietly in their classrooms rather than venture outdoors. ***We refrain from doing this unless absolutely necessary, as the children need the opportunity to get out in the fresh air*** and be physically active before heading back into the classroom (and besides, rain is just a fact of life of our West Coast climate).

Photo Re-Takes

If you missed our Photo Day or are not happy with the photos you receive, our Photo Retake Day is being held on Wednesday, November 7th.



Delview's Annual Thanks for Giving

Delview Secondary's 26th Annual Thanks For Giving is on Thursday October 11th this year! Delview students are getting ready to canvass various areas in North Delta with student teams that night so would like you to help out and “Save Your Cans”! Every year, they collect over 10,000 non-perishable food items for the Surrey Food Bank and Deltassist. This is the largest one-day food drive in B.C.! Please help them out and gather together some non-perishable food items and have them ready for students to collect at your homes on the evening of October 11. Delview students will be accepting non-perishable, food items, refundable cans and bottles, and cash donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Halloween Parade:



On **Wednesday, October 31st at approximately 1:30 pm**, students are being asked to dress up in their costumes and participate in Chalmers' annual Halloween costume parade. During the parade the students travel through classrooms so their fellow students can enjoy their creative costumes. Parents are welcome to

attend and view the students in the gym. Please note, students are not permitted to bring replica weapons of any kind to the school.

Remembrance Day Assembly:

Each November brings a time to remember the sacrifices of our Canadian soldiers, past and present. The Chalmers Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on **Friday, November 9th at 10:50 am in our gym**. Parents are invited to attend this special assembly on this solemn occasion. As part of our Remembrance Day Assembly, we would like to honour members of the Chalmers community who are serving or have served in the military. Please contact the school office if you have a family member who is a current member of the military or a veteran.



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 PAC Happenings:

- Submitted by Ranita Kajla, PAC Chair

October is an exciting month for Chalmers families! Here is what's happening....

Wednesday, October 10 -- White Spot Hot lunch

Friday, October 12-Sunday October 14 -- Chalmers Primary Playground Build Weekend

Friday, October 26 -- Smencil Toonie Treat day at lunchtime

Friday, October 26 from 6-8pm -- Halloween Movie Night in the Chalmers gym

Wednesday, October 31 -- Last day to order Wed., Nov. 7 hot lunch



There is also a fundraiser that is on going throughout the school year that helps out your PAC! Every time you shop at M&M Meat Shops please tell them your child attends Chalmers Elementary and a donation will be made to the PAC. Please come out and enjoy the great activities planned for our Chalmers kids and families! Check out the Chalmers PAC website at www.chalmerspac.weebly.com for information. Email chalmerspac@deltasd.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Be Safe When Riding Your Bike

Keep Your Eyes on the Road and Wear a Helmet: A reminder to parents and students of the importance of bike safety when commuting to and from school.



Cycling is a fun, healthy & social way to exercise, be independent, and get around!

Students all across Delta School District can be seen every day pedaling to school and home.

Here are some tips and reminders on how to stay safe on your bike.

1. **Wear a helmet.** It goes without saying that wearing a helmet significantly decreases your chance of injury to the brain in the event of a fall or crash... and it's the law.
2. **Be Seen.** Use lights (white = front, red = rear) and reflective clothing, including those that can be seen from the side. Use a light on your helmet - it points wherever you're looking.
3. **Be Aware.** Ride in a straight line and try to be predictable in your movements - effective positioning will help you be seen on the road. Don't use mobile devices or headphones while cycling - stay distraction-free
4. **Lead by example.** One of the best ways to ensure your child is wearing a helmet when they are riding their bike to and from school is for parents to lead by example. When out and about on your bike, be sure to wear a helmet, and communicate proactive cycling safety with your child.

Local cycling not-for-profit HUB CYCLING has some great tips on bike safety:

10 Cycling Tips

<https://bikehub.ca/resources/10-cycling-safety-tips>

Be Seen at Night

<https://bikehub.ca/sites/default/files/hub-travelsmart-bikelight-giveaway.pdf>