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 #: 5 **Date: January 10, 2019**

Important Dates to Remember:

Jan. 17	Parent Info Night – Gr. 7 to Gr. 8 transition ***French*** (Burnsview-7pm)
Jan. 23	Hot Lunch Day
Jan. 23	Parent Info Night – Gr. 7 to Gr. 8 transition (Burnsview-7pm)
Jan. 25	PRO-D Day (No School for Students)
Jan. 29	Late French Immersion Parent Information Night at 6:30 pm at Burnsview (Gr 5 Students and Parents)
Feb. 4	Grade 7 Visit to Burnsview
Feb. 6	Student-Led Conferences (Dismissal at 12:25 pm)
Feb. 12	Ready Set Learn
Feb. 13	Kindergarten Registration from 9:00 - 12:00 pm
Feb. 14	Treat Day – Krispy Kreme Donuts
Feb. 15	PRO-D Day (No School for Students)
Feb. 18	Family Day (No School)
Feb. 20	Hot Lunch Day

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 has been booked.

I hope 2019 is a wonderful year for everyone in the Chalmers community. The staff and I are looking forward to a fun and busy 2019!

Mr. J. McCallum
Principal

Ms. T. Doukas
Vice Principal

Delta School District
Inspired Learning

Playground Update:

Great News! The Hexamid climbing structure is now complete and students began using it today! For the first few days we will continue to have a rotating primary grade group schedule during recess and lunch. Intermediate classes will be able to sign up for a block of time during the day. Thanks to our PAC and community for all the work that was put in to getting this new playground built!

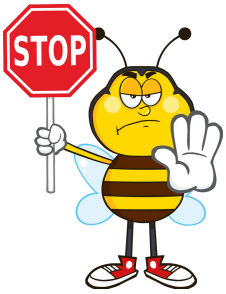
Electronics at School:

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 (this includes the lunch hour)

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 also have had a number of phone calls recently about drivers not respecting our neighbours' properties. Please be mindful when parking on the surrounding streets, ie: not parking on the neighbourhood lawns, obeying the street signage and traffic laws. The laws are there for the safety of our staff and students and pedestrians that may be on the streets as well.

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!!

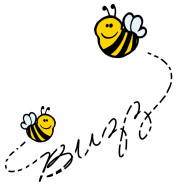
Student-Led Conferences:

This year, student-led conferences will take place on **Wednesday, February 6th.** 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 12:25 pm on Wednesday, February 6th**. 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.

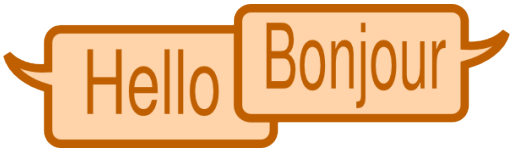
Staff Changes:



I have a staffing update that I would like to share with the Chalmers community.
Ms. Baghela, one of our Grade 1 teachers, is back from her maternity leave! Thank you to Ms. Poirier for filling in and doing an amazing job during Ms. Baghela's leave.

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: Tuesday, January 29th
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Burnsview Secondary: 7658 112 St, Delta

Note:

- On-line application deadline for Late French Immersion (Grade 6 entry) is Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 4:00pm
- Please apply online at: https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/programs/french-immersion

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Kindergarten Registration at Chalmers:

Our Kindergarten registration for the 2019-20 school year will take place from 9:00 – 12:00 pm on Wednesday, February 13th for children who will turn five-years-old by December 31, 2019. 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, mortgage agreement documents or rental agreement)

Parents of Kindergarten students are required to register at their catchment area school, but they may fill out the Non-Catchment or Non-District Application Form online (https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/student-registration/) or print it out and take it to the school they wish their child to attend, anytime on or after Monday, February 4, 2019 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.***

PAC News:

Happy New Year to our Chalmers families from the PAC!! Get your Mexican hot lunch orders in by Thursday January 17 for hot lunch on Wednesday January 23. If you are new to the hot lunch ordering system, here is the link to sign up: https://munchalunch.com/frmNewUser.aspx?school=12822Chalmers
If you are signed up and want to order your child's hot lunch: https://munchalunch.com/login.aspx

Everyone is welcome to attend the next PAC meeting on Thursday January 31, 2019 at 6:30pm. Babysitting will be provided.

Announcement of School Closures or Delayed Openings:

As winter weather has arrived, we want to remind parents/guardians, students, and staff of the Delta School District's winter weather procedures and announcements.

All schools in the Delta School District will remain **OPEN** if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 7:00 a.m. at the latest and will be announced through the media as well as through the District and school websites. Please note that no announcement will be made stating that schools are open. Only closures and delayed openings will be announced.

Information about any district-wide closures will be sent to Metro Vancouver radio and television stations. Please check the following stations for school closure information:

Radio	**Television**
CBC AM 690 radio, 88.1 FM	Global BC
CKNW AM 980 radio	CBC TV
News AM 1130 radio	CTV BC
Fairchild AM 1470 radio	City TV

Announcements of school closures or delayed openings will be posted on the School District's website. Individual school closures due to unique circumstances (e.g., power outages) will be announced as early as possible on the District website as well as on the affected schools' websites. On occasion, schools may delay the start of the school day; if this happens, specific details will be posted on the school and District websites.

Student safety is the first priority of the Delta School District. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their children's safe travel to and from school. If, for any reason, a parent/guardian feels that a child cannot travel safely to school, then they should make other arrangements. Schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend is the responsibility of each family.

During extreme weather conditions it is also common for police and other authorities to advise citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. Parents should take this advice as well. Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance under such poor weather conditions. This is also a reminder to all students to dress warmly and wear appropriate clothing. Sidewalks and roads can be extremely slippery and so students walking to school are advised to take extra care.

At this time, we encourage you to review your own preparations for winter weather and ensure that you are familiar with your municipality's snow and ice response procedures. We request that you strictly adhere to parking restrictions in and around all Delta schools. Your child's school will contact you about any changes to driving routes that may be put into effect on streets adjacent to the school.

With your cooperation and adherence to winter weather procedures, we can help achieve safe conditions for students travelling to and from school. Please put safety first.

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