

Chalmers Elementary Newsletter

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Issue #: 9

Date: May 6, 2019

Important Dates to Remember:

May 1	Seussical Jr. Musical
May 2	Seussical Jr. Musical
May 7	Starting with Stories
May 8	Regional Track Meet at NDSS
May 10	Sharing Assembly
May 10	Regional Track Meet at NDSS (Rainout Day)
May 13	Grade 6 Immunizations
May 14	Starting with Stories
May 15	Hot Lunch Day
May 16	District Track Meet (SDSS)
May 17	PRO-D Day (No School)
May 20	Victoria Day (No School)
May 21	Panorama Photo
May 23	Emergency Preparedness Drill (Student Release)
May 23	PAC Toonie Treat Day - freezies
May 29	Parent Appreciation Event
June 4	Welcome to Kindergarten
June 5	Hot Lunch Day
June 7	Sharing Assembly
June 12	PAC Family Fun Night
June 21	PAC Final Toonie Treat day
June 25	Grade 7 Assembly, Luncheon and Dance
June 27	Last Day of School



Dear Parents:

Last week was spectacular! I hope that everyone who was able to join us for one of the “Seussical”



performances were as thrilled as we were with the talent our students demonstrated. Watching the whole thing come together over the past 5 months was impressive and I hope that everyone walks away from the experience with great memories. I want to thank our students, staff and parent volunteers for all the hard work they put into making ‘Seussical’ the huge success that it was. Thank you to our wonderful PAC for the support they provided. Without this support, the opportunity would not have been possible. I would also like to thank our community for coming out in large numbers to watch the productions. Each show had an energetic, appreciative and supportive audience and this really added to the students’ experience. Finally, a huge ‘Thank You’ to Mrs. Wright for bringing out the best in our students. What she was able to teach our students was unbelievable!

Mr. J. McCallum
Principal

Ms. T. Doukas
Vice Principal

Track and Field:



The Regional Track Meet will be held on Wednesday, May 8th at North Delta Secondary School. In the event the track meet is cancelled due to heavy rain, the alternate date for the Regional Track Meet is Friday, May 10th. This year, all of our Grades 4 – 7 students had the opportunity to try out track and field events during the school day. **Only those students participating in an event attend the track meet.** Students are not to attend the meet under any other circumstances (e.g. as a spectator, to accompany a sibling, etc.).

Top finishers at the Regional Track Meet may be eligible for the District Track Meet (Thursday, May 16th at the South Delta Secondary School). **The District Track Meet will be held rain or shine.** I want to thank our school staff for organizing our school's track and field program, including helping coach events, run various stations at the Regional Track Meet, and providing an instructional program for students who were not attending the track meet. We have a wonderful staff here at Chalmers.

Planning for Next Year:

This is the time of year when staffing allocations are made to schools and planning for the next school year begins. Due to this, it is extremely important that our enrolment numbers be as accurate as possible and, therefore, I would ask families who will be moving out of our area to contact the school as soon as possible with this information. Similarly, if you know of a family moving into our area, please encourage them to register their children by **June 1st** to secure their placement at Ladner Elementary.



As we plan for the 2019-20 school year I would like to make you aware of factors that are important in organizing classes for next year.

Staffing and Class Size

The number of staff members assigned to Chalmers is decided by the Delta School District and is based on projected student enrolment. Enrolment estimates and class size guidelines affect the configuration of classes. Currently, the class size limit is 20 for Kindergarten, 22 for Grades 1-3, and 29 for Grades 4-7. Combined (split) classes are an organizational necessity based on student numbers. While combined classes are an organizational necessity, research indicates that multi-age groupings provide very positive learning environments for children. Studies show that children in multi-age classes learn to become more independent, responsible learners and develop a greater degree of social responsibility. Achievement levels of these students are as good as, or better than, the achievement levels of students placed in single grade classrooms.

Criteria for Student Placement

Assigning students to particular classes is a very complex task that takes into consideration a variety of factors, including: learning styles and strengths, what a student is able to achieve in relation to the goals of the curriculum, degree of independence in work habits, social and personal needs, age and physical

maturity, previous placements, number of ESL and Special Needs students, and parental insight. Our objective is to create balanced classes based on intellectual and social / emotional / behavioural development, as well as peer support and other needs. The professional staff, including teachers, support staff and administrators are in contact with the children in the school setting for 30 hours a week. Therefore, the classroom placement of students must be determined through school-based professional evaluations. Teachers have school-based knowledge of the above and therefore can best determine where individual children should be placed.

Parent Input

As our partners, we recognize that parents have important information that can assist with the placement of students. Parents are welcome to advise the school of personal, educational, or social information that could affect a child's placement. Our staff will keep in mind this information, along with the above considerations, when building classes.

This information should not include a request for placement with a particular teacher. Any requests received that request a specific teacher will not be considered.

Maternity leaves, retirements, and lay-offs combine to make school staffing a changing and ongoing process. Also, staff members may change grade levels due to school needs or further professional growth. Whatever the scenario, we strive to place your child in a warm, caring environment that will maximize their learning. If you have information about your child that you feel will assist us in making the best possible placement for them, please **stop by the office and fill out a Parent Request form.** *Input received after this date will not be considered.*

District Emergency Preparedness Drill:

On Thursday, May 23rd Chalmers Elementary will take part in the Delta School District's annual District Emergency Preparedness Drill. During this drill, students learn about earthquakes and what being in one might look and feel like as well as the important safety procedures they must follow in the event of an earthquake. They take part in a 60-second "Duck, Cover, and Hold" safety drill. After this, students will evacuate the school, assemble on the field, and staff will practice filling out attendance reports.

A graphic for the Emergency Preparedness Drill. It features the words "Emergency Preparedness Drill" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The text is centered between two horizontal bars: a black bar on top and a light green bar on the bottom. The background of the graphic is white.

**Emergency
Preparedness Drill**

In addition to this, we would like to practice the student release procedures that would be implemented in the event of an emergency. Last year, we implemented a new student release procedure that will improve student safety in the event of an actual earthquake. Parents participating in our emergency preparedness drill will sign-out their child from our "Command Centre" that will be located on the south end of the grass field on the outdoor basketball court. Staff/student runners will retrieve the child from designated waiting areas on the back field (at the north end of the school) and release the child into the custody of the parent or the designated emergency release contact. **As this is still a relatively new student release procedure, we will only be releasing students from Division 5 (Mr. Clay), Division 8 (Mrs. Loodu), Division 11 (Mrs. Dudzic), Division 15 (Mrs. Dalgetty), and Division 19 (Ms. Hogg).** We are asking for all available parents from the above-mentioned divisions (Divisions 4, 7, 10, 15 18) to pick up their child(ren) for an early dismissal between 2:10 – 2:30 pm. Parents who are able to be involved are asked to arrive no earlier than 2:10 pm and to line up in the correct alphabetized line at the

Command Centre to show their identification. If you are able to participate, **please remember to sign into Parent Connect and update your Emergency Release Contacts.** Since this student release procedure is relatively new for us at Chalmers, there may be some bumps and therefore, your patience with the release is greatly appreciated. **Those students who are not released early will be dismissed at 3:00 pm from the classroom and will not be called out of class prior to 3:00 pm.** Please contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Math Celebration:

On Friday, April 12th several students in Grades 4 – 7 from Chalmers Elementary competed in a district math competition at Richardson Elementary. Students worked together in “same grade” teams of four to solve extremely challenging math problems. Parent representatives from each school were responsible for judging how well students worked together to solve the math problems. I would like to thank Mrs. Dudzic for organizing this experience for our students, and I would like to congratulate the following students from Chalmers who were exemplary representatives for our school at this district event:



Grades 4 and 5 Participants:

- Yuvraj B., Joshua D., Jaslene GZ., Japji J., Maneek G., Adam P., Aiden A., Fatema T., Puneet S., Sana V., Hannah L., Himmat B., Cristioano D., Olivia S., Amice X., Hasrat K., Ava J.

Grades 6 and 7 Participants:

- Sukhleen U., Purneet K., Savneet A., Harnoor D., Damon S., Navraj G., Arnav M., Marissa N., Camryn S., Dylan Chohan., Grace Y., Carl T., Anjali T., Jujhardeep S., Nathan M., Manav B.

Parent Appreciation Event:



Chalmers’ staff will once again organize a morning coffee and baked good event to thank the parents of the Chalmers community for everything they do to make a difference at our great school! As our way of saying thank you to our amazing parents, we will hold the appreciation event from 8:15 – 9:15 am on Wednesday, May 29th at the front of the school. In addition to serving coffee and baked goods, our Stinger Singer Choir will perform for our parents. Please plan to stop by the front of our school and let our staff celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of our many parent volunteers!

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Ladner May Days Prince / Princess:

Lynneah D. will represent Chalmers Elementary in Delta’s 124th Annual Pioneer May Days Festivities. The celebrations will take place the evening of Tuesday, May 21st. All of the Princesses/Princes are invited to participate in the May Days Parade on Sunday, May 26th, followed by festivities held in Ladner Memorial Park.



Pick Up, Drop off of Students and Respecting our Neighbours:



You may have noticed how busy traffic can be out the front of our school. We have several vehicles that drop off and pick up groups of children before and after school using our round about driveway. **Please do not use this driveway as it is designated for these vehicles only.**

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.

Use of Electronic Devices at School:



Since our return from Spring Break, staff and parents have noticed a significant increase in the number of students walking around the building talking on or playing with cell phones, and other electronic devices. We have also had issues with such devices being inappropriately used during the lunch 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.

School-Wide Panorama Photo:

Mountainwest Photography will return to Chalmers on the morning of Tuesday, May 21st to do our school-wide panorama photo. Please mark this date on your calendar as we want all our Stinger students at school on the morning of Tuesday, May 21st so they can be a part of this fun photo!!



About DeltaKids website:

We have an amazing resource in Delta that all parents should know about. It's the DeltaKids website, www.deltakids.ca. On the site you can find out about special events and drop-in programs in Delta. Looking for soccer or art lessons? They are listed here. Need support or information? Also listed here. Plus find our "Free Family Fun" brochure in our resources section.



Check it out today!

Bottle Fundraiser:



Hello Friends and Neighbors!

We're having a BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

WHERE: Burnsville Secondary (112th & 74th)

WHEN: Saturday May 25th 2019 from 10am- 12 noon!

WHO ARE WE?!

Our team members are a group of **AMAZING** children that range from ages **4 yrs** and up. Our team ensures every player's skill level is tended to, making our game of **Baseball FUN-FOR-ALL!**

Some of us are runners, some of us are rollers- we **ALL** bring our biggest smiles and positive attitudes!

WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR ADAPTED EQUIPMENT & FOR OUR END OF SEASON WRAP UP BBQ!

For all of our great players, enthusiastic coaches, caring volunteers and loving parents; who have come out to support us throughout the season.

To arrange early pick-up, please email megamom5@outlook.com subject BOTTLE DRIVE

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.



News from the PAC:

- Submitted by PAC Chair Ranita Kajla

There has been so much exciting stuff happening at Chalmers with lots more to come!

- Wednesday May 15 -- Hot dog hot lunch (deadline to order is May 11)--order on munchalunch.com
- Thursday May 23 -- Freezie Toonie Treat day
- Wednesday June 5 -- Chopped Leaf hot lunch (deadline to order is May 27)--order on munchalunch.com
- Wednesday June 12 -- 4th Annual Family Fun Fair from 4:30pm-8:30pm
- Wednesday June 19 -- Sports Day concession
- Thursday June 20 -- Annual General Meeting at 6:30pm in the Chalmers Library. Interested in joining the rewarding role of PAC executive? Nomination forms will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the office, nominate yourself or someone else!
- Friday June 21--Final Toonie Treat day



Keep a lookout for notices for Family Fun Fair coming home this week. The success of this event depends on your help and attendance, please spread the word about the event to help make it a big success for the 4th year in a row!

CHALMERS ELEMENTARY

\$10
PRESALE
WRISTBANDS

**4TH ANNUAL
FAMILY FUN FAIR**

**JUNE 12th, 2019
WEDNESDAY
4:30-8:30**

11315 75th Avenue, Delta

Featuring Giant Inflatables from Partyworks!!! Games & Activities
Food & Drinks, Photobooth, Cakewalk, Raffle & Door Prizes, Marketplace
WRISTBANDS FOR UNLIMITED USE OF THE INFLATABLES: \$12 AT THE EVENT

For more info: chalmerspac@deltasd.bc.ca
Contact Chalmers PAC with any questions, donations, or information
about vendor applications for our event

PosterMyWall.com



DeltaKids.ca

...to find family-friendly events,
drop-in programs,
various supports for your family,
& more!



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604-999-8162

(Chalmers Elementary School) 11315 - 75 Ave. North Delta



Offers an exciting curriculum for 3 to 5 year olds

- **A Proven Method:** It is the only program that appeals to all areas of academic and social life – math, language, world geography, history, science, botany, astronomy, practical life and most importantly music & art .
- **Highly Structured:** The Montessori Method is NOT a play-based program. The tasks and activities are highly structured and specifically target academic and social development. Students work at their own pace but advance through different levels of the program.
- **Readiness:** The Montessori Method develops a strong foundation among children and prepares them better for success in Kindergarten and beyond.
- **Engineered Materials:** All Montessori materials are specifically engineered to appeal to a child's senses. This builds curiosity and allows the related concepts to become more concrete in the child's mind.
- **Multi-age:** Montessori encourages multi-age groupings so that the older children have opportunities to be role models and the younger children have peers to look up to. Studies have proven that students exposed to multi-age groups learn faster as they work harder to be like their older peers.
- **Accredited:** A Montessori program can only be delivered by a trained and certified Montessori instructor.

“Montessori is an education for independence, preparing not just for school,
but for life.” —*Maria Montessori*

We accept affordable Childcare / Preschool benefits