

Chalmers Elementary Newsletter

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Issue #: 1

Date: September 11, 2019

Important Dates to Remember:

Sept. 10	Tom Lee Instrument Rental Night 6:30pm
Sept. 13	Terry Fox Assembly and Run 11:00am
Sept. 19	Welcome Back BBQ & Open House from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Sept. 20	PRO-D Day (No School for Students)
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 1	Individual Student Photos
Oct. 2 – 4	Grade 7 Outdoor Ed (Camp Jubilee)
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct. 18	Grade 6 Immunizations
Oct. 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences (12:25 pm Dismissal)
Oct. 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:00 pm Dismissal)
Oct. 25	Provincial PRO-D Day (No School)
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.

All staff have been busy preparing for the new school year and are excited as we look forward to meeting and working with you on the learning adventure that lies ahead.

With students now in their permanent classes, I'd like to thank all of you for the patience you showed during the past week. Students and parents are anxious to find out which teacher(s) their child will work with and teachers are anxious to meet their students and begin teaching. With that behind us now, I'm expecting the routines and procedures of the school year to be up and fully running in the days 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 will be arriving in about a week 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 would like to welcome all of you in anticipation of a fantastic year! There are a lot of exciting events the PAC hopes to have this year and we need your help and input.

Please join us at the first PAC General Meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 6:30pm in the Chalmers library. Babysitting will be provided.

We hope to see you all at the Chalmers Open House and Pizza Social on Thursday September 19 from 6-7:30pm. Don't forget to send in your order form for pizza dinner by Monday, September 16. Late orders will not be accepted. See below for more information.



Please keep an eye on your child's backpack for Entertainment Book sales forms coming home. Please sign up on www.munchalunch.com/schools/chalmers to be able to order your child's hot lunch.

Stay tuned to hot lunch dates and other fun events by checking the PAC website <http://chalmerspac.weebly.com> and join the 'Chalmers PAC' Facebook page to stay in the loop!

New Stinger Staff:

While many of our staff are returning from last year, there are a number of new faces joining (or re-joining) the “Stingers” team. Please join me in extending a welcome to the following new staff members:

- Ms. M. Galbraith (Grade 6/7 Teacher)
- Ms. J. Klose (Grade 6 LFI Teacher returns from her Maternity Leave)
- Mr. N. Ardanaz (Grade 6 LFI Teacher)
- Mrs. P. Corazza (Kindergarten Teacher returns from her Maternity Leave)
- Ms. R. Adamovic (Kindergarten Teacher will job-share with Mrs. Corazza)
- Ms. P. Sidhu (Primary Teacher who will job-share with Mrs. Notting and Mrs. Baghela)
- Mr. S. McClary (Librarian on Tuesday and Friday)
- Ms. E. Mills (Learning Support Teacher)
- Ms. K. Reeve (Learning Support Teacher)
- Ms. A. Kallo (Speech-Language Pathologist)
- Ms. M. Silveri (Education Assistant)



School Organization:



We start the year with 505 students spread into 22 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 19th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. During this event, our fantastic Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be hosting a Pizza dinner and giving our families an opportunity to come together for a fun and social event. Notices have gone 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. 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 between 6:00 and 6:30pm. During this time, you will have an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and visit their classroom. 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 very soon! 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. Interested students should pay attention to the lunch announcements for details about the sign-up meeting. Come check it out!

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 instill these guidelines in your child by reviewing them at home on a regular basis.
Thank you.*

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.



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.

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 13th**. 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 classes on Friday, September 13 – Tuesday, September 17th**. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

The city of Delta will be holding their annual Terry Fox run on **Sunday, September 15th** at Sungod Rec Centre. Registration begins **at 9:00 am** and the run itself will take place **at 10:00 am**. Please consider taking part in this worthwhile community event.

District Recycling Program:

Five 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 stations 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!





You Could Be...

Fire Chief For A Day



If you are in grades 4 – 7 and would you like to be a Fire Chief it all starts here! Apply now for a chance to spend a day with Delta’s bravest. You will be picked up at your school in a big red truck, have breakfast at McDonalds with the Mayor and Fire Chief, extinguish a fire, participate in a high angle rescue, use the “jaws of life” and extricate a rescue dummy from a crashed vehicle! You will also have one of our best cooks prepare your favorite lunch! **Please fill out the form and leave it at your school office by September 27th. Good Luck!**

Apply Now!

Name: _____ Phone # _____

School Name: _____

Why you want to be the 2019 Fire Chief for a Day:

HOCKEY ONE

North Delta Minor Hockey Association is excited to announce our own intro to Hockey H1 program

Together with The Hockey Shop & CCM, we have an exciting opportunity for NEW skaters to try our revised program which will give younger players shorter commitment to hockey.

REQUIREMENTS

New to Hockey

Open to residents of North Delta

Born in years: 2013,2014

For further information & registration contact

JD BROCHU at h14dm@ndhockey.com

Fall Oct. – Dec 2019
Winter Jan. – Mar. 2020

All classes Sat / Sun.

Cost

\$200 per session.

\$375 pre-register for both sessions

Registration deadline: Sept. 21, 2019

Fee includes starter package

supplied by THE HOCKEY SHOP

- Gloves
- Chest protector
- Shin pads
- Elbow pads
- Hockey shorts
- Jersey
- Socks
- Jock / Jill
- Bag

***Not provided but required:
SKATES, HELMET, STICK**

